

The hon. Minister of Railways of to-day not only got these facilities on the same terms as are allowed other railways, but on better terms than are allowed other railways. I will show that to the committee :

There was not much further to be done in the matter, though Mr. Ryan and I had a conversation on the subject. In conversation with Mr. Ryan, he stated to me he had spoken to Mr. Farwell upon the subject, and asked me if I was ready to consider a proposition from him.

I draw the attention of the committee to the statement that follows :—

I told him that I would have nothing to do with it, and advised him to have nothing to do with it.

Notwithstanding that he swore that, in the interest of the country and the interests of the people, the thing should be done, and that he could get it cheap. The ex-Minister (Mr. Haggart) continued :

I may state that I never submitted a proposition to Council—any proposition to Council—but I had a conversation with the Premier,—

Whether it was out on a fishing excursion, or whether it was on the street, or whether in the House, or whether in Council, he does not say.

—I had a conversation with the Premier, I think it was Sir John Thompson, in reference to the matter.

He does not even know who was Premier at the time : whether it was Sir John Thompson, or Sir John Abbott, or Sir Mackenzie Bowell, or Sir Charles Tupper.

I had a conversation with the Premier, I think it was Sir John Thompson, and I think with the Finance Minister (Mr. Foster),—

He thinks ; he is not sure of that.

--but the matter never took any form, and never was considered in Council.

I say, in all earnestness, that the people of this country had the right to ask the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart), why he did not mention it in Council, why he did not consider the proposition that was made to him, why he did not deal with it, and satisfy himself that he could not make a bargain ? He continues :

If I remember rightly, Mr. Ryan spoke to me something in the direction of which he stated to-day, something about his finishing the road, or making some arrangements with them for finishing the road.

A few moments ago, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) stated that he said nothing about finishing the road, but I will refer to Mr. Ryan's evidence later on. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) continued :

I never heard of any proposition for a higher price to be charged for the road than the one named in the option of \$500,000, and from information which I had at the time, correctly or not, I understood that other parties had options for the road for a less amount.

Mr. MORRISON.

I want the House to remember distinctly what he states here : That he had never heard of any proposition for a higher price for the road than \$500,000. I ask, if any other interpretation can be put on these words, than that the Minister of Railways had the option of buying this road, with all that it means, for \$500,000. He continued :

I understood that they had been negotiating for the sale of the road both to the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway.

That statement is an absolute contradiction of himself. He was not cross-examined to any great extent. It was not a question of being on the stand two or three days, and on the last day being cross-examined as to something he said on the first day, without having an opportunity of having his memory refreshed as to what he did say ; it could not be more than five minutes after he swore that he had an opportunity of buying this road for \$500,000, that he swears to the following :—

Q. Do you undertake to swear that he gave you to understand the road could be bought for \$500,000 ?—A. Oh, I do not think so.

And then the hon. gentleman further mixes himself and winds himself up, for he goes on to say :

Q. And you knew they were willing to sell out for \$500,000 ?

This is a question put by Mr. Powell, one of his own committee men. Mr. Powell puts this question to him, evidently trying to cover over the slip of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart), that he had an opportunity of buying it, and then saying he did not have that opportunity. Mr. Powell comes back, and says :

Q. And you knew they were willing to sell out for \$500,000 ?—A. Yes, and I said that I knew they had given other options for less, for \$100,000 less, and were negotiating with the Grand Trunk Railway and other companies, and I would have nothing more to do with them.

That is categorically denied by the gentleman who would have made the offer, and who knew all about it. I refer to the evidence of Mr. Farwell. Mr. Farwell is the gentleman in reference to whom Mr. Pope, the hon. member for Compton, stated on oath, that he would believe Mr. Farwell on oath, and he would believe anything Mr. Farwell said on oath to be absolutely true. Mr. Farwell gave his evidence with respect to this \$400,000, and it was not impeached in any particular. He desposed as follows :—

Q. There were no other options given in connection with this road ?—A. I might have had another, but it was simply to me.

Q. I suppose for a similar amount to this ?—A. I do not remember ; I was under the impression that this was for \$400,000, but it is put here at \$500,000.

Q. What did you think the other option would be for ?—A. The other option would be for \$400,000 ; but I do not know that this is an exact copy. It was not less than \$400,000