

Q. Did you write to the Solicitor General that you had a meeting of these farmers in 1895?—A. No, sir.

Q. Well, the Postmaster General said you did?—A. Here it is: "In the fall of 1895 a number of the farmers consulted our firm and instructed us to take up their case against the government as solicitors, and to proceed by petition of right in the Exchequer Court."

Q. Did they give you these instructions?—A. Yes, whatever steps were necessary, and I explained that would be the necessary steps, except the government would settle; and I had a survey of Isaac's property made as soon as it was possible to make it.

Q. You say a number of farmers?—A. There were William Isaac, and Joseph Pearn, and Joseph Pearn, jr.

Q. Three Liberals?—A. Yes, all Liberals.

Q. Did you know these gentlemen had taken action before that time, before they ever saw you?—A. Yes; Isaac told me that in 1892 he had gone to you and asked you, as representative of the constituency, asked you to proceed with the case for him as his representative, and you said: "Mr. Isaac, you didn't support me, and I can do nothing for you."

Q. Mr. Isaac told you that?—A. Yes; I have his letter here.

The CHAIRMAN.—Unless the Committee order, that letter will not go in.

*By Mr. Hughes:*

Q. There is not a particle of truth in it?—A. He has asked me, and I will read it. He says here, in this letter:

"Shortly after Hughes was elected, in 1892, I went to his office and asked him to take this matter up, for the farmers, and he said to me, 'You did not support me and I will do nothing in the matter.' I thought it was his duty as member to take action but he absolutely refused to do anything in the matter."

Q. Might I see that letter which has been read here? Is that Isaac's writing?—A. No, that is my writing, but it is Isaac's signature.

Q. That is written in your office?—A. Written by me, dictated by him.

Q. Mr. Isaac is an old gentleman who cannot write?—A. Mr. Isaac is one of the the most respectable and honest farmers in the township of Fenelon, and Mr. Hughes will not dare to say that what he says is untrue.

Q. There is no truth in it, as the records of the department will show. Mr. Isaac did not write the letter. The fact stands that the letter was written by Mr. McLaughlin himself?—A. I ask the protection of the Committee. Here I have been accused by this man in his place in the House in a statement made up of malicious falsehoods, made out of whole cloth, using his position as a member to slander me. Now he accuses me of forgery, saying Mr. Isaac didn't have anything to do with this letter.

*By Mr. Bergeron:*

Q. Do I understand you were acting as agent of the government in all these claims over all the canal?—A. No, sir; at the time this work was done I had no connection with the government at all.

Q. At any time during the whole time did you act as agent of the government?—A. No.

Q. You didn't?—A. No, I will just explain. There were eighteen of these claims all settled before I was appointed agent of the Minister of Justice, except one that was settled shortly after I was appointed and the Order in Council passed allowing it. But the conveyance was not drawn and the government allowed me for the