

it—clause 7. You then objected to sign it with that condition in it. Did you ask Sir Hector to give you further time to try and arrange with Mr. Charlebois?—No. I tell you candidly I did not want to have anything to do with Charlebois. I told Sir Hector: “There is that one clause. If you are owner of this building you had the right to call for tenders; but if the building belongs to Charlebois you had no right to call for tenders.” Charlebois had scared my partner at first.

793. Do you know Exhibit No. 26?—That is my writing.

794. Will you read that letter?—(Reads the letter in French.) That is: “After an interview with Mr. Charlebois we have decided to go down and consult on this subject, and we beg you to please wait two or three days for a definite answer.” That is what I wrote.

795. That is dated at Ottawa?—Yes.

796. Where were you when you wrote that?—In one of the Public Works Departments.

797. Was this the occasion you saw Sir Hector and asked him to allow you to countermand the withdrawal your partner had made, on the ground that it was not legal?—I cannot say.

798. You remember that you met your partner at the hotel?—Yes.

799. He had withdrawn your tender on the 12th inst. Mr. Fuller, in the report says: “On the 12th inst., they, Rousseau & Mather, wrote.” You recognize the handwriting there (Exhibit No. 27)?—Yes. That is the handwriting of Mr. Mather.

800. That is the letter of withdrawal that your partner referred to?—Yes.

801. I see the departmental stamp is on it “August 11th, 1886.” How long was it after that letter before you came down on your partner and had that interview with him?—I understand that letter was written in the afternoon, about four o’clock, and I arrived here at the Windsor hotel by the midnight train. I met my partner there and the next morning the first thing I was on hand to meet Sir Hector and tell him that this letter was of no value.

802. You called next morning?—Yes, sir.

803. On the 12th of August you were in Ottawa?—Yes, sir.

804. You wrote to Sir Hector then, asking for two or three days?—Yes.

805. I presume this letter followed the interview with Sir Hector? During the interview he probably asked you to put it in writing?—I wrote that letter after Sir Hector told me to see Charlebois and try to come to arrangements with him.

806. It was then he said you had just come in time to cancel the withdrawal?—Yes.

807. That he was just about to let the contract to Mr. Charlebois for the roof?—Yes.

808. I understand he gave you very few minutes to complete the arrangements with Charlebois?—Fifteen minutes.

*By Mr. Lister :*

809. He gave you fifteen minutes to complete the arrangement with Charlebois?—That was in the presence of Mr. Gobeil and Mr. Fuller. It was fifteen minutes to decide. I said: “This is not treating us fairly. If you are the owner of the building you had the right to call for tenders.” I told him what I repeated a short time ago. He said in French: “I will give you fifteen minutes to decide.”

*By Mr. Foster :*

810. To decide what?—To decide whether we would take the contract or not. We went into the corridor to consider the matter.

*By Mr. Lister :*

811. To make up your mind?—Yes: whether we would sign the contract or not.

812. You felt a little injured?—I felt so a little.

813. And you saw Mr. Chapleau about it?—Yes.