

# REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON DRAINAGE, DYKING AND IRRIGATION BILL.

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The Committee to whom was referred the Dyking, Drainage and Irrigation Bill, beg leave to report as follows :

They met at the Hon. Mr. McCreight's rooms, on January 20th inst.

Present—Messrs. McCreight, Booth, Barnston, Robinson, DeCosmos and Armstrong.

On motion of Mr. McCreight, Mr. DeCosmos was appointed Chairman.

Mr. Barnston moved, and Mr. Armstrong seconded,—“That the Bill entitled ‘An Act to extend the ‘Public Works Act, 1872,’ and to promote the Drainage and Dyking and Irrigation of Lands in British Columbia,’ be divided into two parts, and that Section one to Section twenty-one inclusive, with necessary amendments, be made into one Bill, entitled “An Act to Amend the ‘Public Works Act, 1872.’”

Carried—Ayes, 4; Noes, 1.

Mr. Barnston moved, seconded by Mr. Booth,—“That the Committee report to the House the above resolution.”

Carried—Ayes, 4; Noes, 1.

Mr. Booth moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson,—“That a Dyking and Drainage Bill, embracing the following provisions, be recommended to the House:—

“1. That where the land is wholly owned by private parties, Dyking and Drainage may be managed by the appointment of Commissioners elected by two-thirds of the land-owners interested, with power to assess and collect enough to build and repair Dykes and Drains, &c.

“2. That where one-third or less of any land is owned by the Government, the Government may appoint one Commissioner to act with Commissioners appointed by the owners of the remaining two-thirds of the land; and such Commissioners shall manage the building and repair of Dykes and Drains, and have power to assess and collect money for the same.

“3. Where, as in the two last mentioned Sections, the voluntary principle of Dyking and Drainage obtains, and the owners of land to be Dyked and Drained raise one-third of the money necessary for Dyking and Draining the same, the Governor in Council may guarantee, if he thinks it to be advisable, the interest on the remaining two-thirds of the money, and, in case of default on the part of the land-owners in paying the interest, the Governor in Council to have power to assess and collect from the land a sufficient sum to meet the interest, &c.

“4. Government to take lands to Dyke and Drain (where the land is wholly, or nearly so, owned by the Government) in manner described in Dyking and Drainage, and Irrigation Bill referred to Committee.

“5. Government to have power to grant lands to persons or companies as a bonus for Dyking or Draining, and Irrigating the same.

“6. To provide power to pass drains through a neighbor's land, although objection has been made by the latter.”

All of the above is respectfully submitted.

A. DECOSMOS, *Chairman.*