

28, 1873, offset this mortgage against the judgment of Scott & Co. procured against the Province for 342,000 acres of land. You knew that there was no just reason why this bona fide claim held by the Province, and which was duly secured to them by the Railway Company, should have been reduced by over one million and a quarter dollars. But it was done, and the sequel shows that R. W. Scott & Co. and the Canada Central Railway Co. pirates got the whole benefit of it.

You know that this same R. W. Scott, after filing his petition and immediately after he joined your Government, made a show of transferring his stock in the Railway Company in order that the Blake, Scott & Co. Government might be pleased to grant R. W. Scott & Co. the prayer of the said petition.

I am afraid, however, Mr. Blake, if my information is correct, that this is not the only occasion when you have advised upon both sides of a case, a privilege which you seem specially to enjoy. Upon this point I shall in a future letter have something more to say, and will endeavor to give you several reminders.

But, Mr. Blake, there is another matter which has long since remained unexplained, although I have publicly on several occasions drawn your attention to the same. If the statement made by Hon. Mr. McDougall at Millbrook in 1877 be true, (and your reticence would rather justify anyone in taking it for granted) the public cannot but conclude that you are totally unworthy to occupy the high and distinguished position of leader of the Ontario bar. Mr. McDougall, in speaking of the timber limit transaction of Mr. Scott of Peterboro, said:

"Mr. Blake undertook to present the case before the Commissioner of Crown Lands in the interests of his client. The client was a Mr. Benedict, a wealthy American gentleman, and he (Benedict) told him (McDougall) that on one occasion he considered influence was necessary (as was the case in his own country) in order to get a favorable decision, and he was ready to pay for it. As Mr. Blake had made the Government, he secured his services and his influence. He (McDougall) asked him what he paid Mr. Blake. He said: 'I paid him \$1,000 in gold. There was another lawyer in the case, and when he found that Mr. Blake got so much, he wanted more. The result was that Mr. Blake got afraid that there would be an exposure, and he sent back the money to me, very much to my regret, because I believed if he had kept it I would have won my case.' Mr. Blake accepted from this gentleman \$1,000, not for exercising his professional knowledge or abilities in the Courts, not for professional services, but for the exercise of his influence as a politician over gentlemen who were under his influence. He (McDougall) did not know that the history of this country presented an example like this, and he was amazed when he heard that Mr. Blake had made that charge for the exercise of his friendly interference in a case of that kind."

I may say that I have the testimony of several gentlemen who corroborate all Mr. McDougall has said of you. Is it not a wonder that you would dare speak of my letters boasting I had exercised an influence, when