

of a large amount of money—many thousands of dollars—due by him to the people of this country. I shall have no difficulty in shewing that such evasion was accomplished through the action of the trustees appointed by the Government, one of whom was Mr. C. J. Campbell, brother of the present Minister of Justice. I will not transgress the rules of the House by reminding it of another questionable transaction, which once came up here for discussion. And I further desire to have an opportunity, by the appointment of such a committee, to shew that the solemn statements made on the floor of this House by the present Minister of Justice, namely, that both principal and interest of those two sterling drafts of £100,000, amounting to nearly one million dollars, had been paid to the bank. I ask the hon. gentleman if he made that statement?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Yes.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I say that such a statement is an erroneous one, and calculated to mislead the House and the country. It was that overwhelming loss which chiefly led to the closing of the bank doors. The Grand Trunk Railway at that period 1861-2 was in great financial difficulties. Its plant and stock and everything had been mortgaged. The bank effected a settlement with that embarrassed Railway Company, taking all they could get, namely certain postal bonds, producing only an annual revenue of about \$8,000. The House can easily calculate what such a security capitalized would be, and any child at a common school can see that the shareholders of that bank, lost by those two sterling drafts about \$800,000.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The hon. gentleman the other day spoke of only one sterling draft £100,000. I never heard of more than one.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—It is well known that the amount was nearly \$1,000,000, the proceeds of two distinct drafts of £100,000 each.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I never heard of more than one draft.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—There were two, amounting to nearly \$1,000,000. I speak from my own knowledge as a member of that bank board. If the Grand Trunk Railway, at a subsequent period after the bank doors were closed paid this colossal amount, the shareholders of that unfortunate bank received no benefit therefrom, and never knew anything of it. We had no further legal claim on the Grand Trunk Railway. We had during 1861-2 effected the settlement in the manner described.

Now, it is very distasteful to me that I should have to ask permission to shew the untruthfulness of the greater part of the statements of a personal character, so unworthily dragged into the debate, by both parties accused. I will endeavour to be as brief as possible.

First, I never discovered that the Hon. Sir D. L. Macpherson had been a member of that bank board until a great many years afterwards. He had covered his track so carefully. I myself, through Mr. Galt, then Minister of Finance, had the late lamented and respected Mr. Ridout relieved of his high position as cashier, charging him as the guilty party in regard to those two sterling drafts; and I was astonished to learn one day in Toronto, some 15 years afterwards, from a prominent citizen who was in the board of 1859, that the said David Lewis Macpherson was the guilty party. From that period I accepted no hospitalities at Chestnut Park. He knows that I refused by telegram from Woodstock to do so. I am not going to annoy the House by discussing further such matters. As regarding the private letter of Sir Alexander Galt, that gentleman will scarcely approve of it being introduced here, when we remember that he was one of the contracting company, who benefitted by the foul transaction, causing the bank such a loss. The whole statement of the hon. gentleman, from beginning to end, I can only characterize as one tissue of distorted facts, bearing painful testimony to a depraved mind. Who ever charged him with overdrawing his account? But we charge him with a most heartless and most wicked act. Does the hon. gentleman remember his legal adviser telling him in 1860 that he had better leave the board at once, or he might be indicted?