

# LIVELY EXCHANGES AT THE POLICE PROBE

## Commr. Gunn and Ex-Inspector Stephen Clash on Bolshevism.

A short, breezy session of the Royal Commission inquiring into police matters was held to-day. It was understood that Mr. B. W. Es-sery would present the argument in the Ellis case, but the commission was informed that he would not be ready until to-morrow afternoon.

The best part of to-day's session was taken up by the examination of ex-Inspector James Stephens with regard to the snowshovelling incident sworn to by P. C. Parker. Several sharp exchanges occurred between Commissioner Gunn and the witness. The commissioner took strong exception to some of the statements of Mr. Stephens with regard to Bolshevism and the Trades and Labor Congress. He also said that some of the things mentioned by the witness

In honor of the return of the C. M. R. the commission decided not to sit this afternoon and adjourned until 2.30 to-morrow.

**"Bolshevik Spirit in Force."**

Ex-Inspector James Stephens said that P. C. Parker had stated what was not true. No such incident took place. He lived on D'Arcy street for 30 years, but for the last 12 years he had not lived on the street. He deeded his house over to the wife. He left the force almost as poor as he entered it. All he was pleased to have when he left, and he had to fight for it, was a good name. Since he deeded the house over he had owned no real estate.

Mr. Stephens went on to express his views as a citizen on police matters. There was a spirit entirely wrong, which had infected the force. "I say it deliberately, that a Bolshevik spirit has entered the police force, and has played the devil with it."

P. C. Evans said that P. C. Parker's statement was that he left the Inspector's name with other names at the station; but that he never stated he had summoned Mr. Stephens.

Witness had never told Parker he was a fool for putting his Inspector's name on the list. He did not recollect finding another job for Parker after the snow incident.

**"Strike That Out."**

"I don't know you except through the fierce light in which you have been living," said the former Inspector to P. C. Evans. "You never served under me, but I consider your usefulness on the force has gone."

Sir William: "No, no, strike that out."

P. C. Evans: "What is your idea of Bolshevism?"

"As I understand it Bolshevism is, I think the idea of taking anything in sight thought it be another person's property—everything belonging to them if you think fit."

P. C. Evans: "Point to one place in this inquiry where the police have been wanting to take anything they were not entitled to?"

Witness added that some of them were trying to usurp the places of their superiors.

P. C. Evans: "No, no."

Witness: "That is my opinion, and I think I am right."

**What is Bolshevism?**

"I don't want to argue the question of Bolshevism," snapped Mr. Stephens.

P. C. Evans: "You should not have raised the point if you did not want to argue." "I don't want to argue it with you, anyhow."

P. C. Evans: "No, because my views are very much different to yours."

Commissioner Gunn: "Did you ever read anything of the constitution of the Trades and Labor Congress?" "No, I never did."

"Do you know anything of its purposes?" "Sometimes when I had nothing better to do I might have read scraps of them."

Witness added there was a certain element among them he did not like.

Commissioner Gunn: "You have made statements which are slander on all the constables."

Witness: "I am entitled to my opinions the same as Mr. Gunn."

**Clashes With Gunn.**

Pressed further as to his views on organized labor witness retorted sharply: "I don't want to express any opinion on the question."

Com. Gunn: "You come here and make slanderous statements and then when you are questioned you refuse to answer. That is unfair, very unjust."

Sir William: "He didn't say he refused to answer."

Witness said he did not know that the Methodist and Anglican Churches had approved the work of the Trades and Labor Congress.

Commissioner Gunn again objected to the broad statements made by the witness.

"I didn't come here to be lectured by Commissioner Gunn," retorted Mr. Stephens. "I resent that."

P. C. Annis was then called with reference to the snow incident. He said he remembered P. C. Parker putting in Inspector Stephens' name for a summons. He recalled that the inspector had called Parker a fool, and said he had no right to be a policeman.

At this stage Sir William said the whole thing was too trivial, and a lot of money was being wasted inquiring into it, and the matter then dropped.