

It is just possible that your mind may have been impressed with some information in the blue book referred to, or it may be, some casual remark, thoughtlessly uttered at your table, and forgotten the next moment. I can conceive of nothing else. If from the blue book, you can have received no information from me in an improper manner, or of an objectionable nature, inasmuch as it was laid before the Colonial Secretary, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, as well as before all the Provincial Governments, long before it was placed in your hands; and some time afterwards the Imperial Government, as well as the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia, did me the high honor to appoint me to the office of Engineer, when it was first proposed to begin the surveys of this important line of Railway.

The above is a statement of facts, so far as I know or remember them. If I am in error, will you kindly correct me? If the statement is correct, will you be so good as confirm it? I am quite ignorant of having done or said anything that I would recall, or that I am ashamed of, and my main object now is to give an emphatic denial to the charges brought against me, viz.:

1. That I inspired you in your opposition to the guarantee for the Intercolonial Railway.

2. That although filling an important official position in relation to the undertaking, I have been secretly in correspondence with you with the view of defeating it.

3. That I have actually furnished you, in an underhand way, with information acquired in my official capacity as Engineer, and which information induced you to oppose the measure.

These are the only inferences that can be drawn from the letter recently received by Mr. McCully, from his correspondent in London. I assure you they are utterly repugnant to me, and I am perfectly certain, whatever be your views respecting the policy of building the Railway, you will readily relieve me from all imputation of a dishonorable nature, in the very little intercourse I have had with you.

Pardon me for this rather lengthy communication, and believe me,

Yours faithfully,

SANDFORD FLEMING.