

THE TARTÉ CHARGES.

MR. J. J. CURRAN'S MASTERLY SPEECH

On the Report of the Privileges and Elections Committee—An Able and eloquent Review.

Mr. CURRAN, who on rising was loudly cheered, said:

Mr. Speaker, before proceeding to offer the remarks I have to make on this important matter, I desire to state to the House how deeply I regret that during the last session of Parliament I should have been made the instrument of an incorrect declaration of opinion on the part of the hon. member for the province of Quebec West (Mr. McCreery) who, as a member of the committee, had no authority to make any statement on this subject.

That to this end, he said, Thomas McCreery undertook to secure the dismissal of the hon. member for the province of Quebec West (Mr. McCreery) from the committee, and that he had been replaced by Henry F. Perley and John E. Boyd.

The finding by Messrs. Mills and Davies is— "On looking at the evidence and comparing the correspondence, written at the time, we find that Thomas McCreery did corruptly and fraudulently induce a member of Parliament to become a member of the committee, in order to secure the dismissal of the hon. member for the province of Quebec West (Mr. McCreery) from the committee, and that he had been replaced by Henry F. Perley and John E. Boyd."

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 he had been invited to sit on the Board of the Richelieu Company. I think it was Mr. Michael Connolly who told me. It was a director at one of the meetings of the board when he said to me that Robert McCreery was trying to become a director. I said to Mr. Connolly, "What business has he to be 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."

Q. You have just stated that the first difficulty was your own refusal to give your name to the committee? A. Yes, I refused to give my name to the committee because I did not own any stock or have any money to put into investments; he is too much in debt and has no right to go there.

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? A. Yes, I thought it was impossible.

Q. What did you then say to Michael Connolly, and what did Michael Connolly say to you? A. I said to Michael Connolly, "What business has he to be 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."

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It was alleged by the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. McArthur) that the Minister had recommended Mr. Perley for the position of chief engineer of the Public Works. It is so.

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