

SURAT LAND COURT.

CHARGE OF FAKING A BALLOT.

FINDING OF THE ROYAL COMMISSIONER.

A LAND RANGER SUSPENDED.

Mr. P. B. Macgregor (barrister) was recently given a commission to inquire into allegations made against Mr. Emile Auguste Tardent, Land Ranger at Surat, that he was guilty of faking ballots for portions 3 and 4, parish of Donga, at a sitting of the Land Commissioner's Court at Surat on November 5 last. Mr. Macgregor visited Surat, and took exhaustive evidence.

The allegation was made that Tardent had stated that he faked the ballot so that Johann Wilhelm Henning should secure portion 3, and Sarah Juchau should obtain portion 4, these being the winners of the ballots.

The cases were the subject of appeals at Roma, where the allegations were made before Hon. Dr. Kidston, sitting in the Land Court.

Mr. Macgregor's report, which covered 38 pages, and exhaustively reviewed the evidence, was handed to the Minister for Lands (Hon. J. M. Hunter) yesterday. Subsequently Mr. Hunter stated that Mr. Macgregor had reported that the evidence was sufficient to satisfy him that Tardent faked the ballot in the case of Henning, and that there was a reasonable suspicion that something was done in the case where Juchau succeeded. Mr. Hunter added that he had notified Tardent that he would be suspended pending action by the Public Service Board.