

Q.—I observe in the letter of the 7th August you speak very definitely. Have you a copy of that letter with you?

A.—I have not.

Q.—The words used are these:—"It is unnecessary to detail the various phases through which it passed, but the result is that we yesterday signed an agreement by which, on certain monetary conditions, they agree to form a Company, of which I am to be President to suit my views, to give me and my friends a majority of the stock, and to give the Company so formed the contract for building the road on the terms of the Act of Parliament." You explain that in using the word "yesterday" in your letters of the 5th and 6th of August, written to General Cass and Mr. McMullen, you merely meant to convey the idea that it was recently, the letters having been written in a hurried manner, you never supposing they would be published, and in both you refer to this document, and this only?

A.—I referred to both letters.

Q.—And this letter goes no further than what is contained in both documents?

A.—No further.

Q.—You say "signed an agreement." You were aware that any document which Sir George Cartier signed would not bind the Cabinet?

A.—Yes, I was aware of that.

Q.—Then why did you use the expression, "signed an agreement"?

A.—It was the expression used in the hurry of the moment; undoubtedly the agreement was just so made.

Q.—Was it upon any opinion you had expressed in a letter of the 1st in which you say:—"On a calm view of the situation, I am satisfied myself that the decision of the question must ultimately be in the hands of one man, and that man is Sir George Cartier, the leader and chief of the French party, who has held the balance of power between the other factions, and has sustained and kept in office and existence the entire Government for the last five years." Did you take what Sir George Cartier did as according to your view of the situation equivalent to an agreement with the whole Government?

A.—No, I cannot say that I did. I looked upon it simply as an agreement that he would promote our views when the time came, in the Cabinet, and until the telegram was made known to me that Sir John Macdonald declined to accede to it, I looked upon it as a kind of agreement.

Q.—You are still more definite in your letter to Mr. McMullen of the 6th, wherein you say, "He yesterday signed an agreement by which on certain monetary conditions they agreed to form a Company, of which I am to be President"?

A.—These were merely expressions made use of in consequence of the communication with Sir George Cartier. I had no communication with the Government at all.

Q.—And the only documents embodying what you have called an agreement are contained in this letter of the 30th July, by Sir George Cartier, and one other letter?

A.—The only ones.

Q.—This letter of the 30th July, will you have the goodness to look at it, the longer letter of the 30th July. In whose handwriting is that letter, the body of it?

A.—There are two writings in it, and I do not know either of them.

Q.—When was that signed?

A.—It was signed, I should think, between twelve and one o'clock on the 30th July.

Q.—On the occasion of the first interview?

A.—Yes.

Q.—On the first interview you say the money was spoken of?

A.—Yes, at close of it.

It was immediately after that interview that that letter was signed, and immediately afterwards the money was spoken of.

Q.—Was anything said about money before the longer letter of the 30th of July was signed.

A.—Nothing whatever.

Q.—Was Mr. Abbott present on that occasion also?

A.—Yes.

Q.—I do not desire to press the question which I am about to put, but I should like you to answer it if you have no objection. It seems a very large sum for anyone to give towards such a purpose, and as I only know by report your means and the extent of the capital employed in the various undertakings in which you are engaged in connection with railway and other great enterprises, if you have no objection, I should like you