

If those wicked and heartless men, in high position, who have caused this suffering and woe, were to follow some of their victims to their impoverished and destitute homes, they could scarcely derive pleasure from their luxurious mansions and other trappings of life, sustained with money which has been taken from the poor.

It is not my purpose to expose one quarter the crime practised by those men in high position in connection with that old bank.

I could a tale unfold, which would shock the moral sense of every honest man. But I refrain from doing so, out of consideration for the age of the parties and the prominence of their position.

I now come to the question: what has become of that half million of missing assets? In the last report of the Committee of the Privy Council, signed "John Rose, Minister of Finance," it appears to be assumed that there will be only a deficiency of \$500,000. Should not a Committee of Parliament make a thorough investigation of the assets, to see what the different solvent debtors have actually paid? It is rumored in Toronto that certain political supporters of Sir John Macdonald have had their debts, what is called, "settled." Is it possible that a Canadian Government can have been so depraved as to deal thus with the people's money, and thus reward their political supporters by remitting portions, or the whole of their debt which they were owing to the country? This is a new phase of political crime. I would respectfully ask the Hon. G. W. Allan, who was the last president of that insolvent bank—living as he is in one of the so termed parks of Toronto—has he paid the debt of \$36,000 and interest which he owed in the books of that bank? I hope that I shall not be driven to mention other names still more prominent.

Now, if the House will kindly grant me its indulgent ear, I will show how the whole of the debt due by that Bank can be recovered, and thus, \$1,000,000 saved for the country. It is a matter of history that in 1858-59 the Grand Trunk Railway were owing certain contractors \$1,000,000 which they were unable to pay. The Barings and the Glynns would not advance any more money to that railway. Those

contractors were thus in a very critical position, for that railway's credit was completely impaired. But one of the contractors was a man equal to the emergency. He got himself and another gentleman into the Bank Board during that period, for I hold in my hand the names of that Board during 1859, and by a dexterous move (quite worthy of a Scotchman) they induced the late Mr. Thos. Ridout—who had been, up to that period, a most upright and successful cashier of the Bank—to become a Director of the Grand Trunk Railway, and in that capacity, draw two sterling drafts of £100,000 sterling each, upon the London bankers, knowing they would lie dishonored; and the said Thos. G. Ridout was prevailed upon, as cashier of the Bank of Upper Canada, to pay over that large amount, namely \$1,000,000 to that very distinguished gentleman of Celtic origin for the benefit of himself and his co-contractors; and as a matter of course a large portion of that \$1,000,000 of the Bank capital was thus lost.

I have taken the highest legal opinion in regard to this matter, and I am assured that an action for breach of trust could to-day be instituted by the Government, with the certainty of recovering the amount of the loss from that gentleman.

I see before me an hon. member of this House, now present, who could give valuable evidence in regard to that transaction. He knows all about it, because he and his powerful friend were members of the Board for a limited portion of that year, and I am sure that a gentleman of his patriotism will be desirous to aid the Dominion Government in recovering their loss. I need not say that I mean the Hon. Sir David Lewis MacPherson, Minister of the Interior, a member of this hon. House, who, to my knowledge, was on that Bank Board, during that eventful period, and when he went out, I became a member of the Board soon after.

HON. MR. ALLAN—However unwilling I may be to drag any personal matter before this House, it is scarcely possible, after the allusions which have been made to me in such untruthful and malicious terms, by the hon. gentleman behind me, to refrain from doing so, and therefore I would ask the patience of the House