

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

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VICTORIA, April 25th, 1890.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Committee on Public Accounts, to whom was referred their last report for explanation and detail, herewith submit the following addenda :—

That, with reference to the advances to Mr. Roycraft, referred to in the ninth paragraph of the report, such advances were for the public service, and in due course; and that as to the advance of one hundred dollars, mentioned in the next paragraph of the same report, such sum was to defray his expenses to Granite Creek, whither he was ordered on police business. That a requisition for three hundred dollars was applied for on 10th July; that, on account of the urgency of the occasion, Mr. Roycraft having to leave shortly after, the sum of one hundred dollars was paid on the 16th July, and the Governor's warrant was signed on the 23rd July.

That the sum of eighty-six dollars, as shown in the report as remaining in the hands of Mr. Roycraft on the 30th June, should read sixty dollars, the twenty-six dollars having been collected by him in July; and that the discrepancy of the sixty dollars, as belonging to his June account, was not known until the books were audited on the 8th of August following, and consequently did not appear to his debit on the 30th June, but now appears in the Treasury books, and included in the amount charged to him as revenue in his hands unaccounted for up to the date of his departure from the Province.

That, with reference to the cash advances to the heads of departments, such advances, when made, have been invariably for strictly departmental purposes and under proper warrant, and have been duly accounted for, and, in making them, the usual and regular course has been followed.

Regarding the accounts of the Lands and Works Department, the same method of checking their accounts has been followed as existed in the year 1879, when the present Auditor, Mr. McB. Smith, assumed office;—that previous to the year 1879, from Confederation, the Lands and Works Department was its own cashier and paid many of its own bills, and on account of that plan an audit was then more desirable than now, or from 1879, since which time no bills have been paid by the Department.

It appears that a copy of the entries in the cash book are furnished by the Surveyor-General to the Auditor once a month, and that he checks the copy with the stubbs of the receipt—all receipt books being delivered from the Treasury and a record kept of them—and that the original cash book is at all times open to the Auditor, who occasionally examines it.

That no money is advanced by the Treasury to the Lands and Works Department, but that when an advance is required it takes the form of a cheque to the order of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works or Surveyor-General, and endorsed by them.

S. DUCK, *Chairman.*
GEO. B. MARTIN.
JOSEPH MASON.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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MINORITY REPORT.

SECOND REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The undersigned members of the Public Accounts Committee beg leave to report:—

That with reference to the First Report submitted on 31st March, 1890, by Mr. Duck as Chairman, that there is nothing to correct except the substitution of sixty dollars for eighty-six dollars in the two paragraphs which refer to the sum collected in June, 1889, by H. B. Roycraft, and which he had not paid into the Treasury at the end of the fiscal year, 30th June, 1889; that the above change does not in any way affect the question involved, viz.: that a collector of revenue successfully retained cash, and the balance sheet and the Public Accounts, as placed before the Legislature, did not show any sum as in his hands.

That this error of twenty-six dollars in the First Report arose through the officers in the Treasury Department inadvertently giving the Committee the wrong figures, which, however, did not in any way change the totals or the principle involved.

That with regard to cash advances made by the Treasury Department to the Departments of Lands and Works, Attorney-General, and Provincial Secretary, the language used in the First Report shows that the advances are departmental, and not for private or personal purposes.

That with regard to the cash advance of one hundred dollars made to H. B. Roycraft on 16th July, 1889, by the Treasury, that the sum was paid to him illegally. The warrant authorizing the payment was not approved by the Lieutenant-Governor until seven days after the cash was paid.

That an audit of the revenue cash books and the book of receipts and expenditure in the Lands and Works Department was made from January, 1873, to 1876, inclusive, and possibly from 1st July, 1871, to 31st December, 1872, but that those books in the department do not appear to have been audited since that time by the Provincial Auditor, but copies of the revenue cash book (Form J) have been sent every month to the Treasury and audited by that officer, since some date in 1879.

That the account of expenditure upon public works by the Lands and Works Department since the latter part of 1878 has been kept in the Treasury and regularly audited.

That cash advances are made from the Treasury to the Lands and Works Department for a portion of the expenditure upon public works, but a book showing the sum so advanced, and its expenditure, is not kept in the Lands and Works Department, but the vouchers received in repayment of the advances so made are brought to account direct at the Treasury.

That it would be better to keep a separate account book, showing the receipt of these advances and the disposition of the money thus obtained. The total amount of such advances for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1889, was fifteen hundred dollars.

That the total amount of revenue received at the Treasury through the Lands and Works Department for the year ending 30th June, 1889, is \$103,885.19.

That the total amount of cash advanced to the Attorney-General's Department for the year ending 30th June, 1889, is \$11,458.13, but the present Attorney-General says that since he has been in office only \$100, so far as he recollects, has been advanced from the Treasury.

That the total amount of cash advanced by the Treasury to the Provincial Secretary's Department for the year ending 30th June, 1889, is \$1,824.75.

That a return prepared by the Auditor, showing the bonds given by heads of Departments from 1879 to 1890, inclusive, shows that the present heads of Departments do not give any security. That this is a violation of section 2 of the "Civil Service Act."

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT BEAVEN,
JOHN GRANT.

25th April, 1890.

VICTORIA, B. C.

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