

point. (*Cheers and No! no!*) I have told the hon. gentleman that I am willing to have a Committee to inquire into the whole matter, including the case of the hon. gentleman.

Hon. Mr. HUNTINGTON: Oh! You can back out as you will.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: I am not backing out, but the hon. gentleman cannot expect to have it all as he likes. I'll read another extract. "Mr. Huntington said that the charter was obtained in the session of 1872, long after the men who furnished the money to him (Sir Hugh Allan) were repudiated and made arrangements with him (Hon. Mr. Huntington) to bring the charges against the Government." (*Cheers.*)

Hon. Mr. HUNTINGTON rose to a question of order. The report of my speech is entirely without foundation. (*Cries of order, order.*) That is a question of fact, and the hon. gentlemen can correct it afterwards.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: I heard it myself. (*Cries from Government benches, "We all heard it."*) Perhaps the hon. gentleman will deny that he said Jay Cooke would have him in his office without a witness.

Hon. Mr. HUNTINGTON: That is another falsehood of the *Ottawa Times*. That paper, which is inspired by hon. gentlemen opposite, deliberately falsified my speech from the beginning to the end. I refused to disgrace myself by noticing the malignant statement of the dastard sheet.

What I said was that I had not seen Jay Cooke for four years; that I went to a prominent promoter of the Northern Pacific Railway (*hear, hear*), with that view of conversing with him and found that they were the allies of hon. gentlemen opposite, because they would not even talk to me without people being present. (*Hear, hear.*)

The SPEAKER: I must call the hon. member to order. I hope this interruption will cease. The hon. member knows what the rules of debate are as well as any one else in the House, and this plan of interruption can only lead to assembly confusion in the House. The hon. gentleman will ask his opportunity from the House. I am sure it will be given to him, and he can then make his denial on the question of fact.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: I wish to invite the attention of every hon. member of this House who is an honest and candid man, to the statement I am making. There could be no amalgamation before the elections. In my telegram of the 26th of July I stated that the question must stand over until after the elections; that the two companies would stand on perfectly equal footing, and that the arrangements which had been made between Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Abbott should be the guiding line. That arrangement was that Upper Canada should have seven, Lower Canada six, and each of the other Provinces one Director on the Board. Not by any chance or possibility could Sir Hugh Allan by his large capital, or the influence created by that capital, get an undue influence on the Board for Lower Canada or for himself over my own Province.

On the 30th of July I received a letter from Sir Hugh Allan, Sir George-É. Cartier being sick, stating that he had made certain arrangements with Sir George, and it was a bad arrangement, for it was something like this, that if there should not be an amalgamation he thought that Sir Hugh Allan's Company ought to get the charter. I received that message in the middle of my election contest, and I said to myself it is not much consequence whether one company or the other gets the charter if they unite, but it will kill me, it will kill us if the Montreal Company without amalgamation receives it. However, I telegraphed back at once that I would not agree to the arrangement, and I would go down to Montreal that night. Yes, Mr. Speaker, in the midst of a severe election contest, for I was elected only by 130, whereas at the previous election I had a majority of 300, I said I would run down to Montreal on this matter. I telegraphed to Sir George-É. Cartier that I would not consent to the arrangement, and that my telegram of the 26th of July, 1872, would be the decision of the Government, and the Government would be bound thereby, and would be governed by nothing else.

I wish it to be clearly understood, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the Canadian Government had agreed that since it could not obtain an amalgamation of the two companies before the elections, they would try to get an amalgamation after the elections, and in such an amalgamation they would do what was fair, in order to get Sir Hugh Allan made President of the Amalgamated Company. (*Cheers.*)

I say that that arrangement made by Sir George-É. Cartier was set aside and why? Because it would have killed me in Upper Canada. I telegraphed that even at the risk of my election I would go down to Montreal and put an end to it, and Sir George-É. Cartier, when he got my message, saw what an absurd proposition it was, and there was an end of it, and Sir Hugh Allan telegraphed back that the bargain was ended. At that time there had not been one single word said about money subscriptions.

Sir, it may be very wrong to give subscriptions to election funds at all, but is there any one gentleman opposite who will say that he had not expended money himself, or has been aided in doing so by his friends. (*Several members of the Opposition here denied the charge.*) Whether those acts had been done by members themselves or their friends, money was spent and always would be spent on elections. I don't hesitate to say—and I state this in the face of this House, of the country and of the world—that I am not aware of any one single farthing having been spent illegitimately and contrary to the law—(*Opposition laughter and cheers*)—by members on the Government side of the House. I can tell of one man on the other side who spent \$26,000; another case I can prove of spending \$30,000, and I can also prove cases of spending \$5,000, \$6,000, \$7,000 and \$8,000, and when the Committee which the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) challenged me to move, and which I intend to move, is appointed, I shall give the proofs. (*Laughter, in which Mr. Blain joined.*) I can prove the expenditure of money by that gentleman (Mr. Blain) himself.