

able to apply to it, within the limits of parliamentary usage. I say this whole correspondence, from start to finish, reeks of corruption at every pore; I say, with full knowledge of what I say, that I challenge any parliamentary authority to point out to me in the annals of any single English-speaking parliamentary assembly, at all comparing in rank and dignity to ours, any transaction which for one moment can compare with this. If you want to find a parallel you will have to go to the doings, and to the worst doings too, of the ring which, under the name of the Tammany Hall ring, so long controlled the municipal administration of the great city of New York. In all this matter there is one thing, and one thing alone, on which I think the House may be congratulated, and that is: that, at any rate, the facts are clearly established without any possibility of denial or dispute. There is no room for wrangling here over the facts themselves, although you may quarrel, if you like, as to the deductions which I draw from them, or as to the deductions which ought to be drawn. Sir, we have here established, and admitted by the gentleman whose conduct is called in question, first, the agreement made between himself and Mr. James Adams, by which his wife became entitled to one-half of the whole profits arising from the acquisition of the timber limits. We have, next, the Order in Council, obtained by his exertions, granting those lands. We have proof that tenders were not asked, although many applicants were known to be in the market for those limits. We have further evidence, from the hon. gentleman's own mouth, that he knew perfectly well that those limits he was acquiring were likely to prove of great value. We have evidence that, within six months after the passage of the Order in Council, the hon. gentleman sold—he, the representative and trustee of the people of Canada, sold—for \$200,000 what he acquired from the other guardians of the public interests for \$500. We have, Sir, from the hon. gentleman's own mouth, evidence of what he (I am using his own words) called an "honorable division" of the plunder. We have, from the hon. gentleman's own mouth, ample evidence of the use of influence, the use of his position as a member of this House, and we have a most curious and instructive narrative, showing the hon. gentleman's remarkable skill in wirepulling, and the continuous exercise of the same." We have in the *Hansard*, recorded beyond dispute, the clearest possible evidence from the hon. gentleman's own mouth, that when challenged with this transaction by my hon. friend who sits beside me (Mr. Charlton), he utterly and entirely repudiated every one of the facts admitted in this correspondence. And, Sir, I come to this, last of all: we have, curiously enough, incidentally, the hon. gentleman's own opinion of the transaction. I shall deal with these several points in due rotation, and, first of all, I desire to call the special attention of this House to the date, and to the terms of the agreement entered into, before the acquisition of this same timber limit, between the member for Lincoln (Mr. Rykert) and Mr. John Adams. It reads as follows:—

"THE AGREEMENT.

"Memorandum of agreement made this third day of April, A. D. 1882:—Between John Adams, of the city of Winnipeg, of the first part: and Nannie Marie Rykert, of the city of St. Catharines, of the second part.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

"Whereas the above-named John Adams has, through the intervention of John Charles Rykert, obtained certain limits in the N.W.T., at or near the Cypress Hills, and has, in consideration of the services of the said Rykert, voluntarily given him, agreed, to and with the said party hereto of the second part, to give to her one-half of the proceeds of the said limits, after deducting all expenses connected therewith:

"Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of one dollar to him in hand, paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and in further consideration of the premises, hath agreed, and by these presents doth agree, to assign and transfer to the said party of the second part one-half interest in the limits applied for and to be granted by the Government at or near the Cypress Hills, in the North-West Territory, and to pay over and account to her for one-half of all the net proceeds of the sale of all timber thereon or for the purchase money derived therefrom, after deducting all expenses and charges in connection therewith.

"Witness the hands and seals of the parties hereto the day and year above written.

(Signed) "JOHN ADAMS.

"(Witness) J. C. RYKERT."

I need hardly tell the House that the John C. Rykert, the witness, is the husband of the aforesaid Nannie Marie Rykert. Now, if it be asked, although I do not know that it matters very materially, why the hon. member for Lincoln kept in the background in this transaction, and why, if, as he and his friends assert, he was perfectly justified in doing what he did—he, a member of this House, in obtaining for \$500 property which afterwards sold for \$200,000—if it be asked, why his name did not figure in this Order in Council, if not instead, at any rate along with that of Mr. John Adams; possibly a glance at the date of the transaction may throw some light upon it. This bargain was made on the 3rd April, 1882, and a gentleman who stood so close to the Government, and was so much in their confidence, and possessed such enormous influence over them, as the hon. member has informed us he did, could not fail to know that a general election was pending, and that scandalous tongues like my hon. friend beside me (Mr. Charlton), and those of other hon. gentlemen, might put an evil construction upon this very natural and proper arrangement entered into by the hon. member. It is also apparent from this correspondence that the member for Lincoln was determined on one thing, namely, that he would not put one dollar of his own money into this transaction, that he would incur no risk, that all the money that was to be expended or risked was to come out of his partner's pocket, and that he was to have, for the benefit of his wife, one-half of the proceeds. Sir, I might possibly hint, also, that the transaction, in the mind of the hon. gentleman, was rather shady, and the less said about it the better. Now, Sir, as regards the Order in Council and the terms of it. That Order in Council granted, as I understand, to Mr. John Adams this large tract of country for the sum of \$5 per square mile, which he afterwards sold—it cannot be too often repeated—for \$2,000 per square mile. That Order in Council was passed, and it is clear that no tenders were called for. It is clear also, from the correspondence of the hon. gentleman himself, that there were plenty of applicants for it, and that if it had been put up to tender, beyond all doubt, a very large sum of money—how much, I cannot say—would have been offered for the limit which had been disposed of to Mr. Adams. I note that some parties are disposed to think that, after all, prob-