

*Question*—What was the nature of your relations ?

*Answer*—As a member of the Government of the Province of Quebec, I took an active part in the policy inaugurated by that Government in favor of the construction of railways within the limits of our Province, among others the Montreal Northern Colonization Railway. After the formation of that company, the Government of Quebec did me the honour to select me as one of the directors to represent that Government in this company. Beyond my interest as a Member of the Government, I was much interested in the construction of that Railway, as being a proprietor in the city of Montreal, and also as a member in the Local Legislature for the county of two Mountains, through which the contemplated railway was to pass. I also took an active part with my friends in endeavoring to induce the citizens of Montreal to subscribe the million of dollars which was asked for that great enterprise. The question of a depôt within or near the limits of the city of Montreal was considered one of vital importance for the town as well as for the Province of Quebec. With a view to securing the success of the railway, we addressed ourselves to Sir Hugh Allan, in his capacity as a great financier and as an eminent man in our province, in the hope to secure a more easy and certain result. It was thus, when the Pacific Railway came up as an important political question in the confederation, that I made efforts with my friends with a view to have this great railway united with the Northern Colonization Railway, that it might pass through the Province of Quebec and have its depôt within or near the city of Montreal; and it was then that I worked to favor the Pacific Railway, the object being to secure the success of the Northern Colonization Railway. My communications with Sir Hugh Allan were to this effect, and it was equally with the same objects in view that my name appeared as one of the provisional directors in the Canada Pacific Railway Act of 1872; and concerning the appearance of my name in the act of incorporation, I may say that I only knew of its being there after the Bill had passed through the committee, and, as I said before, I was sufficiently favorable to the enterprise not to make any objection, and I made none. This Bill, which is 35th Vic., chap. 73, was discussed, I think, in the month of May, 1872, and I was then in Ottawa, not only in the interests of the Montreal Northern Colonization Company, but for the purpose of meeting my colleagues in the Quebec Government: the Honorable Messrs. Chauveau, Beaubien, Archambeault and Irvine. We had at the time several meetings of the Executive of Quebec, at Hull. This, then, was the interest which I had in this question of the Pacific Railway, an interest altogether relative to the Northern Colonization Railway. In a conversation which I had with Sir Hugh Allan in April or May, 1872, that gentleman asked me to neglect nothing in the interests of the Northern Colonization Railway. He also spoke to me in the interests of the Conservative party, to which he attributed his commercial prosperity in a great measure, and did not hide from me the fact, that that party had already made efforts to maintain his steamship company, and that he was convinced the party had made sacrifices in his favor, or words to that effect. I did not fail to tell him that I was doubly interested myself in the success of the Northern Colonization Railway, of which he was President, as well from being a member of the Government of Quebec, as from being member of the county of Two Mountains, and that I should make efforts to have this line traverse the county that I represented.

The aid which I gave to Sir Hugh Allan, relative to the construction of the Pacific Railway at Ottawa or elsewhere, was of a friendly character as a citizen who was interested in this great enterprise, and interested more directly, as I have already explained, in the construction of the Northern Colonization Railway. Sir Hugh Allan nor any one else ever engaged my service as advocate, nor in my character as Attorney-General of the Province of Quebec (a charge which I have already denied) in the interests of the Pacific Railway.

I procured the aid which I have already spoken of to Sir Hugh Allan, because I was in communication with Sir Hugh Allan as a Director of the Northern Colonization Railway. I may add that Sir Hugh Allan appeared to honor me with his confidence.

I endeavored to induce my friends from the Province of Quebec, who were members