

Bill, which is 35th Vict., chap. 73, was discussed, I think, in the month of May, 1872, and I was then in Ottawa, not only in the interests of the Montreal Northern Colonization Company, but for the purpose of meeting my colleagues in the Quebec Government, the Honourable Messrs. Chauveau, Beaubien, Archambault, and Irvine. We had at the time several meetings of the Executive of Quebec, at Hull. This, then, was the interest which I had in this question of the Pacific Railway, an interest altogether relative to the Northern Colonization Railway. In a conversation which I had with Sir Hugh Allan in April or May, 1872, that gentleman asked me to neglect nothing in the interests of the Northern Colonization Railway. He also spoke to me in the interests of the Conservative party, to which he attributed his commercial prosperity in a great measure, and did not hide from me the fact that that party had already made efforts to maintain his Steamship Company, and that he was convinced the party had made sacrifices in his favour, or words to that effect. I did not fail to tell him that I was doubly interested myself in the success of the Northern Colonization Railway, of which he was President, as well from being a member of the Government of Quebec, as from being member of the County of Two Mountains, and that I should make efforts to have this line traverse the county that I represented.

The aid which I gave to Sir Hugh Allan relative to the construction of the Pacific Railway at Ottawa or elsewhere was of a friendly character as a citizen who was interested in this great enterprise, and interested more directly, as I have already explained, in the construction of the Northern Colonization Railway. Sir Hugh Allan, nor anyone else, ever engaged my service as advocate, nor in my character as Attorney-General of the Province of Quebec (a charge which I have already denied) in the interests of the Pacific Railway.

I procured the aid which I have already spoken of to Sir Hugh Allan because I was in communication with Sir Hugh Allan as a Director of the Northern Colonization Railway. I may add that Sir Hugh Allan appeared to honour me with his confidence.

I endeavoured to induce my friends from the Province of Quebec who were members of the House of Commons not to lose sight of the interests of our Province, and to favour the Northern Colonization Railway, and if that influence was favourable to the Pacific Railway, with a view to its union with the Northern Colonization Railway, I induced them to give it, but I did not, properly speaking, give any aid to the Pacific Railway as a question apart from the Northern Colonization Railway. I desire also to say that if I had not been interested in the Northern Colonization Railway I would have had nothing to do with the Pacific, because I was not a member of the House of Commons. For the rest, I cannot see what influence I could have outside of that which I have just mentioned.

Having had communication of letter which has been published in the newspapers, over the name of G. W. McMullen, and in which the following appears: "\$6,000 to Attorney-General Ouimet for aid rendered at Ottawa," as having been paid by Sir Hugh Allan, and being asked for any explanations on this point, I say in reply:—Having never been asked by the Company, nor by any person whatever in its interest, nor by any person for my services as a lawyer or otherwise, and it being impossible that I should be engaged by the Company in any quality as Attorney-General, my services as such being of no assistance either in the obtaining of the Charter or the contract, having acted only as a friend to the enterprise, as a citizen desiring it to come to a good end, I affirm that I never received the sum of \$6,000 in question, nor any sum whatever. I affirm, moreover, that I never had, either directly or indirectly, either from the Company or from any friends of the enterprise, any promise of money, or of anything else.

I never received any sum of money from Sir H. Allan, nor from anyone else, either directly or indirectly, as I have already said. I was largely interested myself in the Northern Colonization Railway Company and road. I have in its interest disbursed considerable sums, and undergone much fatigue, but, God be thanked, without recompense, or hope of recompense, hoping only that to the Province of Quebec may accrue the benefits which will flow from the construction of the Northern Colonization Railway.

I do not know if Sir Hugh Allan paid \$4,000 to the 'Minerve,' nor of the other sums mentioned by McMullen in his letter as having been paid by Sir Hugh Allan. I do not believe a word of them or of the other charges made by him.

I do not know whether the Government or any member of the Government had any knowledge of the negotiations spoken of before between Sir H. Allan and Mr. McMullen, nor do I know if Sir Hugh Allan had any negotiations with Mr. McMullen.

The second part of the charges contained in the Royal Commission is as follows: "That subsequently an understanding was come to between the Government, Sir Hugh Allan, and Mr. Abbott, one of the members of the Honourable House of Commons of