

Campbell. The whole thing has arisen from misapprehension, which the House will understand when I explain the matter. The Manufacturers' Insurance Company was got up in Toronto and the promoters formed a provisional board of directors, who proceeded to get sufficient stock subscribed and a sufficient fund raised to enable them to procure a charter. At that time Sir Alexander Campbell was in England. I was asked to become the president of the company, and I agreed to do so. Sir Alexander had left the conduct of his business, or of some of his business, in the hands of Mr. Frederick Barwick, barrister, Toronto, whom everybody knows. Mr. Barwick wrote to Sir Alexander Campbell stating that the company was being formed, that I had agreed to become the president, and asking him to become vice-president and to take the necessary stock. Sir Alexander Campbell answered him by a telegram which I have the permission of both Sir Alexander Campbell and Mr. Barwick to read. The telegram is this:

"Letter received. Answer, yes; subscribe same amount as Macdonald."

"CAMPBELL."

The Macdonald named being myself. Sir Alexander Campbell followed up that cable message by the following letter:—

"MY DEAR BARWICK,

"I have your note of the 6th. The letter of Mr. Carlile with reference to the Manufacturers' Life and Indemnity Insurance Company was closed with your own. I do not intend to allow the fact of my holding the office of Lieutenant Governor to interfere in the least with my ordinary pursuits, which are not very numerous, and do not involve anything other than the responsibilities of such a position as you now suggest to me to take in the Manufacturers' Life and Indemnity Insurance Company. And in reply to your note I beg to say, that with the conditions you make with reference to securing the strength and stability of the company, I will very gladly accept the position of first vice-president under Sir John Macdonald. I see in Mr. Carlile's letter that he says Sir John Macdonald has taken stock, which I shall be very glad to do also on my return, to such an amount as I may think reasonable. Should it be necessary to fix this amount in the meantime, you may subscribe for me to the amount as Sir John Macdonald has subscribed."

"Faithfully yours,

"A. CAMPBELL."

Then apparently Mr. Barwick asked for an answer before the receipt of his first "cable," and Sir Alexander Campbell says:

"I have just cabled you. Letter received. Answer yes. Conditions as indicated. Subscribe same amount as Macdonald."

On this Mr. Barwick very naturally thought himself at liberty to subscribe the stock which he did as the company were anxious to get into operation without delay, and the necessary amount of the percentage on the stock subscribed to the same extent as myself was paid. Then it was advertised that the company was being formed; I was announced as president, and Sir Alexander Campbell, Mr. George Gooderham, of Toronto, a well known gentleman, and Mr. Bell, of Guelph, as vice-presidents. After all this Sir Alexander Campbell came back from England and, on considering matters, changed his mind. He thought that he would not take the stock, that he would not accept the vice-presidency nor be connected with the company, for reasons which I need not for the purposes of this statement enter upon. He stated that he would rather not do so; and after some discussion, and as there were plenty of subscribers for the stock, and as, of course, it would be impossible to insist upon his being vice-president if he did not choose to be vice-president, his stock was cancelled and the company was formed without him. I have in my possession correspondence of April the 3rd, just the other day, which I am privileged to read. It is a letter to Sir Alexander Campbell from Mr. Gooderham, the first vice-president of the company. It is as follows:—

"TORONTO, 3rd April, 1889.

"HON. SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, K.C.M.G.,
"Toronto."

"DEAR SIR,—You are doubtless aware that the attention of Parliament has been drawn to the fact that you appear as a shareholder to the extent of \$10,000 in the original list of shareholders of the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company, returned to the Government under oath of the proper officer of the company, and that you have denied over the signature of your solicitor in the *Toronto World* of September last that you were ever connected with the company either as a shareholder or one of its vice-presidents."

"These statements, without more from the company, will be calculated to leave it in a very false position, and one which its enemies would be only too ready to take advantage of. I, therefore, write to request that you will kindly permit me, as an act of justice to my company, to lay before Parliament your cable from England to Mr. F. D. Barwick, authorising him to subscribe stock upon your behalf, such portions of your letter to him as confirm the cable and are germane to the matter, and the power of attorney authorising the subscription of stock signed by Mr. Barwick on your behalf. I desire these for the purpose of showing why the provisional directors represented you as a shareholder and vice-president of the company. It was upon the faith of these representations, among others, that I, myself, became a shareholder and vice-president of the company. I certainly never thought of blaming the provisional directors under the circumstances for making these representations, and if any one else has, it has not come to my knowledge. I desire also to say that since hearing your explanations, which I was only lately favored with, I freely admit that you acted entirely within your rights on the matter, and further that it would be most unjust to you to reflect upon your action which, in the light of your recent explanation, places your conduct beyond adverse criticism. I shall take the earliest opportunity of having the matter laid before Parliament when I trust both yourself and the company will be relieved from any imputation in the matter."

"Faithfully yours,

"GEO. GOODERHAM."

To which Sir Alexander Campbell replied:

"TORONTO, 3rd April, 1889.

"GEO. GOODERHAM, Esq.,
"Toronto."

"DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your favor of to-day, in which you ask my permission to lay before Parliament my cable and letter to Mr. F. D. Barwick of 20th April, 1887, which you are quite at liberty to do."

"I regret exceedingly that you consider that the letter of my solicitor to the *Toronto World* of September last to which you allude, should have placed your company in a false position, but I found that the public press in articles commendatory of the company were still associating my name with it and I felt it was necessary that I should correct this."

"In view of your assurance that you do not hold me blameworthy, it is not necessary that I should state here the grounds upon which I considered myself obliged to take the course I did."

"Yours faithfully,

"A. CAMPBELL."

IMPORTATION OF FISH IN BOND.

Mr. EISENHAUER. During the debate this afternoon on the motion of the hon. member for Shelburne (Gen. Laurie), the hon. member for Queen's, N. S. (Mr. Freeman) stated that I had given a pledge to my constituents that I would oppose the importation of any foreign fish. I wish to deny emphatically that I made any such pledge.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. COOK moved that the House resolve itself into Committee on Bill (No. 9) to amend the Railway Act. He said: This Bill was referred to a Select Committee some time ago, and the Committee, I understand, threw it out without much consideration. I consider it a Bill of some importance to the public at large. When the public are landed at a station, I think they should be provided with a platform, and I think that their baggage should be carried with care and should not be smashed as it often has been by the employes of railway companies. Still, the Bill met the fate it did in the Committee, from the fact stated by the Minister of Justice, that, in his estimation, it was not properly drawn. If hon. gentlemen are more interested in railroad companies than in the public, then they may reject this Bill, and I am going to give them the opportunity of doing it. I move that the House go into Committee on the Bill.