## THE TARTE CHARGES.

MR. J. J. CURRAN'S MASTERLY SPEECH

on the Report of the Privileges and plections Committee—An Able and Eloquenet Review.

Ma. Current, who on rising was foully Mr. Speaker, before proceeding to offer the Mr. Speaker to make on this important few remarks I have to make on this important matter, I desire to state to the House how maners that during the last session of deeply I regret that during the last session of deepo 11221 should have been made the ingrainment I should have need need and instrument by which an incorrect declaration stranged by this House on behalf of the hon, was read for Juckee West (Mr. McGreevy) who members that could be sustained against him go character that the sustained against him go character that the sustained against him go character that he had sustained against him go character that the house which the house afternation to the remarks upon whint grounds he confused by the manufacture of the consultate; and certainly, in the sustained by an order of the minority, in most inform the root of the connaitate; and certainly, with research of the leavis graving dock, he concludes that the had such as a connaitate, and the had such as a considering the connaitate of the connaitate of the connaitate was no charge against the Mindel of the Committee at the work against the Mindel of the Committee who were to his knowledge, and the connaitate was no charge against the Mindel of the Committee who were to his knowledge, and the connaitate was no charge against the Mindel of the connaitate was no charge against the Mindel of the Committee who were to his knowledge, and the connaitate was no charge against the form of the connaitate was no charge against the form of the connaitate was no charge against the form of the connaitate

esistants, elerks of works, hispectors, or en-ting countries on shall be at fulf liberty, do in it advisable, to put an end to the etc. Thus the practice of receiving pre-cus not only condemned on general is, but we have the special understand-There is no it is been compared to the control of t

report, was such as to render them unable to give it the attention it deserved, and thus on several important points they have decidedly erred. The charge is:—

"That the Honourable Thomas McGreevy being a member of the Parliament of Canada, and a member of the Quebec Harbour Commission, entered into an agreement with Larkin, Connoily & Co., after they had tendered for the dredging contract of 1882, by which, in consideration of their taking his brother, Robert H McGreevy, into the partnership with them, and giving him an interest to the extent of 30 per cent, in the work tendered for, he agreed to give, and did give them in an undue manner his help and influence in order to secure to them the said contract.

"That to this end he, the said Thomas McGreevy underdook to secure the dismissed of Messrs, Kinipple, Morris and Pilkington from their positions, and that they were so dismissed and replaced by Henry F. Perley and John E. Boyd."

The finding by Messrs, Mills and Davies is :—
"Looking at all the evidence and comparing he correspondence, written at the time, we had. That Thomas Medreevy, did corruptly

lim an interest to the extent of 39 per cent."

Both reports agree that this interest of 39 per cent, was proven. I am satisfied that Mr. Thomas McGreevy knew that his brother had an interest, but there is no proof establishing that he knew he had 30 per cent interest. On the contrary, I am satisfied that Thomas McGreevy thought, as he swore, that R. H. McGreevy, his brother, was a kind of contract-broker or peddler of contracts, and was making a certain sum of money out of the contractors; but he never imagined that he had accumulated the wealth he had in connection with those contracts. In fact, we have his own statement in regard to what he believed, and there is no reason to disbelieve that statement. Mr. Robert McGreevy was a factorum for him; he was very humble, he was lying low and keeping dark, but he felt his day would come, and had arrived in 1888, when, according to Thomas McGreevy, it dawned upon R. H. McGreevy's mind that he should become one of the directors of the Richelieu Company. Mr. McGreevy says:

"It was at the end of 1888 or the commence-

"It was at the end of 1888 or the commencement of 1889, before the elections took place, that in February some person told me that my brother was trying to get on the Board of the Richelieu Company. I think it was Mr. Michael Connolly who told me. He was a director at the time, and we were on our way from one of the maetings of the board when he saidto me, that Robert McGreevy was trying to become a director. I said to Mr. Connolly 'what business has he to go there; he does not own any stock or has any money to put into investments; he is too much in debt and has no right to go there.' I said further that I thought it was to create a division by putting a number of directors off. I stated at the time that some of the other directors would think that I was intriguing to get some of them off the Board, and I was very much annoyed about it. "It was at the end of 1888 or the commence

about it.

"Q. You have just stated that the first difficulty between you and your brother—arose out
of a statement which had been made to you by
Mehael Connolly, to the effect that your
brother sought election as a director of the
Richelieu Company?—A. Yes.

"Q. And you thought it was impossible, as he had no means to buy stock nor was he then in the possession of the stock which would give him an interest in the affairs of the Company?"

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him an interest in the affairs of the Company?

A. Yes, sir.

"Q. What did you then say to Michael Connolly, and what did Michael Connolly say to you on it at subject? Did he give you to understand that you were in error about your brother's means?—A. He disclosed to me that Robert McGreevy was a partner in the firm, and had a large amount of money there in the company; that he was speculating with Murphy in the stock of the company.

"Q. He then said you were in error as to the financial condition of your brother?—A. Yes, and that he was a partner in the firm.

"Q. He then stated that fact to you for the first time?—A. For the first time?

"Q. And you say that was in 188 or the beginning of 1839?—A. Coming down from a meeting of the directors of the Richelieu Company.

tions to their engineer, Pilkington, a young man whom they left in charge of a work of such visit importance that he was to move the guies buck 70 feet, and then another 70 feet. They were properly dismissed as, I think every hen, centleman in this House will conclude, for their cross negligence?

The majority report makes charge 5 of the general report their second charge. It has reference to the dredging of the wet basin at 35 centls a yard. The general report gives its fluding at page 15:

"The Committee therefore find that Thomas Meirecvy, knowing his brother was a partner in the firm of Larkin, Comnolly & Co., made an arrangement with them by which he was to receive from them \$5,000 to be appropriated for polifical purposes, out of the proceeds of a contract for \$0,000 cube yards of dredging in the wet dock of Quebec harbour works at the price of 35 per yard, which it was understood he would endeavour to procure for the firm. There is no evidence that Thomas Medirecvy used his influence with the Department of Public Works but by the Harbour Commissioners, and it appears that the department of Public Works but by the Harbour Commissioners.

"The only evidence of the use of influence upon Mr. Perley, as the chief engineer of the Harbour Commissioners.

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"The only evidence of the use of influence upon this mad many other matters,"

And the correspondence's here given, I think that conclusion of the majority ought to be satisfactory. But the minority report endervors to fink Sir Hector Langevin with this transaction, It was admitted by the last speaker, Mr. McCariby, Jihat Sir Hector Langevin had no connection at all with this contract; but they say "the question arises between what evidence do they arrive at that conclusion? Thomas Medicay, and possibly the Harbour Commissioners, for th not swear as to the exact into his hands out of of money that were paid into his hands out of the moneys of this very plunder for which he had signed his name. He cannot remember whether it was \$1,200 or \$1,500, or what amount it was. It was upon the statements of a wit-ness like that that hon, gentlemen opposite based the finding of their report in this re-spect.

pletion of the Levis graving dock. The introvity report says:

"That in the year 1884 the said Thomas Metreevy agreed with members of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. to secure for them a contract for the completion of the graving dock at Levis, on condition that he should receive from them any excess over the sum of \$50,000 of the contract price, and that, accordingly, the said Thomas Medireovy afterwards received from the said firm the sum of \$22,000.

Both reports make this charge No. 3. Mr.

said Thomas Merchely diegrated the said from the committee, absolutely demolished this charge. He showed that the conflict of testimony between Robert McGreevy and Murphy was such that no person could place any reliance upon it, and that the evidence is so unsatisfactory that we must, perforce, come to the finding of the general Committee. But the minority report says:

"In order to arrive at an intelligent judgment on this charge, it is necessary to review the facts connected with the letting of the original contract, the manner in which that coniract had been carried out up to the time when the supplemental contract was entered into, the entering into that supplemental contract, and the payments which have been made to the contractors from time to time.

"The original contract was entered into the facts, last, last, between the Harbor Commissioners of Quebec and Larkin, Connoily & Co." It provided that for the consideration of

mit that he was a partiner in the firm.

"Q. He and stated that are to you for the state of the the stated that are to you for the state of the stat

It was alleged by the hon. member for Simcos (Mr. McCarthy) that the Minister had recommended Mr. Perley for the position of chief engineer of the harbour works. Is that so?

Mr. McCarthy, Yes.

Mr. CURRAN. That is entirely incorrect. I was going to draw the attention of the hon. gentlomen who drafted the minority report to this error. Sir Heetor Langevin did nothing of the kind. They say:

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was going to draw the attention of the hon, gentlomen who drafted the minority report to this error. Sir Hector Langevin did nothing of the kind. They say:

"Perley was recommended to his position by the Minister of Public Works, and Boyd was recommended as assistant engineer by Perley."

I contend that is altogether incorrect and I will show that by documents which I will refer to in a moment. The Minister consected he should act. When the Harbour Commissioners of Quebec telegraphed up, or Mr. Perley telegraphed up that he had been appointed by them, the Minister gave his consent. There is whore the Minister of Public Works made the great mistake of his life. That permission to accept the appointment no doubt arose from the kindness of heart of the Minister. He felt that the salary received by Mr. Perley was imatequate for the duties he was performing and consented, in order to swell his salary, to his accepting that position. A debate occurred in this House on the 2ist January, 1887, when the question of the payments to Mr. Perley came up. Discussing the question of extra payment to Mr. Perley and the Works because he has corrected the great blunders which were made by his predecessors. I would like, however, to know whether he is in receip! of any salary as chief engineer of the flarbour Commissioners of Quebec." No doubt that permission was given on account of the neknowledged ability of Mr. Perley, but at the same time to canble that officer to get paid a salary commensurate with his responsibility and position. Sir Richard Cartwright speaking on the subject sald, adding up the various amounts received in all by Mr. Perley annually, "That makes about \$4,500. It may be the case that you require to pay somewhat larger salaries than you have been deing to officers of first-telass grade and first-class nobility if we can get them, but I think it would be better if they should receive a large salary fairly and squarely, than that we should eke it out here, there are of Public Works, was no doubt benevolent. His

newspaper, but we have not a single word about the Globe. We have not a single word about Mr. Larkin having no stock in the Globe nt the time an article was written against Larkin, Connolly & Co., but that he invested in some since. Nobody took the trouble to find out whether he had five or ten thousand dollars worth of stock; but it is a great pity that the thing was not further investigated, so that would have known all about these subscriptions. It is quite clear that he did subscribe, and that whilst his pariners were giving in Quebec for one object or another he was giving that our seatten of the country and helping

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"Perish policy and cunning;
Perish all that fear the light,
Whether winning, whether losing,
Fear the Lord and do the right."

The hon, gentleman resumed his seat amidst great applause.

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