

"willing, as a Member of the House of Commons, to obey its commands in reference to any
 "Parliamentary duties it might impose upon me; in that view I did not shirk the arduous
 "and unenviable position of a member of this Committee of Enquiry, as being part of the
 "labour and duty to which a member of Parliament is bound to submit; but if, instead of
 "moving for the appointment of a Committee by the House, the Government had pro-
 "posed to name me on a Commission for the purpose of this enquiry, I would then cer-
 "tainly have declined the proposed Commission. I cannot see why I should now accept it,
 "when it seems to me that the effect of issuing such a Commission would be to supersede
 "the Committee, and more especially in view of the declaration you made immediately
 "before the adjournment of the Session in reference to Mr. Blake and myself, that we
 "should not have consented to serve on the Committee, that men in our positions in Eng-
 "land would not have done so, and that you could not expect any fair play at our hands.
 "This alone should be a sufficient reason why I humbly believe I should not be called
 "upon to accept a Commission from the Government of which you are the head, after
 "your public declaration, made in my absence, of my unfitness to perform what the Com-
 "mission would impose on me.

"I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) "A. A. DORION."

"MONTREAL, July 3.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd
 "inst., enclosing a copy of a letter addressed by you to the Hon. Mr. Cameron, as
 "Chairman of the Pacific Railway Enquiry Committee. I cannot agree in your
 "statement that the acceptance of a Royal Commission would enable the Committee to
 "proceed with the enquiry and the examination of witnesses on oath. The Committee is,
 "I believe, unanimously of opinion that the acceptance of the Commission would not
 "enable the Committee to make progress, and that the action of the Commissioners
 "(whether or not they be the same persons as those who constitute the Committee) would
 "be entirely disconnected from the action of the Committee. Sharing their opinion, I am
 "called on to consider whether I should accept the offer made by the Government, of a
 "Royal Commission addressed to the gentlemen who happen to be members of the
 "Committee, calling on them to enquire into the matters of charge preferred in the state-
 "ment of Mr. Huntington. I believe that it would be of evil consequence to create the
 "precedent, of a Government issuing a Commission of enquiry into matters of a charge
 "against itself, the Commissioners, being as they are, subject to the direction and control
 "of the accused. I believe that the acceptance of such a Commission would be opposed to
 "the sense of the House of Commons, as manifested by its action last Session, and would,
 "under present circumstances, be calculated to prejudice the enquiry ordered by the House,
 "and to impair the full and efficient exercise of its most ancient and important powers.
 "The House of Commons, does not, I think, expect that the Crown or any one else, least
 "of all the Members of its own Committee, will interpose between itself and the great en-
 "quiry which it has undertaken. Apart from these and other difficulties, you have yourself
 "interposed a barrier to my acceptance of your offer. During my absence from the House
 "of Commons last Session, you stated in your place that I had done wrong in not declining
 "to fulfil the duty of Committeeman, which had been imposed on me by the House, that
 "English statesmen in my position—which, however, you mis-stated—would have scorned
 "to do as I had done, and that my speeches during the Session showed that your Govern-
 "ment could not expect fair play from me on the enquiry. I shall not condescend to reply
 "to these statements, but I have to say that although I reluctantly came to the conclusion,
 "that I was not free to decline to serve the House of which I am a Member, I do not
 "think it consistent with my self-respect to accept the Commission here offered by a Min-