

him the precise accusation I made against him. It is in French, and I will read it in English :

"I accuse Mr. Valin, my colleague, of not having the courage of coming before his electors, and of having prevented their meeting."

That was my accusation, and I accused him also of being one of those partners who have tried by speculations in the North-West to deprive the Metis of the Parish of St. Louis de Langevin of their church and their property, jointly with Messrs. John White and Jamieson. These are the accusations I then thought to be true, and the hon. gentleman might have explained them before the meeting if that meeting had been held. Now, as to the result of the meeting, as what my hon. friend said in English went to the House, and I desire to put the facts correctly before the House, I say there were no bullies there at all from Quebec, on the part of the parties who went down with me there, and I say, moreover, that after that meeting had taken place, we caused the principal rioters to be brought to the police court and they were condemned—some went to gaol and others paid a fine. If any on our side had been guilty of any act of violence, they would also have been brought before the police court, but none of our friends were brought before the police court. When the trial took place I asked my hon. friend to come to the court and exculpate himself from any participation in this affair; but as he did not come, the public drew their inferences. This is all I have to say upon this matter. Do I understand that the hon. Minister will grant this motion?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Motion agreed to.

#### OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE RICHELIEU RIVER.

Mr. BÉCHARD moved for copies of all petitions or memorials received by the Government, since the 1st January, 1882, from riparian owners on the Richelieu River, complaining that the piers constructed in the said river, near the towns of St. John's and Iberville, by the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly Railway Company, raise the waters of the said river, and that their lands are consequently flooded, and praying for relief. He said: I wish to say a few words in explanation of this motion, and in order to make myself understood by the hon. Minister of Railways, I will do so in English. Some thirty years ago, the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly Railway Company obtained from the Government of old Canada powers to construct a railway bridge across the Richelieu River, in the immediate vicinity of the towns of St. John's and Iberville. It seems that they constructed the bridge upon piers which were sunk into the river; and from the information I have received, it appears that they sank a good many more piles than were necessary for the bridge. Alongside that bridge, about the middle of the river, they constructed a wharf upon these additional piles upon which to place freight, consisting for the most part of lumber, which is loaded on board of vessels navigating that river and Lake Champlain. Now, the owners of land on the banks of the river complain that these piers constitute an obstruction by interfering with the natural flow of water, and during the spring, when the waters of the river are very high, a considerable portion of their lands become flooded and remain flooded until so late a period in the season that the only grain they can sow is buckwheat, which, as the Minister knows very well, can be sown until the beginning of July. Hence, the farmers receive little or no profit from that portion of their land, although it is the richest soil and the most valuable part of their farms. It is well known that on both sides of the river the land is flat and very low, and hence, one can understand the large quantity of land that is flooded. I am informed also that the difference between the level of the river at St. John's and at Isle aux Noix, a

distance of twelve miles, is but a trifle over one inch, which fact shows that the flow of water is very slow, and proves how easily it can be obstructed and the extent of the obstruction. The farmers have been complaining for many years. Some years ago they sent a petition to the Governor General in Council, setting forth their grievances and asking for relief. I believe they also stated in their petition that the eel-weirs which exist in the river also constitute an obstruction to the flow of water, and helps to keep their farms flooded for a long period. It is to my personal knowledge that, some fifteen years ago, these eel-weirs were standing at the head of the rapids, but they have been removed, by order of the Marine Department, to the lower part of the rapids. Of course, I am unable to judge as to the extent to which these obstructions raise the water in the river, but I know that the farmers have complained for years of these additional piles along the railway bridge, as causing the water to overflow their lands for a longer period than would be the case if no such obstruction existed. They hope and believe that the hon. Minister of Railways, to whose Department this matter belongs, will give it his attention and procure them relief if it is in his power. They expect that he will cause an investigation to be made in order to see if any relief can be afforded them.

Mr. POPE. I am aware that there has been a considerable correspondence in relation to this matter, but it occurs to me that it was correspondence with respect to the sale of this property that the hon. gentleman speaks of. However, the returns will be brought down, and the action of the Department will be guided by the opinion of the Minister of Justice as to the legal position of the matter. Everything will be done that can be done.

Motion agreed to.

#### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved :

That a Special Committee of seven members be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of Members to compose the Select Standing Committees ordered by the House on Thursday, 25th ult., and that Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Richard Cartwright and Messrs. McLellan, Bowell, Blake and Vail do compose the said Committee.

Motion agreed to.

#### IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Before that motion is put, Mr. Speaker, I have a word or two to say. A question was raised the other night as to the veracity, or, at all events, as to the accuracy of a statement made by me with respect to certain words alleged to have been used by the right hon. the First Minister. The Minister of the Interior appeared to suppose that I had misquoted the First Minister, or omitted a material portion of his speech, or had in some shape or way dealt unfairly with his speech. All those words, I think, were used by that hon. gentleman. Now, I have obtained since then an accurate copy in the *Mail* newspaper of the whole speech made by the First Minister on 23rd November, 1881, a printed slip of which I held in my hand at the time I spoke, although I find the date was printed 1883 instead of 1881, as it should have been. In order to show the House that I have in no way misrepresented or misinterpreted the hon. gentleman, I beg to read exactly what he did say, and I suppose the report published in the *Mail* may be relied upon. The hon. gentleman spoke as follows:—

"Well, then, gentlemen, we are told that we want an Imperial federation. I will not trouble you with a disquisition on the subject just now, but I tell you Imperial federation is utterly impracticable. We could never agree to send a number of men over to England to sit in