

that; in fact, the Minister of Justice was, it seemed to me, extremely particular with regard to a payment of so small an amount.

By Mr. Bergeron:

Q. In the case in which you got \$72 from the government, did you get anything from the parties interested?—A. No, I got nothing in that case. It came to me from the Minister of Justice, as agent, and since I have been acting as the agent of the Minister of Justice, I have been acting for him, and for nobody else.

By Mr. Hughes:

Q. Did any one else get any charge out of that Fitzgerald case?—A. Not that I know of.

By Mr. Powell:

Q. The cheques were made exclusively payable to the owner and—?—A. And to the agent of the Minister of Justice, who was Mr. Barron at that time.
Witness discharged.

Mr. GEORGE POPE called, sworn and examined:—

By Mr. Hughes:

Q. Please tell me your connection with this matter, Mr. Pope?—A. On the 11th of January, 1897, I received the plan here and instructions from the Department of Railways and Canals to go to Cameron Lake and investigate some claims there for drowned lands, some alleged claims. I went up and made an investigation to the best of my ability, and on the 25th of January, 1897, I made my report.

Q. January of what year?—A. January of 1897.

Q. Did you make a valuation of the lands at that time?—A. I made an approximate valuation.

Q. Was Mr. McLaughlin assisting you?—A. No, sir.

Q. He had nothing to do with it?—A. No, I did not know anything about Mr. McLaughlin.

Q. What was the next step?—A. I made my estimate and reported to the government that I thought I could settle the whole thing for \$2,000 and save a survey.

Q. What was the next step, and when did you make your award?—A. I received instructions on the 18th of February following to endeavour to make a settlement with the parties according to my estimate.

Q. Very well?—A. And I was also told that Mr. McLaughlin had been acting for the claimants.

Q. Who told you that?—A. I do not remember whether it was in the correspondence. I cannot say at the moment whether I was told that in the department or whether it was in a letter, but I got instructions that he was acting for the claimants, and on that account, as a matter of courtesy, it would be well to advise him when I was going there.

Q. Very well, what then?—A. When I got ready to go up there I communicated with Mr. McLaughlin that I would be up there on a certain day, and his reply was that he could not be there that day but would be there the next.

Q. And you went up there the following day?—A. I went up there and we met at Fenelon Falls, and we went over it, but I had made up my mind as to the amount of the valuation.

Q. Did Mr. McLaughlin influence you in any way or assist you?—A. No, sir, he did not. I had already made up my mind as to the valuation. He tried to assist his