

that a seat in this House should be open to every man, whether he was worth a dollar or not. Therefore I do not think that this House has anything to do with searching out these private matters, matters with which by the greatest stretch of the imagination the Insurance Commission could have no possible concern. (Cheers.)

Shuswap Property Explained.

Then they take up the purchase of the Shuswap property. We bought that property for \$40,000 three years ago, and the timber limits on it could not be bought to-day for \$200,000. It has most magnificent timber on it; it was a great buy. After we had agreed to buy this property, after the agreement to purchase had been signed between Mr. Shields and myself, Mr. Ryan told me that here was a commission coming to him in connection with that, and he would divide it with me. Mr. Ryan had owed me a considerable amount on the original purchase price, and he gave me an order on Mr. Shields only for the commission, but for an amount in excess of it. I took the thing as a payment on account, and if Mr. Ryan pays me the balance he will be very glad to share the \$25,000 with my friends.

(Hear, hear.)

Commissioners Never Wrote Report.

Mr. Fowler has consistently contended that the Insurance Commission was a plot for the purpose of ruining certain Conservative politicians, therefore, when he made the direct charge in the House that the commissioners never wrote a line of the report, it was expected that an immediate denial would be made. This was not the case. The accusation stood, and no man in the House denied it. The leader of the House, and the Minister of Justice were present, and although the latter had been publicly branded a few minutes before by Mr. Foster as "there stands the conspirator," no man uttered a word.

Now, Sir, I think I have gone pretty fully into these matters, but there are two or three things I would like to refer to. As to this report, we have these three commissioners. I have already described them to you, so that everybody must now know them pretty well. I am going to make the statement right here and now, that the commissioners never wrote a line in that report. I question very much whether they read it all through.

Commissioners Only Signed Report.

The only handwriting of the commissioners was their names signed: D. P. MacTavish, J. W. Langmuir, A. L. Kent. Now, sir, who is going to be paid for writing this report? Mr. Shepley wrote this report. He dictated it, probably, to a stenographer. It shows the master mind and the hand of Mr. Shepley all the way through. Mr. Shepley was carrying out his instructions.

Scheme to Blacken Tories.

Mr. Fowler concluded a most comprehensive and powerful speech by a vigorous protest against the government expending the money of the people for the sole and only purpose of ruining the political reputation of prominent Conservatives. He suggested that at least two-thirds of the sum asked should be paid out of the Grift corruption fund, and not out of the public treasury.

His instructions were to try and fasten something on these Tory members: if he could not fasten anything on them, then to throw just as much mud as he could. Mr. Shepley carried out his instructions to the letter, and he is to be paid \$100 a day besides a very large additional counsel fee. I