

gent of Police at Rat Portage. This was the army that was about to cause murder. (Laughter.) Mr. Lyon had been the stipendiary magistrate since 1879, and the people had been informed that they were under Ontario rule, and they were satisfied. However, 2,000 navvies had been sent there by Macdonald, Shields, & Co., and they defied the Courts of Ontario. The Magistrate and his constable were powerless, and the law was almost suspended. It was a question at that time whether a force should be sent up to enforce the law against these men. A resolution was passed in the House to the effect that it was the duty of the Government to enforce the law in that northerly and westerly territory. It was these contractors of the Dominion Government who defied the laws of the Province, and who were coercing Manitoba to go in and take possession. (Hear, hear.) It was reported to the Government that the people at Rat Portage had become sick of Manitoba rule, and the ordinary standing population to a large extent preferred the rule of Ontario; that sufficient forces should be sent, because the gait was about being completed—and by money voted in this House without a dissentient voice—and it was judged by Mr. Lyon that the time had come for Ontario to take its place there. It was June before the arrangements could be made, as the means of correspondence were such that communication was slow. However, the Commissioners were sent, and he would like to see where the circumstantial evidence was of corruption? The men were sent and threats were made of war from Manitoba-Manitoba brought down policemen in shoals and spent money freely to support their men, but he had not heard that the people of Manitoba were grumbling at the cost of the alleged waste of money. The sum of \$47,000 had been mentioned as having been wasted by the Government, and the organ of the Opposition had screamed out that \$160,000 had been spent, but now they seemed to have settled down to the former sum. He could, however, tell the House that not one-quarter of \$47,000 had been spent—(cheers)—and when the House was informed of the exact sum it would be found to have been judiciously expended. They knew what had taken place at Rat Portage. How the Ontario officials had been resisted and people arrested by the Manitoba officials. The instructions given to the officials were given to administer the law without interfering with Manitoba. They were to stay there without trying to turn Manitoba out. They were to use no force but in self-defence. But they were not to allow Manitoba to turn them out. They were to do their duty and stand by their own Province, and let the Manitoba officials do the same. (Cheers.) In all this the Ontario organs of the Opposition had come out with column after column of screed that Ontario was overthrown, beaten, and defeated, and he would like to know where the patriotism came in with which the hon. leader of the Opposition was said to have been inspired when he applauded such a course as this. Mr. Hardy continued to review the course of the Opposition in making use of telegrams which he showed conclusively had been stolen from the custody of the Company, and asked if the receiver was not as bad as the thief? He traced the history of the telegraph operator Staunton, from his career in the Muskoka campaign, since which he had boasted that he had, by listening at the office at Bracebridge, stolen confidential messages. The telegrams read with such gusto by the leader of the Opposition, had never been answered, and as far as that from Mr. Aubrey White was concerned, he could say that it was the first time he had heard of it.

MR. DWIGHT'S LETTER.

He had a letter from the General Manager of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company, addressed to Mr. George Burden, Commissioner for Ontario, at Rat Portage, Ontario, dated August 10th, 1883, which he read as follows:—
 "Yours of the 31st ult. was duly received, and I immediately communicated with our Superintendent at Winnipeg in relation to the matter. I find that telegraphic arrangements at Rat Portage are mainly under the control of the C. P. R. We shall, however, endeavour to remedy any cause of complaint that may exist at that point, and will do everything in our power to put matters right."

CAPT. BURDEN'S STATEMENT.

He then read the statement of Captain Burden, dated at Toronto, January 3rd, 1884, as follows:—

The undersigned begs to state for the information of the Provincial Secretary, and with reference to the accompanying documents—

- 1st. That up to a very recent period a man named McCarthy (a contractor's engineer, and a brother-in-law of J. J. McDonald, one of the Section B contractors) has held the appointment of Postmaster at Rat Portage.
- 2nd. That the Postmaster never did duty as such, but employed deputies from time to time.
- 3rd. That the Postoffice has always been in a building occupied by the contractors.
- 4th. That for some time before and after the election the deputy-postmaster was a young man named Foster, who acted also as telegraph operator—the postoffice being also in the telegraph office.
- 5th. That some months before the election a young man named Staunton came to Rat Portage and was housed and fed at the Section B headquarters. It was given out that he was to be employed as bookkeeper to the firm, but instead of that he was sworn in by McCarthy as assistant postmaster, and from that time acted as

such and also as a telegraph operator.

6th. The attention of the undersigned was drawn to the circumstance by the fact of seeing him in the office and hearing it stated that he had openly boasted of tapping the wires in Muskoka for the Conservative party during the last local election there. This gave colour to the idea that he had been brought to Rat Portage by Shields for a similar purpose during the pendency of the Algoma election.

7th. The undersigned placed himself in communication with the P. O. Inspector at Winnipeg, and both verbally and by letter represented the circumstances, also stating that Shields had free access to the office at all times, and had been seen in it during the sorting and delivering of letters; but the Inspector, though admitting that the matter looked suspicious, took no action in the way of removing the office, stating that McCarthy would shortly vacate the appointment, when the locality of the office would be changed as a matter of course (McCarthy held the office until just one month after the election, as was expected by the writer of the accompanying letter to the *Rat Portage Argus*). Stanton remained, and for some time acted as Deputy-Postmaster.

8th. On the 13th August the undersigned received from the Superintendent of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company at Winnipeg a notification that the C. P. R. would "take possession of their own wires for commercial business at Rat Portage on September 1st, from which date connection with the North-Western would cease." The undersigned personally interviewed the C. P. R. authorities at Winnipeg and Rat Portage, and received an assurance that on the date named (Sept. 1st) the connection with the office in the Section B Building (the Postoffice) would be cut and all business transacted at the depot. The wires were cut, and for a day or two no messages were received or transmitted by either Foster or Stanton, but in less than a week communication was restored, and things remained so until after the election, when communication was again cut off, and so it remains to this hour.

Stanton has since left Rat Portage and gone to Ottawa, where he is understood to have received some appointment.

From references in the *Winnipeg Times* newspaper it is morally certain that the cypher and other telegrams passing between the undersigned and the Government were violated in the Rat Portage office, and that Stanton was brought there for the purpose.

The following letter from Mr. H. McDougall, of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company, to Capt. Burden, dated August 10th, 1883, was then read as follows:—

I have yours, dated 15th. Owing to the C. P. R. people taking possession of their own wires for commercial business, September first, our connection with Rat Portage will cease on that date. I enclose a letter from Mr. Foster in reference to your complaint, which I trust will be satisfactory.

DEPUTY POST-MASTER'S LETTER.

Then there was the letter dated August 6th, 1883, from the deputy postmaster of Rat Portage, Mr. James J. Foster, to Superintendent McDougall, of the G. N. W. Telegraph Company, which he read as follows:—

"Yours of the 4th received, and in reply I beg to say that neither Shields, McDonald, or any one else has access to this office excepting Stanton, who I have to assist me. I cannot see what objection there is to his being here any more than myself, and I will be responsible for his keeping everything private that goes on in the office. It is merely a suspicion on Mr. Burden's part that he is here to give information outside."

"It is quite necessary for me to have an assistant, and I will employ no one that I have not the strictest confidence in as to their keeping everything private."

In continuing, Mr. Hardy said that it was the first time in the history of this country that a postoffice had been desecrated. It was the first time in the history of this country that telegraph wires had been thrown open to men in the employ of the hon. members, or one of their agents, John Shields. The postoffice seals had been broken and the telegraph plundered and prostituted when they were in danger of open war. They were acting in quite a loyal manner. (Applause.) He referred to the Apjohn trial, and held that the voters who were refused the privilege of voting were unable to give a description of their property. This, he held, was a valid reason for not allowing these people to vote. He also referred to the occasion when the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell and others chartered a special train from Winnipeg on the day of the Algoma election to carry voters to the polling places, and showed where three men had voted in three or four divisions on the same day. There were no voters beyond one every ten or fifteen miles. The day when MacKenzie Bowell came down voting their men by hundreds is still laughed at and talked about, and he set the example. The men had been gathered from the base of the Rocky Mountains, and one young man boasted that he had gathered \$5 of such voters. Then the volunteers were gathered, and between 300 and 400 men came down with the field battery to take possession of Rat Portage and driven out Ontario by the cannon. (Cheers.) These men came down by free passes, supplied by whom? These men, the Opposition, laughed at such a violation of Ontario's rights. This was done in order to intimidate the voters of Rat Portage.

Mr. MEREDITH—Does he say that they did intimidate voters?

Mr. HARDY—If they were not sent down for this purpose, what were all the bummers and rabble sent down for? Then after these shameful proceedings they cried out about the case of Apjohn. Concluding, he gave the leader of the Opposition joy of the stolen telegrams, and he gave him welcome of his cant, rant, and fustian about building up the