

as "the most damnable thing that has ever occurred in the history of Canada," if it could not be substantiated. "Shameless and damnable!" Mr. Waldron added, as if to give greater force to his indignation. Major Lewis was present at the time, but made no comment, and a few seconds later, when he was invited to put any questions to Mr. Backus, he declined.

Backus Makes Denial.

The incident occurred just as the adjournment was about to take place. Mr. E. W. Backus was called to the witness stand after luncheon and gave a categorical denial to the suggestions which had been made that he knew anything about Huston's death. He declared that he had no contract of any kind with the deceased man, but that Huston was in his employ purely on a salary basis of \$250 per month. As a wind-up to his examination of Mr. Backus Mr. Waldron read the following extract from the report of Major Lewis' speech: "There was one man with whom he had been in a business deal—I do not say that man was responsible for his death—but I do say there was one man in whose interest it was to secure the papers he was supposed to have on him." He asked Mr. Backus what he had to say concerning it.

Without Foundation.

"I do not believe," said Mr. Backus, slowly and deliberately, "that words can sufficiently answer that. I think that is the most outrageous, scandalous charge and innuendo to be spoken, particularly in a position where the man cannot be reached by law, and I feel very, very much chagrined that in Canada a thing like that can occur. I repeat, it is the most scandalous suggestion that I ever knew to be made. The whole cloth has nothing behind it in any shape or form to justify it."

"Well," exclaimed Mr. Waldron, "I am constrained to use care in what I state, but if this cannot be substantiated, then I say it is the

most damnable thing that has ever occurred in the history of Canada—shameless and damnable!"

"Well," said Mr. Backus, "it will not be substantiated. You can put it right down as a fact that it cannot be substantiated in any way—not even in the slightest degree."

Mr. Backus added that if there had been any friction between Capt. Huston and any of the officials in witness' employ, those in the office would not have been likely to have advanced him \$500 when he (Huston) told a hard-luck story, and when his account was already overdrawn.

Declines Invitation.

Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, K.C., representing Mr. Backus, invited Major Lewis to ask that gentleman any questions; but Major Lewis said he did not think he would do so.

"Are you satisfied with Mr. Backus' statements?" asked Mr. Waldron of Major Lewis.

"Well, I don't want to answer that," replied Major Lewis with a smile.

Mr. Hellmuth said he would take up that point when he cross-examined Major Lewis at a later sitting.

"It appears to begin to look to me, Mr. Lewis," said Mr. Waldron, "that a little touch of good sense would clear up this storm. Of course, it can only be with the assent of you and those associated with you."

"I would like Mr. Waldron to correct that," interrupted Major Lewis. "So far as I am concerned, there is no one associated with me."

The incident then closed and the inquiry was adjourned until next Tuesday.

A feature of Saturday's proceedings was the presence of Mr. R. T. Harding, K.C., who was alleged, in Major Lewis' speech, to have seen Inspector Jeffery before that officer went to Fort Frances to investigate the Huston tragedy.

Mr. Harding, who came forward voluntarily to offer any assistance, swore that he did not know of Inspector Jeffery, even by name, and, consequently, could not have known of Jeffery going to Fort Frances to investigate the Huston affair. "I never knew of it until I saw it in the paper," he said. "I think I

MONDAY, MAY 8.

BACKUS DENIES BEING IN CABAL

Mr. Gordon Waldron, K.C., counsel for the Crown, gave a dramatic touch to the finish of Saturday's proceedings of the MacIntosh Commission of Inquiry into the death of Capt. Orville Huston by denouncing a statement made by Major Lewis, M.P.P. for Northeast Toronto, concerning Mr. E. W. Backus, in a recent speech in the Legislature,