



HISTORICAL SKETCH.

HOW A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE INSURANCE WAS TURNED INTO A ONE-SIDED POLITICAL INQUISITION

Terminating with a False and Slanderous Report, which Could Not be Defended in Parliament.

The report of the Insurance Commission and the proceedings upon which it was based are important in two particulars: first from their bearing upon the question of insurance, and, secondly, from their partisan political aspect. It is with the latter standpoint that this statement deals.

How It Got INTO POLITICS.

Though in the beginning there was probably no intention to use the Commission as a political weapon the investigation was very early turned in that direction. This was due to the circumstance that Hon. Geo. E. Foster was connected as manager with the Union Trust Company, in which the Independent Order of Foresters held a controlling interest, and that this company had loaned from its capital **certain** moneys to the Great Western Land Company, in which Mr. Foster and others were interested, and also to the Kamloops Lumber Company, in which Messrs. Fowler and McCormick had an interest. It also came to the knowledge of Mr. Shepley, the prosecuting counsel named by the Government, that the above mentioned Great Western Land Company had purchased lands from a syndicate composed of Messrs. Foster, Wilson and McGillivray, who had bought from Messrs. Fowler, Pope, Bennett and Lefurgey. These vendors had purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. With the exception of Mr. Wilson they were all members or ex-members of Parliament, and all prominent Liberal-Conservatives. Mr. Wilson was a well known lawyer and an active member of the same party.

MR. SHEPLEY EMPLOYED.

Certain Liberal leaders, among them Ministers and former Ministers