

"ister an oath to witnesses examined at the bar of the said House," and "any Committee of the House of Commons may administer an oath to the witnesses examined before such Committee."—Vic. 34-5 c. 83.

THE negotiations between the Government and the various parties mentioned in the evidence given before the Royal Commissioners are perhaps the best answers that could be given to Mr. HUNTINGTON'S charges.

Sir FRANCIS goes further back than any other, and we give the first part of his evidence in his own words.

1. "The first person with whom I had any conversation on the subject was Mr. CYRILLE GRAHAM, Commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1870 and 1871. He told me he had been in communication with influential gentlemen in the United States, and he thought arrangements might be made by which great economy could be produced in the construction of the Railway, that the Americans, he believed, would abandon the western part of their line and carry it through Canadian territory, if the Canadians would abandon their eastern section and carry it through American territory [from Sault Ste. Marie to Red River]. In May, 1871, Sir JOHN ROSE sent me a copy of a letter he had sent to Sir JOHN MACDONALD, in which he informed me that persons had spoken to him [in London] in very much the same terms as Mr. GRAHAM."

Sir FRANCIS' statements show that, from the first, the promoters of the American Pacific Railway left nothing undone to get possession of the Canadian Pacific. They laid their plans with great skill, bringing their suggestions to the Canadian Government from every possible point, from England, and from the United States, and they pursued their purpose with a persistency which shows their appreciation of the great game they were playing. Some, who ought to have known better, fell into the trap, and those who thwarted

the scheme deserve the thanks of the country.

2. Early in July, 1871, Mr. SMITH and Mr. McMULLEN, of Chicago, with Messrs. WADDINGTON and KERSTMAN, and Mr. JAMES BEATY, Jr., as their Solicitor, came to Ottawa, and asked an interview with the Government. Sir JOHN and Sir FRANCIS were the only members of the Government in Ottawa at the time. As a matter of courtesy, they were received, but told distinctly that it was not in the power of the Government to enter into any negotiations. They brought a document signed by seven or eight well-known capitalists in the United States.

3. Sir FRANCIS HICKS, in August, 1871, gave to Sir HUGH ALLAN the names of the American capitalists mentioned above. The suggestion of Sir HUGH'S name had come from Mr. McMULLEN or some one of his friends, "and," says Sir FRANCIS, "as I had been the means of their opening communication with him, I thought it only fair to give him the list of names" [signed to the document just named]. Sir HUGH soon after saw Sir JOHN while passing through Montreal, but told Sir FRANCIS that he had a discouraging reply from Sir JOHN.

4. In October (1871) Sir HUGH, with the gentlemen just named, went to Ottawa to make another proposal to the Government. At that time there were several members of the Government present. The names of the American capitalists were again produced on their interview with the Ministry. Sir JOHN asked Sir HUGH if he had a proposition to make. Sir HUGH said, "if I make a proposition are you prepared to consider any scheme proposed?" Sir JOHN replied that they were not, that they must first obtain the authority of Parliament before they could do it. "Then," said Sir HUGH, "I am not prepared to make any proposition," and they left.

Sir FRANCIS says "that in his un-