

may have thought the offer was a trap. I do not know, and the reason remains more or less of a mystery, the more so as Sir John showed in other ways that he was in a temper to stop at nothing if he could escape a hostile verdict.

REPORTER. How did the charge affect Sir John?

SIR RICHARD. At first he attempted to ignore it, and got the House to vote down Mr. Huntingdon's motion for a committee on the ground that it was a vote of want of confidence. But the independent members who had supported him thus far required that he should cause a committee to be appointed by the House to investigate the matter, which was done. Thereupon he seemed to have made up his mind to buy acquittal at any cost. He had, as he well knew, contracted a number of very onerous engagements which would tax the resources of the country to the uttermost, but all through the session of 1873 he did little else than heap expense upon expense. He added several millions to our annual expenditure without providing one cent of additional revenue. He brought Prince Edward Island into the Confederation on very extravagant terms in hopes of thereby securing, as he had done in the case of British Columbia, some half-dozen additional votes. He doubled the indemnities of the members. He increased the allowances of the several provinces and assumed their debts, thereby making an addition to our fixed charges equal to an addition of fifty millions to our national debt. He made all sorts of grants for very useless public works in many constituencies, and in short played the rôle of the unfaithful steward to the letter.

REPORTER. Had this much effect?

SIR RICHARD. It tided him over the session and enabled him to get his estimates passed, and but for subsequent revelations in July, might have helped him to maintain himself. But although this was his primary motive, he had another object in view.

REPORTER. What was that?

SIR RICHARD. I more than suspected it at the time, and I learned afterwards from one of his own colleagues that I was right. Undoubtedly his first object was to buy