

solute price, but an average price. What would be the result? That our good lands would need to be sold at \$7 or \$8 an acre, instead of \$2.50, in order to make that the average price. It was not good policy to have any such clause in the charter. Since it is admitted that the Government had gone beyond their powers, when were they going to ask the consent of Parliament to this provision of the charter? We had heard no word of it yet. He thought he had shown enough reason to justify his motion for this Commission. If the Government were prepared fully to defend all they had done in connection with this charter, they had no cause to refuse the motion; but if an investigation by a committee should expose a state of things different from what they had a right to expect, then of course upon the Government would fall the responsibility. He hoped his hon. friend would not refuse the committee. It was a reasonable request, and one which he firmly believed was imperatively demanded in the interest of the country. Should the Government refuse the committee, then the proper inference was that they were afraid of inquiry—that they had done things for which they cannot give good reasons, and had also done things which will not bear the sunshine of public observation. He moved, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just, That a committee be appointed to inquire into and report from time to time on all matters relative to the contract for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, granted to Sir Hugh Allan and his associates, prior and subsequent to its being signed, with power to send for persons, papers, records and telegraphic despatches by Atlantic Cable, or otherwise, including all communications between Sir Hugh Allan or any of his associates now in England and the Government, or any member thereof, or any person on their behalf.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said the hon. gentleman (Christie) took this ground that, inasmuch as the House was not in possession of information he had a right to expect, he considered he was justified in asking a Committee of this kind. He read the first part of a return laid on the table this afternoon in proof of his position. If he had read the whole of it, the House would have felt quite satisfied with its information.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE said he did read it.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS replied he read only a part of it. The gentleman who responded to the Senate's demand assigned as the reason why he was not in possession of the whole of the information required was,

that at the time the Committee was formed, he was not the Secretary, and was not cognizant of the transfers that had taken place. So far as Government were concerned, all the papers in their possession were brought down. In order to make out a case against Ministers, the hon. gentleman (Christie) had to travel out of the records of the Dominion of Canada. He was quite well aware no hon. gentleman was more familiar with the constitution, and laws and policies of the United States than the hon. mover; but it was not the object of the Canadian Government to draw their inspiration from the constitution and laws of the United States. It was the purpose of the Canadian Government to confine themselves within the strict letter of the law last year passed (hear, hear.) That act of last session empowered the Government to grant a charter to a Company for construction of the Pacific Railway. The Interoceanic and Canada Pacific Companies were incorporated also. The hon. gentleman said no reason was assigned why the Government did not give the contract to one of those two Companies. He must be well aware that the Interoceanic, represented by the hon. member for Toronto (Macpherson) refused to amalgamate with the Canada Pacific Company of which the hon. gentleman from Paris (Christie) was one of the Provisional Directors for the reason that he believed, or professed to believe, that the Interoceanic was somewhat American in its character and relations—that it was not to be trusted, being more or less under the influence of the Northern Pacific Company, and this notwithstanding the Canada Pacific Company, asserted they were quite as Canadian as the Interoceanic, and as British in sentiment. Hence the Government were placed in this position, so far as those companies were concerned, notwithstanding their desire to favor the strongest possible company, of all the best men—they were unable to accomplish their object. The hon. gentleman said he could not understand why one of the companies did not receive the charter. Now the Company with which he was connected, was considered to be more or less a Lower Canada Company, while the Company with which the hon. member from Toronto was connected was regarded as more or less an Ontario Company. Hence had the contract been given the Canada Pacific Company, the Senator from Toronto might have continued to indulge in the accusations, already on record, as to its American character, while, had the Interoceanic Company been chosen, the Senator from Paris (Christie) and others might have complained, of these thirty