

note of Mr. Pacaud's, endorsed by Mr. Vallière, and secured by one of the cheques which your Honor mentions.

"On the other hand, I am informed that this amount was raised by means of one of the blank forms signed by me which I had left with Senator Pelletier before my departure for Europe. I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining which of these two versions is the correct one.

"But, in any case, I affirm that, being in Europe and finding that I wanted that amount, I asked for it, being convinced that it could be raised on one of the blank forms which I had left, and of course with the intention of paying myself the commercial paper employed to procure that amount for me, as it was for personal expenses.

"I further affirm that when I asked for that sum I was ignorant, and I remained ignorant long after, of the fact that that transaction of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway had been effected, and that I only heard some time after my return to Canada, from the report of the proceedings of the Senate published in the newspapers, that Mr. Pacaud had obtained a sum of \$100,000 or any other sum."

Thus Mr. Mercier says that this first sum of \$5,000 must have been raised by means of one of the blank forms that he had left; however, it was not for the first sum, but for the second that the blank form was used. It is singular that Mr. Mercier should have made this mistake, because he had no reason to give this version rather than the true one. Was it because the receipt of the last sum, raised on one of these blank forms, was more fresh in his memory? Was it because at that time Mr. Mercier having had no explanation from Mr. Pacaud, who had left without rendering him any account, could not explain this fact? These and other considerations are especially probable in the face of this statement of Mr. Mercier:—

"On the other hand I am informed that the amount was raised by means of one of the blank forms signed by me which I had left with Senator Pelletier before my departure for Europe. I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining which of these two versions is the correct one."

Summing up the facts concerning Mr. Mercier, I find as follows:—

First. The notes signed by Mr. Pacaud and endorsed by Mr. Mercier and other political friends for electoral purposes, and contestations of elections, were paid out of the \$100,000 received