

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INSURANCE.

In connection with the further enquiry into the I.O.F., Mr. Geo. W. Fowler, M.P., took the stand, and stated that his first connection with Western lands was in October, 1902. He did not know where the option was, and really could not say there had ever been a written option.

Asked how he came to get the option on the lands, Mr. Fowler said he objected to such questions as being beyond the scope of the enquiry.

The chairman advised him he must answer, and Mr. Fowler went on to speak of the political trip west.

"You need not go into that," said Mr. Shepley. "The object of that trip doesn't cut any figure here."

"I think it does cut a big figure here," replied Mr. Fowler. "That's where you and I differ."

Mr. Fowler went on to say that they wanted to locate near the line of the C. N. R., and with this idea, they came to Toronto, saw Mr. D. D. Mann, and enquired the route of the road, Mr. Mann told them they could look it over as far as it was surveyed, but they thought it would be cheaper and easier if he and his engineer would indicate on the map where the route would be.

Mr. Shepley produced an agreement of sale for the lands sold to the Union Trust syndicate, and Mr. Fowler said he did not recollect more than one agreement with the C.P.R.

"But that does not set out all the lands you got from the C.P.R.," said Mr. Shepley.

"It does not purport to set out all the lands, but only the lands conveyed to the syndicate," replied the witness.

"This document purports to convey 200,000 acres selected out of a schedule containing only 193,000 acres. Was there any reality in such a statement, with things as they were?"

"Certainly not," replied the witness.

"That is not the proper schedule to be attached to that agreement?"

"It is manifest that the first schedule belonged to this agreement," replied Mr. Fowler. "and it is also manifest that this schedule shows the lands sold to the Great West Land Company."

"I want to know why the appropriate schedule was not attached to this agreement," said Mr. Shepley. "Who put this agreement and schedule forward as the agreement between Pope and Fowler and the C.P.R.?"

"I don't know who put it forward, or that anyone did," replied Mr. Fowler. "I would say that the man who said that schedule belonged to that agreement was a jackass."

"And the man that attached it?"

"The man who attached it would very much understate the man for whom he was doing it," was Mr. Fowler's answer. He settled the matter by

saying that the schedule now appearing with the agreement was not annexed to the agreement when he presented it to Messrs. Fowler and Wilson. It might have been pinned to it, but it was not submitted as a schedule of the lands selected from the C.P.R.

Mr. Fowler said the 7,000 acres had been retained for their own purposes.

"Was it out of the moneys made from the 193,000 acres that you were going to carry this 7,000 acres?" asked Mr. Shepley.

"I don't think you should ask that question, but we did not earmark the money," replied Mr. Fowler. He added that the Union Trust syndicate had never made any complaint about not getting all the lands mentioned in the agreement.

Mr. Shepley then brought up the Kamloops timber limit deal, and Mr. Fowler explained how he had accepted the option from Mr. Ryan, and became personally responsible for the payment of the purchase price. He had never been the agent of the Union Trust Company in the purchase, although he had agreed to take a quarter interest in it. He had obtained two options from Mr. Ryan—one for \$200,000, and one for \$250,000, and the difference represented the profit that he was to make. He had expected the Union Trust Company to take the property only if it thought it worth the money, and to show his faith in it, he was willing to take a 25 p.c. interest. The property was bought for \$225,000, and, with a portion of the property bought for \$40,000, has been sold for \$350,000, leaving out one limit, on which it was estimated that there were 250,000,000 feet of timber. Inside of three years it would be worth \$600,000.

Pressed as to whether he thought his action was a proper one, Mr. Fowler said that if he had said that he was making nothing, then he would have thought it wrong. If the Union Trust Company had asked the purchase price, he would have given it, and if they had not wanted the property, he would have taken it to others.

"Did Mr. Ryan pay you the \$35,000?" asked Mr. Shepley.

"That is a matter between myself and Mr. Ryan, that I don't care to answer," said Mr. Fowler.

SUN LIFE OF CANADA.

The commission opened the enquiry into the Sun Life at Montreal on the 15th inst. The President and Managing Director, Mr. Robertson Macaulay was the first witness. His evidence was in the shape of answers to Mr. Shepley who based his enquiry upon the act of incorporation.

Mr. Macaulay said that the company began business in 1871, and at that time had power to do business in fire, marine, accident, guarantee and life insurance. Later this was confined to life and accident insurance, and latterly to life insurance