

public men and the sake of morality, one seldom resorted to in this country, and one which will not soon again be repeated. It simply consisted in the giving of a direct bribe of \$100,000 to obtain the removal of three of the Directors, and the substitution in their stead of three of his own nominees, he having previously succeeded in securing without purchase the remaining four to accede to and aid him in carrying out his plans for the transference of the charter to a rival Company. The correspondence on this part of the proceedings is annexed, and to its contents Your Committee beg to direct the special attention of Your Honorable House, in the hope that if no provision of law shall be found to exist, providing for the punishment of conduct so clearly iniquitous, some means will at all events be adopted to deter others from the commission of similar offenses against justice and morality. From this correspondence it appears that Mr. Buchanan having, as he believed, secured the Western Road, deemed it important also to obtain the control of the Eastern. While devising means to this end, a Mr. Van Voorhis comes most opportunely to his relief with a suggestion made by Mr. Hodge, that for a consideration the coveted object could be gained. Mr. Buchanan, after a little prudent consideration, determines as to the sum to be offered, and the proposition of Mr. Van Voorhis being reduced to writing, Mr. Buchanan accepts. The negotiations being concluded, Mr. DeBlaquiere, who up to this point appears only in the back ground, steps in, receives \$100,000, and then with his two brother directors withdraws and allows Mr. Buchanan and his two nominees to take their places; Mr. Van Voorhis, as the negotiator between the parties, receiving for his services an undertaking that he shall have a preference contract of thirty-five miles of road. Whether or not others shared in the profits of this shameless transaction, Your Committee have not been able certainly to ascertain. It is due to Messrs. Barwick, McQueen, and Deedes, who were three of the retiring holders of stock transferred, to remark that Mr. Buchanan states his belief that they did not participate in this bribe.

Since Mr. Buchannan's failure to fulfill his engagement, various steps have been taken to remedy the mishaps incident to his interference, all of which, so far as they have been stated to Your Committee, appear in annexed evidence, by which it also appears, that besides the means employed to obtain the control of the Woodstock and Lake Erie, similar measures, hardly less discreditable, were resorted to, to enlist the services of persons supposed to be influential on the Amhorstburgh and St. Thomas end.

The directory of the Woodstock and Lake Erie, as at present constituted, consists of Mr. Thomas G. Ridout, President, Mr. Isaac Buchanan, M. James C. Street, Mr. Joseph A. Woodruff, Mr. R. G. Benedict, Mr. James Kintrea, and Mr. T. Ridout,—all of whom have been recently appointed, and neither of whom, excepting Mr. Kintrea, reside in or have any connection with