

## Public Accounts Committee

*By Mr. Bergeron:*

Q. Who is that man that spoke to you like that?—A. I cannot remember now; it was a small claim. We were all there together; there were a lot of farmers, and I cannot tell now which was which.

*By Mr. Cowan:*

Q. On page 5149 of *Hansard*, of June 14th, Mr. Hughes said: "They find that this man could not bulldoze and browbeat the valuator, that the valuation he made was an honest valuation." Did Mr. McLaughlin endeavour to browbeat and bulldoze you?—A. I did not take it in that way.

Q. So far as his conduct was concerned, it was gentlemanly in the extreme?—A. I will tell you exactly what took place. When we got there, he consulted his clients and said: "This is not money enough." I said: "I have made an estimate to the government that I can do this thing for \$2,000. I have been over the ground a second time, and see no reason to change my mind. I have divided it as fairly as I can, and I am not going to give any more." He argued and argued, and when he found I had decided, he gave in in a gentlemanly way. There was not a cross word used. It was all amicable.

*By Mr. Gibson:*

Q. There was no bulldozing?—A. Everything was agreeable in the extreme, as far as I was concerned.

*By Mr. Hughes:*

Q. Was there any conveyancing done by Mr. McLaughlin?—A. I do not know anything about it.

Q. You had nothing to do with the conveyancing?—A. I took the agreements there, and sometimes when I would be busy, I would ask Mr. McLaughlin to fix them, and he would do it.

Q. You drew the agreements; he did not?—A. He assisted in a general way. It is my duty to draw the agreements.

*By Mr. Taylor:*

Q. A separate agreement in each case?—A. Each individual man gave a separate agreement.

*By Mr. Cowan:*

Q. To accept the amount?—A. He agreed to take so much, and we fixed the basis. It was not a case of conveyance, but of settlement of an amount.

*By Mr. Taylor:*

Q. You prepared part of the agreements, and Mr. McLaughlin prepared some?—A. I think I prepared them all, and Mr. McLaughlin would help to get them signed. It was simply a printed form.

MR. McLAUGHLIN.—We settled the form and changed them to suit particular cases.

THE WITNESS.—Each case on its own merits.

*By Mr. Taylor:*

Q. You filled in in each case the amount wanted?—A. Every man knew what he was getting from us and no one else.