

and told me about taking three members of the Government and three Oppositionists into the coalition Cabinet.

Q.—Did he say anything of what any of them were going to get? A.—He said some of them would get Cabinet positions.

Q.—Did he mention any of them by name? A.—He spoke of Mr. McKim, and from what he said I inferred that Mr. McKim would be given money.

Q.—This was the second time you saw Wilkinson? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you can give nothing of what was said? A.—No.

Q.—Have you not given a fuller account elsewhere? A.—I may have done so.

Q.—Did he mention anything regarding North-West offices? A.—Yes. He said that offices were very attractive, and that one office would do for several men.

Mr. Cameron—He meant with the Grit party.

Q.—Did he speak of money? A.—No; but from some of his remarks I inferred money would be used.

Q.—When did you return to Guelph? A.—On Wednesday, 6th February, by the noon train.

Q.—Did you not see Mr. Bunting on that day? A.—Yes; in his own room, before noon.

Q.—What was the object of seeing Bunting? A.—My intention was in the first place to speak of Wilkinson, and of his conversation with me at Guelph. I gave Mr. Bunting a description of Mr. Laidlaw.

Q.—What did you say to Bunting with reference to what Wilkinson said to you? A.—To the best of my knowledge I said I did not take any stock of what was said about Mr. Laidlaw being opposed to his party, and Bunting said he agreed with me. I said I did not care to interfere in the matter.

Q.—Did you say anything more? A.—I cannot remember that I said anything more.

Q.—What about the statements reported in THE GLOBE to have been made by you before the Committee on Thursday. A.—The report is not correct.

Q.—Did you in the Legislative Assembly the other day give no account whatever of what you had said to Mr. Bunting in regard to the matter? A.—I made no explanation whatever.

Q.—Did you ever receive a letter from Mr. Wilkinson? A.—Yes; about a week after the interview at Toronto.

Q.—Where is it? A.—I destroyed it.

Q.—What did it say? A.—Only that Wilkinson was in Cobourg, and likely to remain there some time.

#### MR. LAIDLAW IMPREGNABLE.

Cross-examined by Mr. MacMaster.

Q.—When you called upon Bunting in the Mail building did you tell him of the conversation Wilkinson had had with you? A.—I think I did.

Q.—What did Bunting say with regard to the affair? A.—He discouraged the business. I cannot give his words.

Q.—What do you mean when you say that Bunting discouraged you? A.—I explained that Mr. Laidlaw was not the sort of man to do what was wanted of him, and Mr. Bunting agreed with me, and said we had better not trouble any more about it.

Q.—Did you tell Mr. Bunting that you did not care to have anything to do with the matter? A.—Yes.

Q.—What do you mean by the matter—the business relating to Mr. Laidlaw? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the interference proposed by Wilkinson? A.—Yes.

Q.—The fact was, then, that he discouraged the whole affair? A.—Yes.

Cross-examined by Mr. Murphy.

Q.—You have known Mr. Laidlaw a very long time? A.—Yes.

Q.—And have been opposed to him in politics? A.—For the last eight years.

Q.—You knew it was no use asking him to oppose the Government? A.—Yes.

Q.—You have often opposed the present Government? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever heard, in the history of Canada, of coalitions being made, and the Opposition and Government inviting to form a Government? A.—Yes.

Q.—You can recollect, I suppose, that at the time of Confederation the Hon. George Brown was a member of the Opposition, and that he and Hon. Wm. Howland and Mr. Ferguson Blair and others came into the Cabinet?

The witness said in reply that his knowledge of Canadian history did not extend to such matters.

Q.—Do you remember about the "speak now" question, when a note was addressed to an hon. member across the floor of the House? A.—Yes.

Q.—And that that Minister afterwards accepted the position of Chief Justice of Manitoba? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then there was nothing that struck you as unusual in this proposal of Mr. Wilkinson for a coalition? A.—No.

Q.—You did not think you were committing an offence against the law in going in for it? A.—I did not go in for it. (Laughter.)

Q.—I am now speaking of February a year ago? A.—No.

Q.—Nor did you think there was anything wrong in forming a Coalition Government if the Government could be thrown out? A.—No.

Q.—And you would have gone to a member of Parliament on the Grit side if you thought you could induce him by your arguments to change over to the Opposition ranks? A.—I don't know

that I would.

Mr. Murphy—You would not; well, I think I would.

Mr. Denison—But the witness says he would not.

Q.—You knew Mr. Laidlaw was so staunch in his political opinions that no arguments would affect him? A.—I thought so.

Mr. Dowling was then called and examined by Mr. Irving.

Q.—You are a member of the Legislative Assembly? A.—Yes.

Q.—And have been here since the 23rd of January? A.—Yes; save for an absence of three days.

Q.—You are member for South Renfrew? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know Mr. Wilkinson? A.—Yes.

Q.—When did you first make his acquaintance? A.—In South Renfrew at the time of the election I saw him, but did not become acquainted with him; that was on the 11th January.

Q.—When did you get introduced to him? A.—Last Thursday week, the 13th inst., in Toronto.

Q.—Where did you meet? A.—At the Walker House.

Q.—Was any other person present? A.—Mr. McKim introduced us.

Q.—Where did the introduction take place? A.—In a private room, which I believe was Mr. Wilkinson's.

Q.—Was Mr. McKim present? A.—He went out after the introduction.

Q.—Had you reason to believe that you were going to meet Wilkinson that evening? A.—Yes.

Q.—And in consequence of that you went there? A.—Yes.

Q.—How long did the interview last? A.—Half an hour.

Q.—Were you interrupted? A.—No.

Q.—What was the subject of your conversation? A.—He said there was considerable satisfaction with the Mowat Government among their own supporters. He then went on to speak of the protest against my election, and said he thought the Courts would decide that I should be personally disqualified or account of the decision in the first case. He explained to me his reasons for holding this opinion. He then went on to say that if I would change my politics and support the coalition scheme the proceedings in connection with the protest would be stopped. He also stated that if I would support the other side, as I had been put to a good deal of expense in connection with the protest, this outlay should be recouped. He said they would want South Renfrew for a member of the proposed coalition Government, and would, perhaps, want me to resign. They would give me \$2,000 for expenses, and \$2,000 or \$3,000 if I would resign my seat.

Q.—You say he said the protest would be withdrawn. He was not the petitioner or the lawyer was he? A.—No; I spoke on this matter to him, and said he had not power to withdraw the petition. He said he would get me to go and see Mr. Bunting, who had full authority to have the petition withdrawn.

Q.—When was that interview to take place? A.—He said he would arrange an interview about half-past two on the same day.

Q.—Did that interview terminate then? A.—Some more conversation took place, but that was the substance of it. I objected to going to Bunting's office.

Q.—Did you know where his office was? A.—I knew the Mail building.

Q.—Where no instructions given you? A.—Wilkinson said the man at the elevator would show me up.

#### MR. BUNTING'S OFFER.

Q.—Did you go to the Mail building? A.—Yes; but I went first to the Parliament Buildings and told Mr. Fraser of the whole affair, and objected to going to the Mail. He persuaded me to go, however, and I went. I found Mr. Bunting in his room. By his manner he seemed to have been expecting me, and said he wanted to have a chat with me. He went down a couple of flights of stairs and into another room, where he locked the door. He said he understood from what had been said by parties who had been to see him, that a good deal of dissatisfaction existed about the Mowat Government. I said nothing, and he went on to say that I had been put to a good deal of expense in connection with the protest that had been made against my election, and that this expense would be recouped me if I would support this scheme for the formation of a coalition Government. I said very little, but listened to him. He continued that if I would support this scheme he would get me a couple of thousand dollars in two hours, and the petition should be withdrawn; and if I resigned my seat I should get a couple of thousand dollars more. These were the words—no more and no less.

Q.—What did you say? A.—I said very little; I rather regretted having come there, and thought I had, perhaps, acted wrongly in doing so.

Q.—Did he say anything else? A.—He said with regard to my expenses that I should not have had to pay them all myself. Mr. Fauquier was a young man, like myself, and he said the expenses had been paid for him by his party. I replied that I wanted no one to pay my expenses. When going away, Mr. Bunting said, "If you wish to see me again drop me a line and I will meet you anywhere you name."

Q.—Have you had any conversation with him