

I was giving it support through the newspaper, and it was in connection with that, that fears were entertained by some of the promoters of that scheme, that Sir George was opposed to it, and that this conversation arose.

Q.—When did your conversations take place with Mr. McMullen?

A.—In the early part of the Session. I had known Mr. McMullen for some fifteen years.

Q.—Do you know whether the Government gave him any encouragement in this scheme?

A.—I cannot say.

Q.—Had you any conversation with any other member of the Government than Sir George Cartier on the subject?

A.—No.

Q.—Had you any conversation with Sir Hugh Allan on the subject?

A.—I had conversations with him on general Railway matters. I understood his policy was to unite all the schemes with which he was identified as the easiest way to secure the construction of those in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Q.—Were you aware that he was associating himself with, or that negotiations were going on between him and those Americans?

A.—I inferred from the conversations I had with Mr. McMullen and Mr. Abbott that such was the case, but I had no direct knowledge of any formal agreement.

Q.—Was Mr. McMullen or any other person present at this conversation you had with Sir George Cartier?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you know anything more in reference to this branch of the subject?

A.—Nothing more.

Q.—Did you take any interest in the elections in Montreal in 1872?

A.—I did.

Q.—Were you on any of the Committees in Montreal?

A.—I was on the Committee for West Montreal but not on the Central Committee. I was frequently at the meetings of the Central Committee, but not a member of it.

Q.—Did you take any part in the election of Sir George Cartier?

A.—No direct part.

Q.—Were you on his Committee?

A.—I was not on his Committee.

Q.—Do you know whether any money was subscribed for the purpose of promoting the Montreal elections?

A.—I am aware that there was a fund as there always is at elections.

Q.—Do you know the amount of it?

A.—No, I have no knowledge of the amount of it.

Q.—Do you know whether Sir Hugh Allan was a subscriber to that fund?

A.—I have no personal knowledge that he was a subscriber.

Q.—In whose hand was the fund?

A.—Mr. Betournay, now Judge Betournay, was Chairman of the Committee, and I think any cheques that were drawn were drawn by him.

Q.—Cheques upon whom?

A.—Cheques upon the Metropolitan Bank.

Q.—Did you understand that the funds were deposited there?

A.—I understood that the funds of the Central Committee were deposited in the Metropolitan Bank.

Q.—Who drew those cheques?

A.—Mr. Betournay usually, I think. I saw him draw a good many cheques.

Q.—Do you know anything of the amount?

A.—No, I do not. I think the largest amount paid out was for canvassers. This system of canvassing has always prevailed in Montreal. The canvassers got their pay every Saturday.

Q.—Do you know of any understanding between Sir Hugh Allan and the Government, or any member of the Government or their supporters, for raising money for the elections?

A.—I do not.

Q.—Is there anything more that you have to state in relation to this matter?

A.—Nothing in relation to these charges.

To Sir John A. Macdonald, through the Chairman.

Q.—You say that you know that Sir George Cartier, in order to counteract any apprehended American influence, attempted to strengthen the Interoceanic Company?