

far he would go with his corrupt proposals. He declined what he first offered. He had proposed there should be a coalition Government; that there would be no dissolution of the House as they feared to go to the country, the Catholic vote being against them. We ultimately settled that I was to get \$2,000 and the office—\$1,000 was to be paid when I had voted, and \$1,000 more in May when I was to get the office. I asked for security. He proposed that Mr. Bunting, of the *Mail*, should give his own note for \$5,000 to be placed with an agreement that I was to sign, and with a letter which he showed me from Hon. D. L. Macpherson, which he said was written to give him the disposal of the appointment at Edmonton, and was to be endorsed with a recommendation in my favour. These were to be placed in the hands of some one satisfactory to me to secure the carrying out of the agreement. Wilkinson had explained to me that he had seen Bunting, who would give his note for security, as proposed. He made an appointment for me to meet Bunting about it in the *Mail* Office on the day the Speaker gave his first dinner. I went to the *Mail* buildings, and instead of finding Bunting as agreed I was shown into Mr. Meek's room, where I found Wilkinson, who introduced me to Meek. They prepared an agreement for me to sign agreeing to vote against the Government, and had a note for \$5,000 with both their names on it. I objected, and insisted on having Bunting's note as agreed. This they said Bunting declined to give. Wilkinson at this time made a partial endorsement on the back of the letter in my presence, and was anxious to complete it by filling in my name, if I would accept his and Meek's note for \$5,000, which I refused. Wilkinson then undertook to make an appointment for me with Bunting that night, which he did. About half-past ten, after leaving the Speaker's dinner, I went alone, according to Wilkinson's directions, to the *Mail* office, where I met Bunting. He took me into a room alone, shut the door, and kept me talking for nearly two hours. He talked

IN FAVOUR OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

He said he knew that Wilkinson and Meek and I had an arrangement. I told him Wilkinson had promised me his (Bunting's) note for \$5,000 as security, and he said he knew all about it, but from his position in the party and on the *Mail* he could not put his name to paper; but he assured me that whatever arrangement I made with Wilkinson and Meek it would be carried out, and that Meek was the party's solicitor and controlled the party's funds. He pledged me his word and honour that whatever was promised me by Meek and Wilkinson would be carried out, and said that Sir John always took good care of his friends. He also said that Meek was the solicitor in the petition against Lyon, and if he would vote right it could be withdrawn. I left the *Mail* office just before one o'clock in the morning. Wilkinson then left town for some time. During his absence I met Mr. Kirkland, who spoke to me about his views on timber matters. Shortly afterwards he asked for an interview in my room, and then he said there was no use talking to Pardee, as he could not change his policy. He said he had seen Meredith and talked the timber question over with him, and that he (Meredith) said he would take four or five days to consider it, and that at the end of the time he had seen Meredith again, when he told him that he agreed with his policy and would bring it up in the House. He said he

HAD ALSO SEEN BUNTING,

and that Bunting agreed with his views. He also told me that he had spent \$32,000 in lobbying a Legislature in the States. He had hoped to get along here without the currency, but he had found he required it, and had sent for \$15,000 or \$20,000. I also mentioned this and all other conversations of the kind to the Government. Kirkland afterwards offered me \$3,000 for my support in the House. After this Wilkinson returned to town, and we had a talk over Kirkland and his timber scheme. Subsequently Wilkinson said he had been at a caucus, and it had been decided to make the Yankee the scape goat. On a subsequent occasion he told me that they had looked the Yankee up, and were not going to work with him, as he would be coming with his claims against the new Government, and that they would want the timber to divide up among themselves. During this time I met Bunting one evening in the Speaker's lobby. We went out together to Front-street, and up and down John-street, and had a long talk. He told me he had been at Ottawa, and had now the power to defeat this Government. He told me that it was all settled to defeat them. About my own affairs, he repeated over and over again that I would get what had been promised, and would be well taken care of. I also told him about Kirkland's offer, and he told me to get all I could from the Yankee in addition to what I was getting from them, and he would help me to do so. He also told me that in case of Mr. Mowat's defeat there would be no dissolution. He again promised that Lyon's protest would be dropped. Last week

WILKINSON FINALLY AGREED TO PAY