

Minister of Justice, wherein he exonerates me from any wrong doing in connection with the conflict with Mr. Laidlaw, let me again repeat that you and the committee were guilty of

#### A GROSS ACT OF INJUSTICE

towards me in opening up the case after it had been finally closed, in order to curry a little favor with Dalton McCarthy, the legal adviser of and applicant for Laidlaw in respect to the limit. Wherein the reference to the committee do you find any authority for dealing with this matter? You know you had none, but you hoodwinked the committee into taking up and discussing that irrelevant matter. You in your compromise report (Section 7) declare:— "But we are obliged to arrive at the conclusion that it was made after the 1<sup>th</sup> April and therefore at a time when the departmental memorandum of a contrary tenor had already been prepared, and that 'Mr. Rykert was guilty of bad faith in this respect,' and the Minister of Justice, notwithstanding his report above quoted, was founded upon the sworn testimony of every officer of the department, quietly permits you to wipe out its finding, and make him declare in effect over his own signature that Mr. Russell, Mr. Burgess and Mr. Ryley, three as honorable men as ever lived, and whose integrity has been rewarded by promotion in the department, were guilty of perjury. There is no denying this. The evidence is too plain, but the Minister of Justice was at your mercy and you made him swallow what Mr. Muckle calls "your infamous and lying report" as a condition precedent to your permitting the Government to go uncensured. Now, let me examine this matter a little further. The charge is that I induced the department to frame minutes for council prior to the time when McCarthy and I had agreed to leave the matter to Mr. Russell. You know that your charge and report are both false and in direct conflict with the evidence. Let it speak for itself and let the public judge what a vindictive, spiteful and reckless judge you proved yourself to be.

First we have the report of Mr. Russell, then deputy minister of the interior, in a letter addressed to the first minister, as follows:

Department of the Interior,

Ottawa, 31st August, 1892.

"Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald,

"K. C. B., Minister of the Interior,

"Riviere du Loup en bas.

"My Dear Sir John:—I enclose a letter from Mr. Rykert, representing Mr. Adams, respecting a timber berth near Cypress Hills, for which he had Order in Council to locate within certain limits.

"Messrs. Shortreed and Laidlaw, who were represented by Mr. Dalton McCarthy, had a like order for similar location in an adjoining tract.

"The latter complain that the choice made by Mr. Adams is within the bounds of the original application by them, to meet which the order in Council in their favor was passed, and affirm an official blunder in our having included in the tract within which Adams could locate ground which formed part of their prior application.

"The matter truly stands thus: Both parties filed applications of unreasonable extent, so much beyond anything that could in rule be granted that I assumed that their conflict on one side on which they overlapped each other, was of secondary importance, and also assumed as acting for you, the right to deal with them by a curtailment and re-adjustment in such wise as to do away with the overlapping.

"This action I clearly explained to Messrs. Rykert and Dalton McCarthy, at an interview which I had with them together, pointing out to them that the alternative would be, under the regulations, to make them compete for that part of the ground on which they both had application. They seemed fully to understand the the adjustment I proposed. So far from there being any difficulty, they proposed at act in harmony, by employing jointly with a view to economy, a surveyor to lay out their berths.

"I submit to you that inasmuch as under the regulations they would if each maintained his application in conflict with the other be obliged to compete and that in their interest, not that of the department, an adjustment doing away with such competition was made, of which both parties were cognizant, and that the adjust-