

A PROFITABLE DEAL.

INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING A MINING SALE.

**Property Bought From Government
for \$10,500 Afterwards Sold for
\$330,000 — Information in Regard
to a Transaction in Automobiles.**

That the Government sold for \$10,500 a property in the Gillies limit that a short time afterward changed hands at \$330,000 was the interesting information brought out in the Public Accounts Committee yesterday morning during the examination of Mr. J. A. Young of North Bay. The examination was conducted by Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex), in the absence of Mr. D. J. McDougal. The member from East Ottawa had been investigating the transaction in question, but as Mr. Young appeared rather unexpectedly, Mr. McDougal was not on hand to conduct the inquiry, and the work devolved upon Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Young, when called, explained the circumstances leading up to the purchase of the property. He had had, he said, no information other than that provided in the public reports and maps of the Province. He and Mr. M. J. O'Brien had made a tender of \$10,500 for a parcel known as A23. Their tender had been accepted.

Mr. Elliott—How much land was there in that parcel? A.—About twenty acres.

And what did you sell it for? Witness said that he had disposed of the property to Mr. James A. Brooke of Montreal for \$330,000. He had spent about \$3,500 on the property in the meantime, prospecting, trenching and testing veins.

In answer to a question by Mr. Elliott, Mr. Young said that he understood the Wyando Mining Company now owned the property. The member for Middlesex brought out the fact that the property had been purchased by Mr. Brooke for the syndicate composed of Messrs. Ogilvie, Hersey, Pringle and Mitchell, who formed the mining company.

Mr. Young explained that before the property had been sold to the syndicate they sent four engineers up to inspect it, and it was upon their recommendation that the sale was carried through. He said that when the property was purchased from the Government they were of the opinion that they had got a poor bargain, but after they had located several rich veins they were able to sell the property at the advanced price.

Mr. Elliott did not carry the examination further, and the witness was allowed to go.

The sale to the Hydro-electric Commission of two second-hand autos which had formerly belonged to Mr. P. W. Sothman, chief engineer of the commission, and to Mr. J. C. Beck, brother of the Minister of Power, was again gone into. Mr. Sothman was not examined further by Mr. J. C. Elliott, but to Mr. McGarry (Renfrew) he detailed the circumstances leading up to the transfer of his car to the commission. He submitted statements showing that he had spent \$686 in having the car repaired after he had purchased it, and had put about one hundred dollars' worth of work upon it personally. His car and the Beck car had been sold to the Automobile & Supply Company for \$3,200, or \$1,600 each, and immediately turned over to the commission at the same price, according to a previous understanding. He had paid \$1,250 for his car in the first place.

Mr. Elliott called Mr. Armstrong, Assistant Provincial Secretary, whom he questioned as to a license issued to Mr. Sothman. The books showed a license issued to the chief engineer for a Rambler car, which Mr. Sothman earlier in the inquiry said he had never owned.