

needed?—A. I think competition is the soul of free enterprise. I think everybody should have a try.

Q. When you say competition and having a try, just in what field would the competition lie? Just where is the competition?—A. Competition of ideas for one thing. They should have more than one project presented to them so they could take their choice of what they should do.

Also the Alberta government controls oil and gas and I think they would like to determine where things are going to be done and how; and if there is one choice of places that is all they have to talk about and they have their hands tied to a certain extent. The same thing is true for the Board of Transport Commissioners.

Q. You are offering the Board of Transport Commissioners the choice of five routes?

Mr. McCULLOCH: Or more?

The WITNESS: I promised to give them another.

By Mr. Noseworthy:

Q. Six routes. Do you think it would be advantageous to them if by incorporation of other companies they were to have a choice of half a dozen others?—A. I think it would be advantageous, yes.

Q. So you would favour the incorporation of as many pipe line companies as possible for the building of pipe lines?—A. I should think so. As long as people are *bona fide* and are willing to spend money in trying to do something, I think they should be encouraged.

Q. One further question. What advantage would your company gain by being incorporated without getting a licence; or, if there are five or six companies that know only one company will get a licence, what advantage do they get?—A. The ones that lose gain to the extent of minus quite a few hundred thousand dollars because they do not get it. They are out. It is like a horse race—if we do not win we have lost our entrance fee.

Q. You have already invested \$320,000 in your surveys. If you do get incorporation but if you fail to get a licence, the charter will be of no value?—A. I do not know that it would be of any value—you might know of some other scheme but as far as I see it it would not be of much value.

Mr. SMITH: You have lost your ante.

By Mr. Noseworthy:

Q. Would the fact that you have a charter in any way help you to recover any part of the \$320,000?—A. Not at all, that I can see.

Q. There is no way you can deal with other companies or dispose of the charter?—A. I do not know why any company would want to buy it if they had a charter themselves. I should think that it would be perfectly valueless.

Q. Some of us are wondering why companies are willing to invest up to \$320,000 on the chance of getting a charter when they have no idea whether they are going to be able to use the charter or not?

Mr. SMITH: That is private enterprise.

The WITNESS: It is just the way, as I say, that you bet on a horse.

By Mr. Noseworthy:

Q. I notice, Mr. Dixon, that you have gone not only to the extent of spending the \$320,000, but you have made contracts with oil companies to supply you with oil?—A. You mean gas?