

eral of this province stand beside me on the same charge. (Laughter and applause.)

Peculiar Admissions.

Remember that those six and a half lines for which the action is taken, state that Mr. Alexander Lucas was compelled to resign from his post of travelling assessor "in December, 1909, on account of neglect of his duties, and a timber deal by which he pocketed about \$10,000. He had left his post and journeyed to Vancouver, in spite of repeated refusals of leave of absence to put through the deal." Quite naturally Mr. Lucas does not agree with us upon all these details (laughter) else he would not have started an action for libel. He point-blank denies that he was compelled to resign by the commission, or that his resignation was even discussed with its members when they met him in Nelson. But immediately after this he makes some peculiar admissions. He was asked—"Did they make any objections to your leaving your post at Nelson and journeying to Vancouver?" Ans. No, never a word.

Q. Had you received any complaints from your department as regards that? Ans.—Occasionally I would have a letter finding fault with my leaving without leave of absence.

Q. Yes? A. I think two or three times in 8 or 9 years.

Q. Would there be any objection to your coming to Vancouver?

A. Coming to Vancouver? Yes. That was the objection that I had from Mr. Tatlow, and from Mr. McKilligan as representing Mr. Tatlow.

Q. Mr. McKilligan would be rather the head of that department at Victoria, would he? A. Yes, he was my immediate superior officer.

Q. And did you keep any copies of your reply? A. No.

Q. You think that not more than three of such letters were written to you? A. Three or four, I don't recollect any more.

Q. Well, would it be unfair to say that there might be possibly as many as half a dozen? A. Oh, yes, there might be, yes.

Q. It would not take you by surprise if there were half a dozen or a dozen?

A. Well, a dozen would surprise me, yes.

Q. How does it come that there was need of so many? Did you uphold the position that you were taking of leaving, or were you justified? A. How do you mean?

Understanding with Sir Richard.

Q. Well, supposing on letter number one being written to you saying that

you have left when you should not, how was it that there was need of letter number two? Did you say "I have not done wrong"? A. I don't think there would be any more than three or four, when I really left, you see. I have applied for leave when I did not get leave of absence. Now I had an understanding, or I explained the matter to Sir Richard McBride, and I had his authority to leave when I wanted to, so long as I would account for the time.

Q. So your understanding was with the premier? A. Yes.

Q. So, therefore, you could disregard Captain Tatlow and Mr. McKilligan? A. I could, but I did not wish to.

Q. Well, without breaking faith? A. Yes, I would be in good standing with the government even if I did. (Laughter.)

Q. And did they accept that as a sufficient excuse? A. Mr. Tatlow wrote me a letter stating he did not remember it. I had some understanding with Mr. Tatlow.

Q. Yes? A. But he said he did not remember making it.

Q. Yes? A. Then afterwards I saw him and had a conversation with him.

Q. And what was the result of the conversation? A. The result of it was that he said it was all right, only it was a bad example to set to the other members of the civil service, and he did not approve of it.

Q. And to your immediate superior Mr. McKilligan?

A. I don't remember. He said if I would apply he would always recommend it, and I would get it; and it was only a matter of form anyway.

Q. He said that in a letter? A. No, that would be in a conversation.

Q. And he understood that the justification was your arrangement with Sir Richard McBride? A. He understood that was what I claimed.

Q. Did he agree to that? A. I don't know whether he did or not, but I suppose he did. It did not make any difference to me. (Laughter.)

Q. It did not make any difference to you? A. No.

Q. And Mr. McKilligan could go his own way about it? A. Sure. (Laughter.)

Journeys to Vancouver.

Q. Now, was one of these journeys to Vancouver made in regard to the timber deal? A. No.

Q. None of them? A. Not that I can think of.

Q. Well, you were absent in regard to the timber deal? A. Yes, but I think I had leave of absence every time in connection with that. I was