

## The Royal Commission

**A Lengthy Repetition of Questions Asked Premier By Mr. Gault**

### Adjournment Reached Before Cross Examination of Wit- ness Is Finished

At yesterday morning's session of the Royal Commission investigating the Curtis' charges of fraud and corruption, the examination of Premier Dunsmuir was continued, and led on through countless

came not from the witness, but from the cross-examiner himself in a quasi admission that the purport of the morning's questioning related to politics rather than the charges of fraud. The tediousness of the proceedings was occasionally enlivened by brief passages between the

of the persistence of the latter in matters trenching on the policy of the government, and the opinions and private business of the Hon. Mr. Dumsuir. Little new information was elicited, the morning's work being largely devoted to repetition.

witness admitted that he had heard Hon. Col. Prior's speech at the Saturday night meeting just before the recent election, and corroborated the Colonel's statement that the Canadian Northern contract was being held back by Mr. Green-

was not an absolute one, as another independent road could be built down the island. He had offered Messrs. Macenzie & Mann the Cape Scott charter or nothing if they would but make Victoria their terminus. There was no

... he had been willing too to let them have running powers over the E. & N. track if they did not buy it. But they were not bound down to the E. & N., that line could be paralleled down and need be by another road. If the E. & N. were not purchased by the Pro-

parallel the line. He was not a party to the new charter now being sought in the Legislature, but refused point blank to answer Mr. Curtis' questions as to what was the attitude of the government towards this charter.

at the commissioner upheld the Premier in refusing to disclose the policy of the government. That should be announced to the House, and Mr. Curtis must be content to wait for it there. Mr. Curtis then cross-examined Hon.

at this and some other parts of Mr. Munro's public letters to Ottawa regarding better terms. These, the Premier re-asserted while admitting that none of the railway companies would

the plan of granting land subsidies.

investigation, and that while he was apparently permitting all kinds of irrelevant questions, he had no intention whatever of forcing the witness to answer them. This led Mr. Curtis to make a dramatic speech, in the course of which he

charges regarding Mr. Greenshields, and had no doubt but that he would have equal success with the others. He then devoted a long time to the question of the relative costs of construction of the V. & B. and the Canadian Northern

At some parts of the latter might cost \$20,000 a mile, while \$30,000 a mile might build the rest, but these were merely conjectural figures.

to the waste of time, when the commissioner replied that he did not want to know what the policy was. He wanted to hear something about the charges of moral fraud for some time back nothing but politics had been

use could decide on those issues. Mr. Harris then tried to cross-examine the premier upon his opinion of the open markets to Ottawa, and portions of their contents, and could only get the answer: "It's none of your business," to which

dr. Curtis persisting, the Premier  
d that he was getting tired of such  
estions. They did not affect the  
anges. He had nothing to hide in  
e matter, but did not think that he  
ould answer any more such questions.

His Lordship, but was told that the business could not be committed for refusing to answer such questions as he is putting.

Mr. Cassidy here suggested that it was that Mr. Curtis should go into the

some evidence himself. It is sure-  
time for the accuser to begin to prove  
charges. At present it looked as  
ough campaign materials were all that  
sought.

n reply Mr. Curtis stated that he was

Mr. Cassidy—Then we know at last the reason of your bringing these charges.

he cross-examination then turned to the probable value of the land grant on the road was put through, but witness did not know just what could

happens live. Townsites might run up \$5.00 an acre. A lot of it would not be worth anything. He had no idea of an average price. Mr. Curtis persisted at great length in pressing this question, but with no further results. Of the 2,000,000 acres of the P. &

1,000 acres had been sold, but the business did not consider that the price was any of Mr. Curtis' business. They had not brought \$10 an acre. What he could make for the 1,800,000 acres left was not Mr. Curtis' business either, but would even sell it for him.

Mr. Curtis business. Upon these  
Mr. Curtis spent quite a long  
time, putting the same questions over  
and over again until the Commissioner  
informed him that he had no right to  
raise into a question.

Mr. Dunnair then stated that the highest price he had ever got was an acre for fine timber land. Mr. Curtis then said that he intended to go over the conditions in the Canadian Northern railway contract, and

Before the Commission arose. Hon. Prentice placed in evidence the voucher for the payment of the \$2,000 Mr. Greenshields for his services to