

ant position from the standpoint of industrial development than the Vancouver reserve, the Songhees property was sought by the citizens of Victoria for 45 years. **The property was valued at \$2,500,000.** Over 20 resolutions urging government action were passed at different times by the legislature, and strenuous efforts were made by **the Hon. William Templeman and other Liberal representatives** in the Laurier administration to persuade the Indians to move. **They all failed.**

Then Sir Richard McBride made a contract with J. S. H. Matson that if he would persuade the Indians to move the government would pay him a five per cent. commission on the value of the reserve. Mr. Matson, through H. D. Helmcken, the Indians' best friend, **disbursed money among them and entertained them until he had won their confidence.** Finally they consented to sell and Mr. Matson was given his commission as agreed.

INDIANS WELL SATISFIED.

The government supplied the tribe with a much more fertile block of land for their new reserve and gave each Indian \$10,000 for his interest in the reserve and a sum representing the value of the house which he vacated. The Indians told the investigating committee which heard the above facts that they were well satisfied with their new home. H. D. Helmcken, who assisted Mr. Matson in influencing the Indians, was also given a fee for his services, and the Liberals contended that Mr. Matson was entitled to nothing as Helmcken had done the work. It was pointed out, however, that **Mr. Helmcken had endeavoured to assist every other effort to remove the Indians without success,** so that he was not the deciding factor.

The charge that portions of the commission found their way back to members of the government was **absolutely disproved** by the production by Mr. Matson and Chief Cooper of the Indians of records of the expenditure of their money.

DARED NOT LAY A CHARGE.

An attempt to follow the money through third and fourth parties was resisted by the witnesses, but the chairman of the committee ruled that if Mr. Brewster would lay **a specific charge,** he could go as far as he pleased in an effort to prove it. In a court where he was called upon to prove his statement, however,