

"Speaking in Kingston a fortnight ago, Mr. Costigan referred to the incident of 1884; but unfortunately he was reported as having placed the date at the time of the Pacific Scandal in 1873. Mr. Costigan was then a private member of the House, and, so far from having any misunderstanding with Sir John Macdonald, followed his illustrious leader into opposition when it was open to him, had he desired, to have joined hands with the desertors and gone over to the enemy's camp.

"It is true that Mr. Costigan's resignation was tendered at the time that the loan to the Canadian Pacific Railway was under discussion. It is also true that Mr. Costigan agreed to the Government's policy of granting the loan, but it is absolutely false, as stated by *The Mail*, that he rose in the House to make a speech against the loan to which, in his Ministerial capacity, he had given his approval. When Mr. Costigan rose that morning, it was half past one o'clock; he was suffering from a severe hoarseness which rendered his voice almost inaudible. He moved the adjournment of the debate. Sir John Macdonald objected; but Mr. Costigan persisted, pleading that, in the state of his voice, he would prefer not to be forced to speak, but that, if he must speak, he would do so. Sir John then gave way and the House adjourned. What Mr. Costigan would have said, as he frequently informed his friends, would have been to declare his purpose, notwithstanding his altered relations to the Ministry, to support the loan to which he had assented at the Council Board. Sir John Macdonald subsequently stated to the House that Mr. Costigan's resignation was dated the 18th February, was received by him on the 19th and withdrawn on the 19th. When Mr. Costigan rose to speak, it was in the early morning of the 19th, and his resignation had probably been in Sir John's hands for twelve hours.

"*The Mail* is certainly drawing copiously on its imagination when it depicts Mr. Costigan going to Sir John Macdonald and begging forgiveness and the return of his resignation. The idea is too puerile for a moment's serious consideration. Mr. Costigan, it is well known, is neither beggar nor sycophant, while Sir John Macdonald's most rabid enemies never accused him of being a simpleton; for who else would have admitted to his councils a man