

committee to examine witnesses under oath was introduced, passed, and forwarded for the sanction of Her Gracious Majesty. On the 25th of May the House adjourned to meet again on the 13th of August to receive the report of the committee. An *extra* of the *Canada Gazette*, issued on the 1st of July, announced the disallowance of the Oath's Bill by Her Majesty. The Committee of Enquiry met at Montreal on the 2nd day of July to investigate the charges, but the disallowance of the Oath's Bill prevented it from examining witnesses under oath, as ordered by the House of Commons, and its object, for the time being, was defeated. Public feeling ran high, and the apparent failure of investigation, through the disallowance of a Canadian Act of Parliament, in no way affecting Imperial interests, upon a technical objection, fanned the flame of public indignation. The *Montreal Herald*, on the 4th of July, published the first instalment of the McMullen correspondence, which called forth lengthy explanations from Sir Hugh Allan, Mr. McMullen, and other "guns" of lesser bore. Pursuant to adjournment, Parliament met on the 13th of August; but its deliberations, by the exercise of the Prerogative, were speedily closed amid considerable indignation and confusion, before the Committee of Enquiry had even an opportunity to report. His Excellency the Governor General, on dismissing his "trusty and well beloved" Senators and Commoners, stated that "he thought it expedient, in the interests of good government, to appoint Royal Commissioners to investigate and report upon the charges connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway." A Commission, dated the 14th of August, was accordingly issued, and published in the *Canada Gazette* on the 23rd of that month, directing and authorizing the Commissioners named therein—the Hon. Messrs. Day, Polette and Gowan, Judges of Inferior Courts—to investigate and report upon the charges of Mr. Huntington, "as well as any opinion they might think fit to express therein." The Commissioners met at Ottawa, examined witnesses under oath, and made up their report, abstaining, however, from the expression of any opinion of their own. Parliament was called together in October following; a long and hot debate arose on the Pacific scandal, resulting in the downfall of the Macdonald Administration, whose resignation was announced to the House on the 5th of November by Sir John A. Macdonald. The foregoing is but a summary of facts, meagre in outline, but sufficiently full,