

OTTAWA SCANDALS.

We think the Tarte investigation has reached, if it has not passed, beyond the stage at which Sir Hector Langevin should personally be heard from under oath before the committee. So much incriminating evidence in the way of letters and documents, not to speak of the sworn testimony given by Murphy, Connolly and Valin, has already been adduced, that the most painful impression with regard to government methods at Ottawa is settling down upon the public mind. There seems, unhappily, no room to doubt that the public works and other departments at Ottawa have been literally under the control of a gang of robbers. The details as they are unearthed revive the recollection of the New York scandals in the worst days of Tweed. We do not anticipate that anything Sir Hector Langevin can say will restore public confidence in the administration of his department, but it was due to the people of Canada, and due to himself, that he should have sought the earliest opportunity of denying under oath that he had personally received the amounts sworn to by Murphy or had connived at corrupt payments to others. That Sir Hector has not done so before this, affords strong ground for believing Murphy's testimony to be true as respects himself, and as respects Perley the chief engineer of his department. We have until now refrained from making any comments upon this painful affair from a sincere wish to treat Sir Hector Langevin and the government with fairness. We have acted upon the presumption that those trusted leaders of the people were innocent until they should be proved guilty, but we are not called upon to continue the presumption beyond the time when the evidence bringing home their guilt is not met with a prompt and speedy denial by the minister personally implicated. If it is said that the prosecutors are not through with their case, and it will be soon enough for Sir Hector to speak when that time arrives, we assume that to an innocent man anxious to vindicate himself and his party, the strain and torture of resting one unnecessary hour under such a stigma, would be more than he would willingly bear, and it would have been quite open to the leader of the house of commons to make his statement before the committee at any time, at all events covering the personal charges, if he did not wish to go further at present.

The conservative press has been holding Murphy up to public contempt, apparently with the idea that the testimony he has given would be thereby disproved. No doubt Murphy is a very bad man. He admitted on his cross examination with the most charming candor, that before coming to this country he belonged to the New York bootleggers gang, and fled from that city on account of his embezzlements. But with all this mal-odorous taint upon him, he was received by the other members of the firm—Larkin, Connolly & Co. as a suitable partner, and by Sir Hector Langevin and the department, as a suitable contractor for public works. As his known thievish propensities did not seem to disqualify him in the eyes of the dispensers of public contracts and patronage, we do not see why they should disqualify him as a witness. It is doubtless true that if all these incriminating facts are explained and his sworn evidence explicitly denied on oath by reputable witnesses, no person would believe Murphy but the explicit denial by reputable persons must precede the wholesale rejection of his testimony.

There seems to be some public sympathy felt for Henry F. Perley who has been suspended, we presume, pending further consideration of his case. His offense was a serious one in accepting large gifts from public contractors who were constantly looking for concessions and favors from the department and who appear, by the way, to have been constantly successful in getting them. But is Perley's offense any graver than that of his chief? The latter was the recipient of a testimonial from public contractors of many thousands of dollars in value and greatly in excess of that of his chief engineer, the only difference being that the gift to the minister was presented without any attempt at secrecy, while that to his subordinate was not made public. The offense to the proprietors is quite flagrant in both cases with this allowance to be made for the subordinate: that he had the example of his superior before him and he might very naturally reason, if he reasoned at all on the subject, that if his chief could accept twenty-three thousand dollars from contractors under the government as a personal gift, he might be permitted to accept of twenty-three hundred.

Mr. Perley unfortunately appeared to great disadvantage before the committee in other respects. His testimony will be found in another column, and it appears that in the first instance he stated that he had a year ago repaid the value of the plate and jewelry, \$1,885, to the donors. Having realized the indiscretion of what he had been guilty in accepting it. On further examination it transpired that he had not taken alarm until the Tarte charges were threatened, and on being closely cross questioned was obliged to admit that he had not repaid the money in value at all but had simply given it, i. e. to Connolly, which was not due for months, and which he would not be able, and did not expect, to pay.

The outlook, we should judge, is very alarming for the government. They seem to realize the gravity of the situation and are afraid to go into supply. Absolutely no progress has yet been made with the items; the votes passed being only credit votes used to enable the government to keep the machine running. The session will, therefore, necessarily be prolonged until September. Sir Hector, it is said, will not go down alone, and will not consent to be sacrificed that others may have a chance for their political lives. His friends say that if he did get the money, other members of the government knowingly shared in the benefit and why should he consent to be made the scapegoat? The tone of the better class of conservative journals, as well as that of the liberal press, would seem to show that it is now too late to restore public confidence by throwing Sir Hector overboard. While we have always had a very great respect for Sir John Thompson's integrity, our confidence recently received a rude shock when we read his statement the other day that the government had employed the lawyers now engaged for the defence before the committee, the people were paying them and that the instanc-

tions to the lawyers were, and it was the government's determination, that these transactions should be probed to the bottom and wrongfully fully exposed. We doubt if anything more childlike and bland has ever before been suggested. It would not be human that the members of a government should allow, if they could prevent, disclosures which would destroy themselves. Now and then the world may possibly have contained a specimen of that kind, but none of them have in recent years been holding portfolios in the conservative government at Ottawa.

SHOULD THE COUNTY COUNCIL BE A POLITICAL BODY?

It will be conceded on all hands that it should not, and yet there is ground for more than a suspicion that it is. Nothing but a political bias against the provincial government induced the majority of the council to refuse repeatedly to appoint a local board of health as required by the public health act of 1887. All other counties in the province, without exception, promptly accepted the act and appointed their local boards. York county alone preferred to regard the law as objectionable, and as likely to impose an excessive and unreasonable tax upon the county to maintain the board. That this view was not honestly entertained but was used as a mask to cover other motives is abundantly apparent. It was known there could be no considerable expense incurred by the local board unless an alarming epidemic had broken out or was threatened, and in such a contingency the expenses would be borne by the provincial government. As the county council would not constitute the local board, and in order that the health law should not be altogether suspended in the county, the governor in council made the necessary appointments, and the local board thus appointed organized for work.

During the two years and upwards it has been in operation there have been expenses incurred in travelling and other necessary charges, to the enormous sum of fifty or sixty dollars, and when the chairman of the board rendered the bill and asked for payment a majority of the council contemptuously threw it out.

Another instance of the political bias of the council is supplied in the treatment meted out to Mr. Wilson—that he was dismissed solely upon political grounds is not denied, and the recent effort to make political capital out of a few trifling errors in the county accounts, which had been immediately rectified by Mr. Wilson when they were brought to his knowledge, was in keeping with the spirit which had prompted his dismissal.

Without pretending to enumerate all the instances available in proof of this regrettable state of affairs, we may mention one incident which occurred at the July session. The provincial government, in order of enabling the counties to procure copies of the new highway law, at a trifling cost, had a number printed, which the municipal council were offered at the mere cost, and at a very much lower figure than they could possibly themselves print the few needed by the county. The provincial secretary's bill for \$5 for the copies taken by the county secretary was refused payment at the recent July session. This may possibly be a course of conduct which will commend itself to the people, but we greatly doubt it. York county, in our judgment, has nothing to gain in the good opinion of other counties by such an exhibition of petty political feeling, nor do we believe the majority of the members of the council are reflecting the wishes of the people in acting in this way.

CONDEMNED BY THEIR FRIENDS.

It is refreshing to note that there are some conservative newspapers in Canada not sufficiently blinded by party prejudice as not to be able to speak their minds upon the corruption which is now being laid bare at Ottawa. Party organs like the Montreal Times and Halifax Herald, which are run for revenue only, appear to be not only blind, but deaf and dumb to the nauseous details brought out by the Tarte committee; such however, is not the case with the better class of the conservative press. The Montreal Star has given forth no uncertain sound as to these revelations and now we find Le Canada, one of the strongest supporters of the government in Quebec, striking out in this fashion in an editorial headed "Demoralization":—

After expressing surprise at Mr. Perley's downfall, it still maintains that Sir Hector's department is a model of administrative honesty, but refers in scathing language to other departments. "Nepotism, favoritism, malversation, speculation, injustice, robbery are the order of the day. Let us look around upon the administrative surroundings of ministers, the political heads of which owe their advancement to petty cost influence or to other unmentionable means. We find there bureaucracy installed deep-rooted with all its surroundings. It leaves everywhere traces, it reigns by corruption, it lives for pillage, it delights in intrigue, despotism and insolence. That is what rules certain ministers at Ottawa. That is the cursed system which takes root in the offices of state, thanks to certain stupid ministers incapable of seeing what is evident to everyone. We have perpetrate bloodthirsty acts, who attach themselves to their victims with the tenacity of wild beasts. They commence by burrowing, then propose a division of profits and at last threaten with brazen effrontery if the former means do not succeed. We write these lines in a safe, cold and knowing perfectly the weight and gravity of these accusations. We confine ourselves to-day to generalities. Later will enter into details."

THE ROAD MAKING MACHINE.

There will always be some people found to oppose everything like innovation, and it was therefore to be expected that the government could not escape criticism for encouraging the introduction and use of the new road making machines. They have, notwithstanding the inexperience of the persons operating them, demonstrated their utility to the satisfaction of all reasonable men, and have come to stay. Those who have been the loudest in complaining of the state of the roads in the past, now grumble because the money granted for road repairs will be expended through these machines, and they will be deprived of the opportunity of earning money or expending it as commissioners, as they have been able to do heretofore. To some extent this will be the case no doubt. The same grant of money will now do from three to five times the amount of work capable of being done under the old methods, but we would fain believe that those who prefer getting the money rather than have good possible roads, are in the minority.

The revolution in Chili is reported stationary, and famine is fully expected.

THE GRAND STEAL

The Tarte-McGreovy Investigation.

THE WHIRLPOOL OF CORRUPTION GRADUALLY DRAWING SIR HECTOR TO ITS CENTRE.

Engineer Perley Dealing in Silverware.

A painful sensation was caused throughout Canada last week, when Henry F. Perley, chief engineer of the public works department, went on the stand in the McGreovy investigation before the private committee of parliament and confessed to having accepted the gift of \$1885 worth of jewelry from the notorious Murphy who was interested in the government contracts of which Perley had the oversight. Murphy had told the story, but his evidence was not credited until Perley himself owned up everything. The story he told was substantially as follows:

In January, 1887, Murphy came to his house at Ottawa and warmly expressed his appreciation of the able management of the Quebec works. Murphy said that Mr. Perley had been placed in charge of the harbor works when everything was in confusion and the works were going to pieces through the bad engineering of his predecessors. By his skill and knowledge, Mr. Perley had made it possible to bring the harbor works from their shattered and dangerous condition to a successful conclusion. Some time afterwards the contractor and the utter destruction of the harbor works. Murphy handed Mr. Perley a parcel which, he said, was a token of the firm's appreciation of his management. When informed of the contents of the parcel, Mr. Perley

refused to take it. Murphy pressed him strongly and went so far as to cross the room and put the envelope under the music on the piano. The witness ordered him to take the money away, and when still more strongly urged to accept a souvenir, he said: "Well you may send me a ring or some such thing and I will accept it, but I will not take anything more from you."

Murphy went and soon after an express box arrived with articles of jewelry and silver. He had no idea that the value of these articles was what it subsequently appeared to be, but considered it much too large, and when he saw Murphy next he told him so very clearly. Some time afterwards he got from Murphy a statement of the cost of the articles. He was astounded when he learned that the present cost nearly two thousand dollars. It preyed upon his mind and led him afterwards to make up his mind to pay for the articles. In September, 1890, he gave Michael Connolly his note for the amount of the jewelry bill.

Questioned by the minister of justice, Mr. Perley admitted that he had not made any repayment for more than two years after he received the articles. He had not money to make the payment, but he could have returned the articles. "I acknowledge to the committee," he said, "that this is what I ought to have done. I confess that I have done wrong, and I am sorry upon my own soul." He had made up his mind to pay for the goods before the disclosures in respect to the public works department, but not before the charges were made last session.

Diamonds and Silver Galleons.

Here is the bill Mr. Perley and it represents quite an array of very elegant articles.

236 St. James Street, Montreal, Jan. 26, 1887.
Bought of Henry Binns & Co.
Jan. 26.
To—
1 case silver fruit knives and forks \$120 00
1 dozen silver tea spoons 17 50
1 dozen silver dessert spoons 17 50
1 dozen silver table spoons 26 50
1 dozen dessert forks 18 50
1 dozen silver table forks 25 20
1 silver butter knife 4 00
1 standard spoon 2 70
1 sugar spoon 2 95
1 pear salt cellar 2 25
1 sugar ladle 4 35
1 cream ladle 3 35
1 ice cream service 10 75
1 fruit spoon 11 35
6 napkin rings 24 70
1 fruit bowl and spoon 50 00
1 soup ladle 41 00
1 brush and comb 28 00
1 water set 55 00
1 diamond bar pin 245 00
1 pair diamond earrings 350 50
1 sapphire and diamond bracelet 170 00
1 diamond ring pin 367 50
1 diamond ring 92 50
1 diamond stud 167 00
Total \$2,110 55
By discount 225 55
\$1,885 00

In the face of Perley's confession, the government promptly suspended him, and his dismissal must follow.

Tuesday's Proceedings.

Further revelations were made in the public accounts and privileges and elections committee to-day, which have increased the disturbance in the Tory ranks as well as public indignation against ministers.

At the opening of the Langevin inquiry, two engineers, Walter Shanley and Mr. Jennings, of Toronto, were selected as experts to report upon the manner in which tenders for several contracts had been figured out, and the contract of work actually performed. Mr. Tarte said he had a letter in his possession signed by Thomas McGreovy, showing that Larkin, Connolly & Co., obtained all necessary information from Mr. Boyd, government engineer, before the tenders were called for.

H. V. Noel, manager of the Ottawa branch of the Quebec bank, was then sworn. He said he was treasurer of the Langevin testimonial fund, and identified a receipt given by him in that capacity for \$1,000 contributed to that fund by Larkin, Connolly & Co. The chief promoters of that testimonial were Henry J. Morgan of the civil service; J. A. Gouin, now postmaster, and L. N. Carriere. The fund amounted to \$23,000. The subscription from Larkin, Connolly & Co. was received on the 4th June, 1888, and Noel said he was not aware that the firm had received a contract for the cross wall a few days before that date. He remembered other contractors, including the late

James Goodwin, contributing to the fund. When the fund had been deposited with him he had a conversation with Sir Hector Langevin in regard to the rate of interest to be paid upon the money while it remained on deposit in the Quebec bank. Sir Hector agreed to accept four per cent interest and the money, with accumulated interest, was still in his credit there. He was not aware whether Larkin, Connolly & Co. contributed more than once, but he promised to produce to-morrow all records in his possession relating to the testimonial fund.

Simon Peters, a Quebec contractor who did some dredging in Quebec harbor in 1880, testified that he would gladly have done for twenty cents per yard, dredging such accounts as correct, and then pocketing the bulk of the money thus obtained, simply allowing the extra clerks small amounts for the use of their names. Harry Palmer paid Frank McCabe \$5 for the use of his name in rendering an account for alleged services. McCabe also swore that he did not share moneys received by him for extra work, with Brough, head of his branch. This system of sharing such moneys, he said, had been going on for years. In some cases Frank Nelson, a permanent clerk, got the whole proceeds of accounts rendered in McCabe's name for extra work. Thousands of dollars were drawn in that way. Nelson would certify that McCabe's account was correct. Palmer corroborated McCabe's story as did Nelson.

There were some lively incidents during the sitting of the committee, clerks calling for their salaries until at last all witnesses were removed from the room.

Nelson stated that Alfred Ogden, ex-M.P., who left the department to contest Gueybore in the Tory interest last March, and who was appointed Fisheries inspector at that time, had received \$100 from him (Nelson). He had certified to an account rendered by Ogden for extra. Ogden afterwards offered him his silver watch if he would certify to another account, but he refused, though he and Ogden had afterwards traded watches. Ogden's watch being the most valuable.

Deputy minister Burgess admitted having allowed female relatives of employees to render accounts for extra work said to be performed, though he was aware such practice was illegal and contrary to his oath of office. Two female relatives of the assistant secretary drew money in that way last year.

Mr. Schreiber was unable to give any explanation as to why he failed to ask for sufficient money for the Intercolonial while parliament was in session last year.

Wednesday's Proceedings.

At today's meeting of the privileges committee, Mr. Noel, manager of the Quebec bank, said he had prepared a list of names of contributors to the testimonial fund, but all the names of the contributors were not given. The book containing the names of all the contributors was sent either to Sir Hector or given to the secretary of the testimonial fund. The contributions of Larkin, Connolly & Co. was he thought, included in a draft for \$1,000, drawn upon Thomas McGreovy.

It was drawn upon Mr. Carriere, secretary of the testimonial fund, he mentioned as a witness.

F. O. Lightfoot, clerk of the public works department, to whom Murphy said he gave \$100, was called and admitted the accuracy of Murphy's statement. He said he was hard pressed for money and asked Murphy for a loan. He knew Murphy was a public contractor. Murphy had never asked for the money.

Nicholas Connolly was recalled and was shown letters from himself to Murphy in 1886, urging the latter to go to Ottawa and see Sir Hector Langevin about the proposed changes. He said Robert McGreovy was to put some capital into the firm, but he became partner, but could not dispute the statement in the letter from his brother to Murphy that Robert was not to put any capital into the firm and that consequently the share given to Robert was too large. Pressed for an answer, he said he was to put in any capital or not Nicholas failed to recollect. Michael Connolly's letter to Murphy advised the latter to stand with hon. Thomas, as he had the whole thing in the hollow of his hand. He swore that the tenders put in by his firm for the cross wall contract were prepared in two rooms in the firm's office in Quebec, but when reminded that the firm had no office in Quebec in 1888, he revised his recollection of the matter. He admitted having speculated in stock at the same time that Murphy did for political purposes, but the last election, but he did not know that his firm had so subscribed. From Murphy's explanations as to where the money went, he said that he had an idea that a portion of it went for political purposes to the executive committee of the conservatives in Quebec.

Asked whether he had sent \$5,000 to Thomas McGreovy by young Robert McGreovy, he said he might have done so. He made the same answer to a question whether he had sent a like sum early in November, 1887. He might have sent the money if asked to do so by Robert McGreovy, senior. He would have handed over the money under such circumstances. When asked whether, if Thomas McGreovy admitted under oath having received \$50,000 from Larkin, Connolly & Co., for political purposes, he would believe it, Nicholas said he would not, though Thomas McGreovy might have received money from individual members of the firm.

Mr. Oiler asked that Robert McGreovy's bank book and other private accounts be placed at the disposal of the sub-committee.

Mr. Geoffroy had no objection to this, provided the books of Thomas McGreovy, the Connollys and Larkin were also opened for inspection.

A hot discussion ensued, Sir John Thompson and others insisted that Robert's books should be opened at once, while the liberals contended that all the witnesses should be treated alike, and that private affairs of one party to the case should not be disclosed unless those of the other were.

Mr. Amyot said Robert McGreovy had no objection to an examination of his books.

meering tone, suggested that Tarte's bank account be produced also. Tarte retorted excitedly that he was not afraid to have his bank books examined and that there would be found therein no account of moneys received as "testimonials." This reference to a present of \$7,000 raised by subscription for Curran made the Minister angry. When the men met in the lobby this evening the dispute was resumed and after some hot words Tarte struck Curran in the mouth and received a blow on the head from Curran. Tarte is a much smaller man than Curran, but more active. He struck Curran a second time in the face, when bystanders interfered and put an end to the fracas.

There was no meeting of the public accounts committee to-day, but it is called to-night to the effect that Senecal, superintendent of government printing, has absconded to avoid an investigation into his accounts. Inquiry of his assistant to-day, elicited the information that Senecal was away in the United States, but his assistant thought he intended to return.

At a meeting of the sub-committee of the privileges and elections committee this afternoon Robert McGreovy declined to submit his banking and other accounts for examination until Thomas McGreovy and the Connollys had produced their accounts. It was decided to report the fact to the main committee.

Thursday's Proceedings.

In the privileges and elections committee to-day, the examination of Nicholas Connolly was concluded. He failed to recollect anything about a conversation with his partners about the checks of \$5,000 each given to him for "donations" and entered in the book in that way. He could not remember whether Lafore Langevin (Sir Hector's son) had come to him and asked for \$5,000. Witness having returned the statement that the McGreovy did not know before 1880 that his brother was a member of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. Mr. Geoffroy produced a letter written from Thomas to Robert some years before, indicating his knowledge that Robert was a partner in the firm. He could not explain what he did with the proceeds of a check for \$2,000 given to him and charged in the firm's book as a "donation," neither could he give any information about checks aggregating \$50,000 which were signed and cashed by himself and charged as "expenses," "donations," etc.

Mr. Tarte asked Nicholas if he expected the committee to believe that he remembered nothing about such large disbursements of money made by means of his own checks. Connolly said he had no explanation to give except what Mr. Murphy told him.

Mr. Tarte—Then though you say you had suspicions about Murphy you entrusted him with the disbursement of thousands of dollars without asking vouchers or explanations?

Connolly—I got no explanations.

Continuing he said that his firm was not dissatisfied with Bennet, the government engineer on the British Columbia dock.

Mr. Davies then read a letter written by Michael Connolly to Nicholas denouncing Bennet in violent terms.

Mr. Verrot, for some years secretary of Quebec harbor commission, gave testimony with respect to the substitution of an unperfected check for a deposit receipt as security for the cross wall contract. A letter was produced before the committee as the one brought to him by Murphy from Thos. McGreovy authorizing him to make substitution, but the letter produced before the committee read, "I see objection," whereas in the genuine letter the words were, "I see no objection." Sir Hector Langevin and McGreovy always seemed very intimate. McGreovy frequently used Sir Hector's name in speaking of contracts and changes and Sir Hector frequently visited the firms in McGreovy's company. In cross-examination Verrot stated that his part in the matter was in the letter he received from McGreovy in reference to the substitution of a check for the deposit receipt. He had shown the letter to Mr. Valin, chairman of the harbor board, who was a party to the substitution. At the conclusion of Verrot's evidence the committee adjourned.

Friday's Proceedings.

P. V. Valin, ex-M.P., ex-chairman of the Quebec harbor commission, but still commissioner, gave his evidence in French. Witness, said he had several conversations with Sir Hector as to the leading part Thomas McGreovy was taking in the committee and spoke of certain views Mr. McGreovy wanted. The minister said: "Follow me, Mr. McGreovy and everything will be all right." The minister added: "Whenever you are in trouble, why do you not call on Mr. McGreovy? You know that we meet frequently and that we consult together."

From that one witness considered that he had the views of the minister in the person of Mr. McGreovy, and on each important vote he consulted Mr. Greovy. He spoke frequently to the minister and his answers were always to the same effect. We were asked if the contractor had given him money for the elections. McGreovy answered that they had been very generous, that they were good fellows and that they ought to be taken care of, that they had largely subscribed, and that Sir Hector was well pleased with the result. (Sensation.) Witness had himself received subscriptions for political purposes from Larkin, Connolly & Co. During the local elections of 1886 Murphy sent him either \$100 or \$250. After the elections there were claims amounting to \$275, and Murphy told him he would take charge of them. He denied receiving the sum of \$3,000 set opposite his name in the books. He never received a dollar for himself. He asked McGreovy for money for his election. McGreovy gave witness money three times and each time took receipts. My election agents at the last moment informed me that unless they had more money my election was in danger. I applied again to McGreovy and to Murphy. Murphy told me he had left in McGreovy's hands all that was needed and Murphy said he had recommended witness particularly for help. He particularly mentioned the county of Quebec, both federal and local, and said, "Caron is always after me. (Laughter.) I have not enough to satisfy him. (Laughter.)" We have Sir Hector at Three Rivers? (Laughter.) He spoke to Sir Hector about money and Sir Hector replied, "I have seen McGreovy this morning. Go and see him; he is in charge of the distribution committee."

Mr. Geoffroy put in a statement showing that from March 1st, 1888, to April 5th, 1890, Larkin, Connolly & Co., and Gallagher & Murphy had drawn \$239,183 on account of the harbor works.

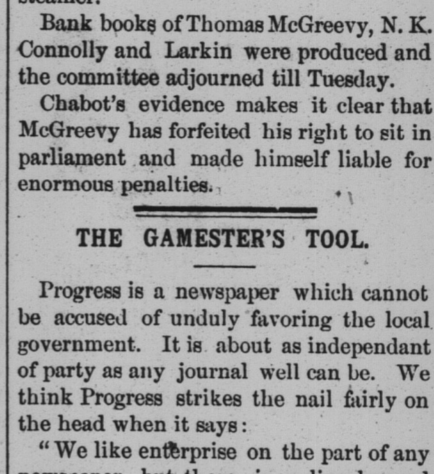
Mr. Fitzpatrick cross-examined the witness, but he got little out of him. Indeed, the witness merely strengthened his direct examination. When asked why he signed a document he knew to be false, stating that the charges against the harbor commission were untrue, he replied by asking why a minister of the crown asked him to sign a document which the minister knew to be false. He signed it without reflection. Asked if he had the promise of a senatorship, witness replied that when he was in the field in Montmorency against the present the lieutenant

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