

and that therefore nobody can touch them; and yet the men now in the company can kick the road and go to heaven if they like. The Minister of the Interior knows that, or he is not the man to give free grants to railways; but he seems to be very much in love with this subject; and he will excuse me if I read the recommendation he made to the Council. I know how hurriedly he made it, how his bedroom was infested with these people, almost alive with them, and a short hand reporter took his thoughts down and put them into good English. This is a copy of a report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 27th of November, 1885; and the Minister of the Interior said this:

"The Minister further submits an application from the company that the time for the construction and equipment of the first fifty miles of the railroad be extended to the 1st October, 1886, and he, the Minister, recognising the beneficial results likely to arise from the speedy construction of a line of railway through the district traversed by the proposed location of the North-West Central Railway, and being satisfied of the intention of this company, in good faith, to prosecute their undertaking, recommends as follows."

And yet for two years the president had never been in the country, or did the first earthly thing, except attempt to sell this charter, and the Minister, without any logical premises or deductions being laid before him, extended that land grant to the men whose charter had run out. He knew that this was the last of November; he knew that in that country you cannot get a spade into the soil at that period, the 10th of November being the usual time for the frosts to come, and when it freezes it freezes quickly and hard and fast; and before his eyes at that time in the *Canada Gazette*, were the notices of two companies that wished to be incorporated to build this very road. I suppose he will say, as about other papers, that he didn't see them; but Ministers are Argus-eyed, they are supposed to see everything, and these two notices were before his eyes. And yet this president who had left those people in misery, who had never tried to pay them a dollar for their oats and barley and hay, or for the work they had put in there—I understand that some of them were without the necessaries of life—was running around with a silk hat and polished boots, carrying around and selling the stock of the Souris and Rocky Mountain Railway, living on it and travelling over Europe on it. And yet the hon. Minister of the Interior signs that recommendation, and says he is satisfied that they are going on in good faith to build the road. I cannot understand it; if the Minister can explain it, I suppose he can explain anything; and I have asked that the rules of the House be suspended to allow him to explain it. Now, I think I have proved my case. I have taken as my text what the Minister has said, that there was not one bit of a charge against the hon. member for West Toronto. I have shown that Mr. Pew and Mr. McConachie said that he wanted \$1,500 a mile for "the boy;" that is denied. Then I hold up Mr. Beaty's own written contract with Mr. Macdonald stipulating that he should receive \$1,600 a mile, to be paid monthly. I want to know whether there is any bit of a charge about that. I want to know if they can go back on their signatures. I do not like a fight, but when I get into it, I am there for all day; and when I made the statement in the committee, the Minister charged me with altering it, but I repudiated the charge, and I will prove that I did not alter a word in sense. I stated in the committee that Mr. Beaty agreed with me, as the old Souris and Rocky Mountain Railway Company was dead and buried, that we should resuscitate it, under a new name; and after making certain stipulations as to certain payments, if there was anything in it—I did not know—it was the first charter I had anything to do with—we should divide the profits equally between us; and I said that Mr. Beaty agreed to that. I was met with a flat denial. The Minister of the Interior has told the House that my charge in this matter is not borne out by the facts. Another meeting took place in the committee at

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which I produced the letter of the Minister of Finance. I will read to you, Sir, my own letter to that hon. gentleman and his reply:

"OTTAWA, 5th April, 1886.

"Hon. A. W. McLELAN,  
Finance Minister.

"DEAR SIR,—Soon after the prorogation of the past Parliament I gave into your hand five or six letters addressed to me by Mr. James Beaty, Q.C., M.P., upon the subject of the North-West Central Railway and in his handwriting, for the purpose of your perusal. I am informed that you cannot find them. They are very necessary to me just now. I have not seen them since I gave them to you, but I remember their purport perfectly well—but this is not enough. I am very anxious to have the letters so that they can speak for themselves. If you cannot find them please give me a letter stating the facts and what your recollection of the contents of the letters of Mr. Beaty is.

"I have the honor to be,

"Yours truly,

(Signed) "D. B. WOODWORTH."

This is the answer:

"MY DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of yours of the 5th, again asking for the return of Mr. Beaty's letters to you *in re* North-West Central Railway. I have had another and diligent search made for them but without success. In the removal of my papers from Marine and Fisheries Department they have, I presume, been mislaid. I will have the search continued as I fancy that they are now to you an additional importance, owing to the position in which that question stands before the Railway Committee. My recollection of all the contents is indistinct, but my impression from reading them was that you and Mr. Beaty [—not 'is' as the hon. member for East Troy says, but 'was,' at the time of reading them—] were the original promoters of that road, with equal interests in all that was connected therewith.

"I am, yours, very truly,

"A. W. McLELAN."

What had the hon. member for West Toronto say to that? He said there was not a word of truth in it, and he said, according to the report in the *Citizen*, which cannot be accused of any great friendship towards me at least:

"He never wrote any letter which came under the observation of Mr. McLelan that would prove such negotiations had taken place, and that gentleman could not therefore produce any such letters. He asked for a delay of two weeks."

Well, I did not get the letters. I know the hon. Minister of Finance had not them. I know that in this matter the Minister of Finance has acted as he always has, ever since I have known him, honorably and fairly, but he took no particular interest in this matter, and I gave him the letters to read because Mr. Beaty was making the same statements he had made to the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) to Mr. Gorman, of the *Globe*, and Mr. McNee, of the *Winnipeg Free Press*. When I gave the letters to Mr. McLelan—I beg his pardon for mentioning his name—I asked him, shortly after he had read them, if they bore out my contentions. He said they did, and he knows what my contention was, as I made it in the committee. And what does the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Beaty) say in reply to my contention. He says there is not a word of truth, either in my statement or in that of the Minister of Finance, who declared my statement to be true, yet the Minister of the Interior, the colleague of the Minister of Finance, says that there is no foundation for the charge against the member for West Toronto. Let the Minister of the Interior put himself in my place for a few moments. Let him imagine that he has made a statement, which is corroborated by a member of the Cabinet; let him then imagine that he made other statements, in support of which he produced letters from Mr. Pew and Mr. McConachie, and then that he was told by another member of the Cabinet that there was not a particle of proof for any of his assertions. The hon. gentleman would never forget it; and yet, for what reason I do not know, what Egyptian darkness has come over his mind I cannot conceive, he has allowed himself to become as blind and as obtuse to the real facts as though their recollection had entirely departed from his memory. I think I am making a case in which there is sufficient proof, and I am content to let