

Criticizes Report Again.

And the report intimates that here is something rotten in connection with this matter, because a property which had originally been bought for \$65,000 was now being sold for \$175,000. As a matter of fact, a large double-cutting hand-saw mill had been built since that purchase, and it was shown that over \$50,000 had been added to the expenditure upon that property. There is a profit in connection with that property. Is that an unusual thing in connection with timber limits in the west? Let me tell the committee something.

Contrasts With Government Deals.

Within three weeks of this very day, a timber limit is been sold by this government—put up for public tender and the highest tender got it; the government's course in the matter is absolutely straight and absolutely correct; no fault to find at all, everything is perfectly right in respect to it—but, sir, that property was bought for \$43,000 and within three weeks of this very day an option has been given on it for \$125,000. That is a profit of \$3 to \$1 and the property will be unquestionably sold under the option. In the short space of three weeks there is that profit, and here in the Okanagan case was a property bought a year and a half before for \$65,000 upon which some \$50,000 had been spent, and it was sold for \$175,000. It is only necessary to state these two cases.

Report In Furtherance of Plot.

And yet this commission found it necessary to report on these matters—why? Just, sir, carrying out the plot, that is all; just in furtherance of the original design, that is all; to try and see if they could not throw mud enough so that some of it might stick. (Cheers.)

Now, they take up this matter of paying for the Okanagan property. I went out, as I said, I had instructions from the company to get a written option for this property at a certain price. They took the cruisers out to examine the property, and when they were satisfied I took the option; and because the stockholders of the Okanagan Company were scattered, living in different parts of the country, I was requested to act as their attorney in collecting and transmitting the money from the Kamloops company to the various stockholders. I did that, and they are perfectly satisfied; they got their money. Why was it necessary for this report to contain nearly half a column on that point? What on earth had the Insurance Commission to do with the question whether or not these stockholders in the Okanagan company got their money?

Matter for Stockholders.

That is a matter for the Okanagan stockholders to settle with me. It certainly was not any business of the Insurance Commission when that money was paid for that property. Surely it was no longer the money of the Foresters, it was no longer the money of the trust company, it was no longer the money of the Kamloops company. Yet they tried to throw doubt on the question whether I had settled with the Okanagan people or not. What is the business of this country or this House whether I had or not?

Private Business is Sacred.

What, sir, is the private business of a man to be gone into, is it to be ascertained whether or not he has paid all his creditors, before he comes to this House? If so, there might be some vacant chairs here. Sir, the property qualification was abolished in this country many years ago, so