

Public Accounts Committee

MR. SUTHERLAND.—To whom?

MR. GIBSON.—To Barron & Steers.

By Mr. Sutherland:

Q. Suppose that each of these farmers had acted separately, would the account have been smaller by their joining together and agreeing in paying a proportionate sum?—A. Oh, no doubt the accounts are a great deal smaller by joining together.

Q. So, as I understand it, by joining together these farmers paid less than if they had acted separately?—A. Oh, certainly.

By Mr. Hughes:

Q. What did you do for Mrs. Nancy McIntyre to earn the \$6 you charged her?

MR. GIBSON.—What were the damages?

MR. HUGHES.—Thirty dollars, and he sent a bill for \$6.

MR. COWAN.—And she sent \$5.

By Mr. Hughes:

Q. What is your answer?—A. I think every person will know that these claims were all together; what I did for one was done for the other; I did not do more for Mrs. McIntyre than for the others. When I came to Ottawa, I came on behalf of all; when I wrote a letter, I wrote it on behalf of all. The special work I did for Mrs. McIntyre was answering the requisition of title. Then, Mr. Hughes has said over and over again that the government paid Mr. Barron for the same work I was doing. Well, he cannot understand the difference between advocating a claim and doing work for the government.

Q. You have admitted, Mr. McLaughlin, that Mr. Pope had made a valuation before you came there?—A. No, I said Mr. Pope went up there and made a general valuation around Cameron Lake, and that when he went he did not know what claims were in.

Q. How did you get track of him?—A. The farmers told me.

Q. And Mr. Pope had been over some of the lands?—A. As I understand it, Mr. Pope had gone up there—I did not know it personally—and made a preliminary investigation first.

Q. Before you interfered?—A. Well, I had got the matter in hand about a month. Mr. Pope came back again, and I put in a number of claims, and wrote the government that I had several others. The arrangement I made with the government was, that Mr. Pope was to come up, and instead of having a survey made, which would be an expensive matter and cause a good deal of delay, we would go together and see the farmers to see whether we could not make a compromise. I was informed that Mr. Pope would come up for that purpose, and I acted for the farmers and he for the government.

Q. And he was there for some time ahead of you?—A. Yes, he was there several hours ahead of me.

Q. And he had been there before you, and these claims were all under consideration; in 1895 was the first time they were presented?—A. I have searched the records of the department, and there is only one claim put in before I took it up, and that is Mr. Jordan's.

By Mr. Powell:

Q. You complied with all these regulations, I understand?—A. No, I did not. I advised as far as I could, and what I could not do I refused. I obtained extracts of the titles of all with the exception of one, and I had to come to Ottawa and get