THE SCANDAL.

The Royal Commission.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, Sept. 4.

At noon to-day Judges Day, Polette, and Gowan, Royal Commissioners, appointed to take evidence in reference to Mr. Huntington's charges against the Ministers, met in the Railway Committee room of the Parliament buildings. There was only a small attendance of the general public, but the Press was fully represented. The Ministers present were Sir John Macdonald, Hon. A. Campbell, and Hon. H. L. Langevin. There were also present Sir F. Hincks, Hon. H. Starnes, and Hon. J. J. C. Abbott.

The proceedings were opened by the Secretary, Mr. Sailor Vankoughnet, who, at the call of the Chairman read the full text of the Royal Commission issued to the members thereof.

This being done, the Chairman said—Call the Hon. Lucius Seth Huntington.

Order, in loud voices, called Seth Huntington.

No answer was obtained.

The Chairman—Call the Hon. Henry Starnes.

Mr. Starnes having been called, that gentleman appeared and took his seat as the witness table. He testified, in reply to questions by Mr. Chairman, to the receipt of the famous package, and consented to its being opened, having been authorized by Sir Hugh Allan and Mr. McMullen to consent under certain conditions. The packet was handed to the Court, and put on file, but not read. He further testified that he had acted as Treasurer to the Committee of Sir George Cartier's election and had received subscriptions. He had signed the receipts published in the newspapers, but not without thinking about it. The money mentioned two letters; he did not know where they are; did not place it in connexion with any undertaking contained in those letters, such as the Pacific Railway. The subscriptions deposited amounted to between $60,000 and $75,000.

Sir FRANCIS HINCKS sworn and examined by the Chairman gave a narrative of the circumstances from the beginning, but as the facts are familiar to the public we omit this part of the evidence. The following are the salient points of the cross-examination of Sir Francis:—

Q. Then I understand you to say distinctly that anterior to the legislation on the subject, which took place in the session of 1872, there were no negotiations between Sir Hugh Allan and Mr. McMullen as representing certain United States capitalists for the purpose of placing this enterprise in the hands of a company of American capitalists with Sir Hugh Allan at the head. Have you any knowledge of such a fact?

A. I was perfectly aware of the fact that Sir Hugh Allan came to Ottawa in company with those persons.

Q. Do you not know that there were negotiations going on between them, but not to the knowledge of the Government I never saw the agreement, and never knew of any until I heard of it as a mere matter of conversation and saw it amongst the papers published on the subject. I have no personal knowledge of any agreement between them, and simply know that certain that Sir Hugh Allan was in communication with them.

Q. Have you any reason to believe that any members of the Government were at that time conscious that the agreement was entered, and that negotiations were going on?

A. They knew, I am sure of no agreement, but they must have known of the fact that Sir Hugh Allan came to Ottawa for the purpose of having a charter granted to the Pacific Railway Company. Being authorized by Sir John to say that he should be treated fairly, he at once wrote to Sir John on the subject, saying that he considered himself pledged to support Mr. Young's claims. On the 3rd inst., at Cookshire, he received from Sir John the telegram which was sent in triplicate to that place, therefore, and also the one by the hands of the 3rd he arrived in Montreal, but could not obtain the letter. On that afternoon he saw Messrs. Young, Thompson and Dorion, seemingly excited, crossing apparently from the Post Office to the *Herald* office. The depositions of several Post Office clerks were also taken. Their evidence was purely negative in its character.

MONTREAL, September 9—Two post office clerks testified to-day in the Pope-Macdonald stolen letter case and denied any knowledge of it. Samuel Mason, stamper and bookbinder, deposed that on last Friday morning, to the best of his recollection about ten o'clock in the morning, he went into the office of Mr. Parks, photographer, on business. Whilst there Mr. Stewart of the *Herald* came in and asked Mr. Parks to photograph a letter, which from its general appearance he believed to be the one in question. It was given to the workmen, and Mr. Stewart, left, but shortly afterwards returning requested Mr. Parks, as he was in a hurry, to photograph the letter himself. He at once complied. He did not hear what number of copies were required, and he went out whilst Mr. Stewart was in the office to the best of his belief.

Mr. Hodge, who has been in the Post Office for twenty years, stated that he left the office at 12.30 o'clock on last Tuesday morning, when Mr. Harding was sorting delivery letters. He knew nothing of the letter in question. Mr. Parks, photographer, further deposed that Friday morning, from negatives of this letter, he (Mr. S.) instructed him to give copies to no one but himself, and intimated that it would shortly be published.

ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Close of the Tournament.

The sixth annual prize meeting of the Ontario Rifle Association was brought to a close last Saturday with the Small Bore Match, which was concluded at three o'clock in the afternoon. The highest number of points in the first stage was made by Mr. J. Adams who scored 78, and at the 1000 yards range, 72.

The meeting on the whole has been a very successful one, the number of entries being even exceedingly large, and the Association may fairly be congratulated on the result of its past labours. It was published in a full list of prizes in our daily edition, but find it impossible to make space for their reproduction in the *Weekly Mail*.

INTERNATIONAL REGATTA.

The Citizens' International Regatta opened on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., and was not completed until Monday last. The management throughout was anything but satisfactory. On the first day a yacht race took place for the Governor-General's medal and the champion prize of Lake Ontario with $300 added. One of the buoys was carried away in this race, and it was ordered to be sailed over again. On the next day a good breeze was blowing and several casualties happened to the yachts. The Oriole came in first, but the race was protested on the same ground as the day before, the Mimico buoy having disappeared. On Friday the race was sailed over again during a stiff breeze and the