

times. I abandoned my own constituency; I might have been elected by acclamation, or at all events by a very large majority, but instead of attending to my election I went up to Toronto to attempt to bring about an amalgamation between the two companies. Then they got up a story about me, according to the habit of the Opposition that I considered my constituency a pocket borough, and thought I could afford to pass it by.

I thought at one time I had succeeded in procuring an amalgamation, and Mr. Abbott came up to Toronto in response to a telegram from me. We had an interview with Mr. Macpherson, and almost succeeded in coming to an agreement. The only question was whether there should be seven and six or five and four directors from Ontario and Quebec. The arrangement was so near that I was satisfied when I left Toronto that the amalgamation was complete. I found, however that that was not the case, and in the middle of my election on the 25th, I think, of July, I telegraphed to Mr. Macpherson to come down, and he came down to Kingston and saw me and then I sent that telegram which had been published in the papers, and which was the only arrangement as regards the granting of the charter so far as the Government were concerned, so far as I was concerned. (*Hear, hear.*) That telegram which was sent on the 26th of July was sent by me to Sir Hugh Allan after seeing Mr. Macpherson, and with the knowledge of Mr. Macpherson.

Now what does that say? I was obliged reluctantly to give up the hope of having an amalgamation before the elections. These little jealousies, these little personal ambitions and the jostling between seventeen and thirteen members on the board had come in the way, and I could not carry out the arrangement I had hoped to complete. I could not spare the time. I was in great danger of losing my election by throwing myself away on this great Pacific Railway. I actually came down to Kingston only on the day of my nomination, trusting to the kindness of my old friends in Kingston.

Well, Sir, what was the telegram which I sent? It said: "I have seen Mr. Macpherson"—he was in the room when I wrote it. "I have seen Mr. Macpherson. He has no personal ambition, but he cannot give up the rights of Upper Canada. I authorise you to state that any influence the Government may have in the event of amalgamation, shall be given to Sir Hugh Allan. The thing must stand over till after the elections. The two gentlemen, Mr. Macpherson and Sir Hugh Allan, will meet in Ottawa and form an amalgamation."

That was the proposition which I made, and just think, Sir, what was involved, think how much I was snubbing, which is a word which had been used by the *Globe* lately, how much I was injuring and prejudicing the interest of my colleague in Montreal, Sir George-É. Cartier. Sir Hugh Allan did not care so much for the Pacific Railway, and Sir George-É. Cartier did not care so much for Sir Hugh Allan. It was not Sir Hugh Allan or the Pacific Railway that he cared so much about; but Sir Hugh Allan had made himself the representative man of Lower Canada with respect to the Northern Colonization Road, the North Shore Road, and the Ottawa and Toronto Road, so that the members from Lower Canada would

have stood by Sir Hugh Allan even to the risk of losing all the elections, because their Montreal interests would be so much affected if Sir Hugh Allan were not sustained with regard to the Pacific Railway.

But with respect to the other railways, my hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Beaubien) and other gentlemen can say that if there had been accord between Sir Hugh Allan and the French members of Lower Canada from the Montreal district there would have been a great peril of the Lower Canadian members from that district deserting Sir George-É. Cartier, and supporting Sir Hugh Allan in carrying out the Northern Colonization road.

I was standing by Sir George-É. Cartier, who was most improperly charged with being so much attached to the Grand Trunk Railway that he would not do justice to the other roads. I will ask my friends from Lower Canada if Sir George-É. Cartier's connection with the railway had anything to do with the result of the elections. His prospects were connected with the local roads alone. In order to prove to you how true a man Sir George-É. Cartier was, how perfectly unselfish he was, I may state that he held back on my account. When he said, "I wish to be elected on my own merits, and on my own services, and not on account of the Colonization or any other road," (*cheers*) and when by a word he could have put an end to the cry of interest, he felt that it was a sectional feeling between Upper and Lower Canada, and that if he pronounced in favour of any railway in Lower Canada, he would injure me in Upper Canada, and he sacrificed himself for my sake in Lower Canada, because he thought that any pronouncements in favour of Sir Hugh Allan, might injure me and my friends in the western elections. (*Cheers.*) I had only one thing to do and that was to return to him the confidence and trust he had reposed in me. I said "Don't mind me. Fight your own battles. You must make your own arrangements with your friends in respect to the railways," and it was not until he had that communication with me that he said he would help the Northern Colonization road.

It was not because Sir George-É. Cartier had any personal objects to gain, it was not because he was connected with the Grand Trunk Railway, but it was purely from a desire to save me from any possible difficulty in Upper Canada that he held back, and I have here now, when he is dead, the proud opportunity of stating that even in the last moment he was actuated by no selfish feelings, by no desire to promote his own interests, but that he only thought of his colleague, of his comrade of twenty years. He only thought that by appearing to promote a national interest in Lower Canada he might hurt me in Upper Canada and he threw away all his chances, all his hopes, everything like a certainly or a reasonable hope of success, for the purpose of standing by me, and I am proud and happy now to pay this tribute to his memory. (*Cheers.*)

Well, Sir, on the 26th of July I sent a telegram, and that was the only bargain. No man can make a bargain with the Government, except by an Order in Council, or by the action of the First Minister, recognized and accepted by his colleagues. Any act of a First Minister until it is disavowed is considered equal to a minute