

which he did not believe, it was of no effect, and no one could be prosecuted for perjury under it. He argued that the moment notice of disallowance reached this country the Government were bound to proclaim it.

With reference to the meeting of the Committee in Montreal and the proposal to go on with the enquiry without oath, he asked if it was not the intention of every member that the evidence should be taken on oath. If the majority had decided to go on without oath he would have ceased to be a member of the Committee.

He contended that the references by Hon. Mr. Blake to English cases did not apply, because those cases referred to personal corruption, and no one had charged the First Minister with personal corruption. He argued that it was the duty of the member for Shefford (Hon. Mr. Huntington) to go before the Commission and make good his case.

He reviewed the statement of Hon. Mr. Blake with reference to the evidence on the subject of the withdrawal of Sir George-É. Cartier's letter. He contended that it was Cartier's letter that was withdrawn, and not Allan's letter as stated by Hon. Mr. Blake. He read from the evidence of Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, and declared it established that Cartier's letter was withdrawn. The telegram of Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald was the only arrangement made. He also read from Sir Hugh Allan's evidence in support of the same statement.

Adverting to Sir Hugh Allan's contract with the Americans, he said that Sir Hugh Allan was the only Canadian in the contract, while the charge stated that Sir Hugh Allan and other Canadians entered into the contract with the Americans. Every idea of having anything to do with the Americans was proved by evidence to have been broken off before October, 1871, and it was not till three months later that this contract between Sir Hugh Allan and the Americans was entered into. He argued that the Government had never agreed to give the contract to Sir Hugh Allan, and even Sir Hugh Allan's company had given it up.

Hon. gentlemen opposite were crowing over the opinions of the English press, but the end was not yet. The English press were gradually getting the cobwebs from their minds upon this and every other subject of Canadian interest. He contended that whatever might have been the expectations of Sir Hugh Allan, those expectations had not been fulfilled, and therefore the inference of corruption, even according to the Corrupt Practices Act of Ontario, would not be sufficient to prove the existence of corrupt intent.

He quoted a case in England where two candidates together contested a constituency which elected two representatives of Parliament, and were successful. The one was an influential, popular but poor man. The other, while rich, had no great influence. The rich man paid all the money into the election fund, and the steps were taken to unseat them on account of corrupt practices. The charge was made that the rich man purchased the influence of the poor man with his money subscription, but the rich man swore

that this was not the case, and the two gentlemen were therefore declared duly elected.

He contended that Sir Hugh Allan and his children would have been dead before any advantage could have arisen from the Pacific Railway. He confessed that he had himself spent money on the elections, but if he had fire to fight he fought it with fire. He pointed to various elections under the new law in England, and to the elections for the Local House in Ontario, to show that judges made out a scale of expenses, which might be properly made at elections, and to the large amounts which had been declared legitimate, to show that the expenditure of money was a thing not only common, but acknowledged as necessary at elections; and he charged against the gentlemen of the Opposition that while they made greater pretensions to purity, they were themselves most lavish and unscrupulous.

He read from the speech of Lord Derby, to which the Premier referred last night, in proof of the assertion that the sum contributed by Sir Hugh Allan was but a mere drop in the bucket compared with individual subscriptions in England. Having proved that there was no corrupt or venal intention on the part of the Government, he would ask this House if they were going to condemn the Minister for doing what every party did alike. Surely not.

He contended that the House had a right to expect from the hon. member for Shefford that he should give to the House and the country the source of the information upon which he founded his charges, and before the gentlemen, who had so long occupied the Treasury benches were going to be turned out, let the hon. gentlemen who expected to take their places show that they were prepared to take those places with clean hands. They were not prepared to forget all the past, to forget all that had been done for this country by the gentlemen who were not the leaders of the House, as they had been asked by the hon. member for Bruce South (Hon. Mr. Blake). He told the hon. gentlemen on the Opposition benches that they would give a triumphant vote upon this question, not merely a vote of confidence by their party, but a triumphant vote by a majority of the House. (*Ministerial cheers.*)

Hon. Mr. LAIRD rose amid loud applause from the Opposition. He said as the House was well aware, his Province was not a part of the Dominion of Canada when the charge was first made, and it seemed a very difficult position for members from Prince Edward Island, who never had a vote here, to give it upon a question of this description. At the same time, as they had now taken their seats in the House as members of Parliament, he thought that members would agree with him when he said that they would neither be faithful to their constituents nor to the sacred trust committed to them if they shirked the vote upon this question. For his part, he would have much preferred, had their elections been delayed by some possibility, and they should still have been outside of this House when this question came up for consideration. He would have been pleased indeed if, when the House met on the 13th of August, this matter had been finally disposed of.