

to say, I was to pay him something more than I could otherwise do on account of a balance due him from me.

1530. It was on his recommendation that you sent the cheque?—It was. I subsequently telegraphed Sutherland I desired him to come to Ottawa to prove arrangement which he told me was agreed upon between him and Fitzgerald. He telegraphed me the following, dated May 12th, 1874 :—

By telegraph from Bathurst.

“Anything that was done came entirely from me, and I fear that my evidence would be more against myself than him. I made him several offers to buy me out, which he declined, and I should be obliged to swear that he never received anything; even the coat I afterwards charged in his account, not having told him of my intentions at first, and I presume it was charged at the time. He surely is not mean enough to tell that I tried to bribe him. He never admitted that he assisted you, except from pure motives.”

(Signed,) A. S. SUTHERLAND.

“To J. C. Gough.”

1531. Did you telegraph as Mr. Sutherland here states?—I telegraphed Mr. Sutherland that it was desirable for him to prove his claim upon Mr. Fitzgerald, and to show how he manipulated with Fitzgerald.

1532. What telegram did you get in answer?—I got two in answer; the one already produced and the following :—

By telegraph from Bathurst, N.B., 14th May, 1874.

“My overtures and his extreme cautiousness have made it impossible for me, if on oath, to make a point against him. He insisted whatever he had done was to help you in an honorable manner, and it was presumed that I was to get my pay. I have closed to-day, and leave immediately for lower end of county for the summer.

(Signed,) A. S. SUTHERLAND.

“To J. C. Gough.”

I had another telegram from another party with regard to Fitzgerald's conduct on my section. It is from Mr. Mehan, Collector of Customs at Bathurst.

By telegraph from Bathurst, N.B., 14th of May, 1874.

“Would be inconvenient were I compelled to go to Ottawa to give testimony relative to Engineer Fitzgerald's conduct in contract for ties on Section 16. All that I could say is that he was to participate in profits and using his influence to assist us. He afterwards said he would be a partner, and when the contract was nearly completed did all in his power to prevent the Inspector from inspecting them, and when I refused to pay him what he demanded, threatened to report to Commissioners that ties were unsound, badly made, and in every way unfit. The result was unnecessary expense to contract. Inspector states ties are the best he inspected.

(Signed,) MEHAN.

“To J. C. Gough.”

1533. Is Mr. Mehan a gentleman of position?—He is one of the leading men of Bathurst.

1534. Who is Mr. O'Brien?—A merchant and also a leading man.

1535. Did Mehan ever tell you that Fitzgerald demanded \$500 from them?—Yes.

1536. Did you in your communication to Mr. Fitzgerald, in reference to the cheque for \$500, intimate that you had made payment accordingly?—I cannot say.

By Mr. Scutcherd :—

1537. What did you consider was the value of your claims?—I put them in as \$52,000.

1538. Out of which you got an allowance of \$7,000. I thought you had \$5,000 at one time, and \$6,000 at another?—Mr. Mitchell refers to the returns that were made.

1539. How much were you allowed on the first money?—I think \$5,000.