

he was on very friendly personal relations with the Hon. Mr. Abbott, perhaps it might be thought not to be proper. He, however, consented to act. He also stated to me that at least one French Canadian Judge should sit, as one of my colleagues, a French Canadian, was implicated. He thought over all the names of the Judges of Lower Canada, and suggested to me the name of M. Justice Polette as a man of high standing, a man of great legal power, as worthy in all respects to take his seat on the Commission.

And it is said Mr. Justice Gowan was a creature of mine. How Mr. Justice Gowan ever came to be considered a creature of mine I cannot say. He commenced life as a partner of Mr. Small, and was an extreme Reformer. He was appointed by Mr. Baldwin on the representation of Mr. Small. I never did him a single favour that I know of. I did not appoint him a Judge. He was appointed a Judge before I was a member of Parliament, his appointment being made in 1843, while I became a member of Parliament in 1844. I afterwards became acquainted with Judge Gowan, and I found that he was a good lawyer. I may also say that I have received great advantage, and that the country has received great benefits from the services of Mr. Justice Gowan.

There is but one Judge of the Superior Court in Upper Canada whom I have not appointed or promoted, and that one Judge, I am proud to say, on the best evidence, has declared in the strongest terms that in this evidence produced before the Commission there is not one tittle of evidence against me. (*Cheers.*) It has been said that the Commission was a partisan Commission; but supposing I had committed any crime under the common law of the land, I must have been tried under a Judge who was appointed or promoted by myself; and I believe that not one single month or day less punishment would have been given to me if I had been tried by any one of these Judges whom I have been from my position instrumental in placing on the bench.

With respect to the charges brought against the Judges, they have assumed various phases. First we are told that the Government had acted with these American gentlemen and had given up all the rights of Canada to a foreign corporation. We were told that we are recreant to our position as Canadians, to our position as members of Parliament, and guardians of the rights of Canada, and that we had handed over the great Pacific Railway to the Americans. When that broke down, the next charge was bought up. Hon. gentlemen opposite said, "We know you did not do that but you have sold it" and then when that broke down they came to the last charge and said: "Oh, you are guilty of spending a large sum of money at the elections."

It has been attempted to be shown that the charge was not that the charter was sold to the Americans. He would ask this House if that was not the charge? (*Cheers.*) It was so understood in Canada; it was so understood in England; and it was attempted assiduously and insidiously to be spread through the country that the Government of Canada was devoid of principle and of patriotism, and that they had sold the charter to the Americans.

I must say that when this charge was first made it roused me. I had thought that I had thwarted these men in every particular. I had thought that I had kept Jay Cooke & Co. and Scott & Co., and every Company in any way connected with the Northern Pacific Railway, out of the Canadian Pacific Railway. (*Cheers.*) Mr. Speaker, if I had not done so; if I had gone into that moderate system; if I had allowed the American Railway system to go on and be completed, forever shutting out the opportunity for ours; if I had played the American game; if I had played the game of the hon. gentleman opposite; if I had sold the Railway; if I had sold the interests of Canada, I would have got the plaudits of the hon. gentlemen opposite instead of now getting their stabs. (*Cheers.*)

But it is because from the first to the last I was a true Canadian; because from the first to the last I stood by Canada; because from the first to the last, when they attempted to levy blackmail upon me, I put it down with a strong hand, that is why the attack was made on the Government; that is why the attack was made on me. (*Loud cheers.*)

I have no hesitation in saying that this course taken by the hon. member for Shefford is governed behind the scenes by a foreign element. (*Cheers.*) I do not charge the hon. gentlemen by whom he is surrounded with being parties to this, but I do say that the course of the hon. member for Shefford is governed by a foreign element, and I can prove it. (*Cheers.*) And if a Committee is granted to me, I will show that the hon. gentlemen sits here by virtue of alien money and influence, and not only by virtue of alien influences but alien railway influences. (*Cheers.*) I can prove it. I am informed, and I verily believe that I can prove it. (*Cheers and laughter.*) I have got evidence, and if a committee is given to me I can prove that the hon. gentlemen was elected to his seat in this House by alien railway influences, and more than that, I can not only prove that he was elected by alien railway influences but by alien railway influences not unconnected with the Northern Pacific Railway. (*Loud cheers.*)

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to speak to the specific charges made against the Government. Sir, before the last elections took place, I knew what I had to face. I had a great, a strong and united opponent. I had showered upon my devoted head all kinds of opposition. I had been one of the High Commissioners, one of the signers of the Treaty of Washington. It was said that I had betrayed the country, and the hon. gentlemen had described me in their speeches as a cross between Benedict Arnold and Judas Iscariot. But I met Parliament, and by a calm explanation of my course I won the approval of the House. Still the Opposition roared.

I knew that I must meet with a strong opposition in my native Province from gentlemen of the opposite Party. That Province was the only Province in the country that was not a gainer by that Treaty, except as it was a gainer by the great gain which I think, over-balanced everything—that of a lasting peace between England and the United States. (*Cheers.*) It gave to our children, and to our children's children, the assurance that we could enjoy our own comfort, that we could enjoy our own firesides, that we could sit