

Saturday, 27th May, 1916.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. E. G. Miller.

Mr. Watson presented the Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee, as follows:—

REPORT No. 2.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
May 27th, 1916.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts beg leave to report as follows:—

Investigation of the Songhees Reserve.

An Order in Council was produced, dated October 10th, 1911. This document provided that H. Dallas Helmcken, K.C., was to receive \$30,000 and J. S. H. Matson \$75,000 for their services in connection with the disposition of the Songhees Reserve.

It was disclosed that the Songhees Reserve matter had been investigated by a Public Accounts Committee in February, 1913, but apparently no Report had been presented to the House.

Evidence went to show that all parties agreed that this blot, almost in the centre of the City of Victoria, should be removed. Various methods were sought to this end, extending over a period of about twenty-five years. Resolutions passed in the Legislature from the years 1890 to 1902, amounting in number to twenty in all, were filed, showing the necessity and need of the question being settled for the benefit of Victoria, but always, after a certain amount of progress had been made, some obstacle arose to prevent a satisfactory conclusion, the Indians themselves seeming to be the chief hindrance.

The evidence of the Rev. C. M. Tate, the missionary who had knowledge of the entire situation for thirty-five years, was to the effect that, in his opinion, the Indians did not receive sufficient remuneration for the surrender of their rights, and he placed the value of the property at \$3,000,000.

It was apparent from the evidence that Mr. Matson made very considerable disbursements, amounting to at least \$30,000, from his own pocket in connection with this transaction, with no assurance of recompense should the transaction prove abortive.

On the whole evidence it was shown that no part of the \$75,000 paid to Mr. Matson, or the \$30,000 paid to Mr. Helmcken, found its way into any channel or source of a political or public nature, or was used for political or improper purposes, either directly or indirectly.

The evidence of the Indians was to the effect that the tribe generally were satisfied with the bargain made.

HARRY H. WATSON,
Chairman.

The report was received.

Bill (No. 43) intituled "An Act respecting Shipping and to make Provision for Aid to the Ship-building Industry in the Province of British Columbia" was read a third time and passed.

The Report on Bill (No. 88) intituled "An Act intituled the 'British Columbia Prohibition Act'" was considered.

Mr. Pooley moved in amendment, That the Report be not adopted; and, further, that prohibition involving destruction and loss of property and business and loss of capital invested in industrial and manufacturing establishments, without providing fair and reasonable compensation, ought not at the present time be dealt with by any Public Bill.

Negatived.

Report adopted.

Third reading at the next sitting.

Bill (No. 66) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Fire Insurance Act'" was again committed.

Report to be considered at the next sitting.

Bill (No. 86) intituled "An Act to enable Soldiers serving in the Present War to exercise their Electoral Franchise" was again committed.

Reported with amendments.

Report adopted.

Third reading at the next sitting.

The following Bills were read a second time, and *Ordered* to be committed at the next sitting:—

Bill (No. 96) intituled "An Act to ratify an Agreement between His Majesty the King and the French's Complex Ore Reduction Company, Limited."

Bill (No. 94) intituled "An Act to amend an Act intituled 'An Act to confer certain Powers upon the Lieutenant-Governor in Council respecting Contracts relating to Land.'"

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until eight o'clock p.m. to-day.

And then the House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

Saturday, 27th May, 1916.

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion to receive the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

On the motion of Mr. *Williams*, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

The Hon. the Premier presented a Return of copies of all guarantees given by the Province in respect of bonds or other securities of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company and of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock p.m. on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 12 o'clock midnight.

Monday, 29th May, 1916.

THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. F. T. Tapscott.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion to receive the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

The House divided, and the question was *Resolved* in the affirmative on the following division:—

YEAS—28.

Messieurs

<i>Shaw,</i>	<i>Jackson,</i>	<i>Shatford,</i>	<i>Taylor,</i>
<i>Fraser,</i>	<i>Cawley,</i>	<i>Thomson,</i>	<i>Young,</i>
<i>MacKenzie,</i>	<i>Caven,</i>	<i>Schofield,</i>	<i>Macgowan,</i>
<i>Lucas,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>	<i>McGuire,</i>
<i>MacLean,</i>	<i>Bowser,</i>	<i>Manson, Wm. J.,</i>	<i>Mackay,</i>
<i>Forster, H. E.,</i>	<i>Manson, Wm.,</i>	<i>Ross,</i>	<i>Davey,</i>
<i>Miller,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>	<i>Campbell,</i>	<i>Bchnsen.</i>

NAYS—4.

Messieurs

<i>Place,</i>	<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Brewster,</i>	<i>Macdonald, M. A.</i>
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On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Bowser*, the Order for the third reading of Bill (No. 88) intituled "An Act intituled the 'British Columbia Prohibition Act'" was discharged, and the Bill *Ordered* to be recommitted, and that the Committee be instructed to consider the following proposed amendments:—

To amend section 15, subsection (1), lines 7 and 8, by striking out the words "in a quantity not to exceed two gallons at any one time."

To amend section 57, subsection (2), by striking out the subsection, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:—

"(2.) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to interfere—

"(a.) With the right of any person to import from without the Province liquor for bona-fide use in his private dwelling-house:

"(b.) With the right of any minister of the gospel to import from without the Province wine for sacramental purposes:

"(c.) With the right of any two or more ministers of the gospel to purchase from a vendor, under the written request signed by any of them, or to import from without the Province and to keep in common stock in any place or places whatsoever, or to use, divide, or distribute between or among themselves, wine for sacramental purposes in such quantities and in such manner as they may think fit."

Carried.

Bill recommitted accordingly.

Reported with amendments.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 86) intituled "An Act to enable Soldiers serving in the Present War to exercise their Electoral Franchise" was read a third time and passed.

The Report on Bill (No. 66) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Fire Insurance Act'" was adopted.

Third reading at the next sitting.

Bill (No. 91) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Provincial Elections Act'" was again committed.

Reported with amendments.
Report to be considered at the next sitting.

Bill (No. 90) intituled "An Act to extend the Electoral Franchise to Women" was committed.

Reported without amendment.
Report adopted.
Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 92) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Liquor Licence Act'" was committed.

Reported with amendments.
Report adopted.
Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 95) intituled "An Act to provide for a Weekly Half-holiday for Store Clerks" was committed.

Reported with amendments.
Report to be considered at the next sitting.

Bill (No. 96) intituled "An Act to ratify an Agreement between His Majesty the King and the French's Complex Ore Reduction Company, Limited" was committed.

Reported without amendment.
Report adopted.
Bill read a third time and passed.

The Hon. Mr. *Ross* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:—

F. S. BARNARD,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to authorize the Grant of certain Public Lands in the District of Kootenay to the Government of the Dominion of Canada," and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
May 29th, 1916.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House, recommending the introduction of a Bill (No. 98) intituled "An Act to authorize the Grant of certain Public Lands in the District of Kootenay to the Government of the Dominion of Canada," a draft of which is annexed to this Resolution.

Resolution and Bill reported.
Bill introduced and read a first time.
On the second reading a debate arose, which was adjourned to the next sitting.

Mr. *Brewster* presented a petition from Colonel Henry Appleton, retired, praying for an investigation into the matter of the acquisition from the Crown by the Canadian Puget Sound Lumber Company of certain timber lands in Renfrew District, and for cancellation of the grant if fraud be shown.

Laid on the table.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until eight o'clock p.m. to-day.

And then the House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

Monday, 29th May, 1916.

FIVE MINUTES TO NINE O'CLOCK P.M.

The House proceeded to the Orders of the Day.

Bill (No. 66) intituled "An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Fire Insurance Act'" was read a third time and passed.

The Report on Bill (No. 91) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Provincial Elections Act'" was considered.

Mr. *Brewster* moved in amendment to add the following subsections to section 9:—

"(a.) In each city electoral district the Registrar of Voters shall arrange the affidavits referred to in section 14 of this Act, and file the same in consecutive order so as to correspond with the voters' list for each polling division or sub-polling division in such city electoral district:

"(b.) Whenever an election is being held in any city electoral district, the Registrar of Voters for such city electoral district shall furnish to the Returning Officer, and the Returning Officer shall furnish to the Presiding Officer in charge of each polling-station or subdivision of a polling-station, those affidavits referred to in subsection (a) of this section which correspond to the voters' list in use at such polling-station or subdivision of a polling-station:

"(c.) Should the Presiding Officer, after comparison of the signatures as in this section provided, not be satisfied that the person claiming to vote is entitled to vote, he shall refuse to allow such person to vote:

"(d.) No person claiming to vote shall be allowed to see the affidavit in support of such person's application to be placed upon the voters' list:

"(e.) The Presiding Officer shall place opposite the names of each person who signs the signature-book the number corresponding to such name as it appears upon the voters' list:

"(f.) Every Presiding Officer shall be responsible for the safe-keeping of and the return in good condition to the Returning Officer, and the Returning Officer shall be responsible for the safe return in good condition to the Registrar of Voters of the applications and the affidavits in support thereof which he has received from the said Registrar of Voters in pursuance of the provisions of subsection (b) of this section."

Negatived on the following division:—

YEAS—3.

Messieurs

Williams,

Brewster,

Macdonald, M. A.

NAYS—20.

Messieurs

Shaw,

Pooley,

Hunter,

Young,

Manson, Michael,

Bowser,

Manson, Wm. J.,

Macgowan,

Lucas,

Manson, Wm.,

Ross,

McGuire,

MacLean,

Cotton,

Campbell,

Mackay,

Forster, H. E.,

Schofield,

Taylor,

Behnen.

Mr. *Williams* moved to add the following new section as section 10 and renumber the succeeding section:—

"10. The said chapter 72 is further amended by adding the following as section 121A:—

"121A. Any woman, upon presenting to the officer in charge of any polling-station an affidavit duly attested, showing that she is the wife or the widowed mother of an elector who is absent from the Province as a member of His Majesty's Overseas Forces, then such woman

shall have all the rights that such absent elector is entitled to under this Act, but in such manner that first the wife (but in no case both wife and mother) may vote in lieu of said absent elector.'"

Negatived.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 94) intituled "An Act to amend an Act intituled 'An Act to confer certain Powers upon the Lieutenant-Governor in Council respecting Contracts relating to Land'" was committed.

Reported without amendment.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The Report on Bill (No. 95) intituled "An Act to provide for a Weekly Half-holiday for Store Employees" was adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the second reading of Bill (No. 98) intituled "An Act to authorize the Grant of certain Public Lands in the District of Kootenay to the Government of the Dominion of Canada."

Bill read a second time and committed.

Reported without amendment.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 93) intituled "An Act for the Protection of Volunteers serving in the Forces raised by the Government of Canada in Aid of His Majesty and of other Persons" was read a second time and committed.

Reported with amendments.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. *Brewster* asked the Hon. the Minister of Railways the following questions:—

1. On what portions of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway will the moneys loaned by the Government be expended?
2. What is the approximate amount which will be expended upon each of such sections?

The Hon. Mr. *Taylor* replied as follows:—

"1. Between Vancouver and Prince George.

"2. It is not possible to answer this question definitely at this time, but the moneys will be applied to the best advantage."

Mr. *Brewster* asked the Hon. the Minister of Railways the following questions:—

1. Has the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company awarded the contract for the construction of their line of railway between Vancouver and Fort George (or Prince George) to P. Welch at unit prices and without any competitive tenders?

2. Will not the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company be obligated to complete the construction of their railway from Vancouver to Prince George according to the terms of the contract already existing?

The Hon. Mr. *Taylor* replied as follows:—

"1. Yes.

"2. Yes."

Mr. *M. A. Macdonald* asked the Hon. the Minister of Lands the following questions:—

1. In respect to applications to purchase Lots 738, 740, 741, 742, 743, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 834, 833, 835, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, and 850, Sayward District: Has any application been made for a return of any or all of the moneys paid to the Government, along with the applications to purchase?

2. If so, what action has been taken by the Government in respect to the return of any such moneys?

3. The Government having decided not to allow the completion of the sale of these lands, is it the intention of the Government to remove the charges for taxes thereon from the assessment roll?

4. What steps (if any) have been taken against the person who surveyed these lands, on account of his wrongful classification thereof?

5. At what date did the Government officials report that the above lots carried timber in excess of 8,000 feet to the acre?

6. At what date was a stop order made preventing the completion of the sale of these lands?

7. Has any application been made to the Government by any of the applicants to purchase any of the above-mentioned lands, for a reimbursement?

8. If so, what action has been taken, or is intended to be taken, in respect to such application?

9. What action (if any) has the Government taken, or does it intend to take, for the punishment of surveyors who wrongfully classify Crown lands?

10. What action (if any) does the Government intend to take for the cancellation of Crown grants obtained by fraud?

The Hon. Mr. *Ross* replied as follows:—

“1. No.

“2. Answered by No. 1.

“3, 4, 8, 9, and 10. These questions involve matters which are now receiving the attention of the Government.

“5. September 3rd, 1915.

“6. November 3rd, 1915.

“7. No.”

Bill (No. 97) intituled “An Act to secure the Better Training of Midwives and to regulate their Practice” was read a second time.

To be committed at the next sitting.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock p.m. to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 11.05 p.m.

Tuesday, 30th May, 1916.

QUARTER TO THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *John Campbell*, Ph.D.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Bowser*, seconded by the Hon. Mr. *Manson*, it was *Resolved*,—

That the Select Committee of the House appointed to investigate the alleged Vancouver election frauds shall to-day have power to sit and continue its proceedings during the time the House is in Session.

The Hon. Mr. *Bowser* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:—

F. S. BARNARD,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor returns to the House Bill (No. 43) intituled “An Act respecting Shipping and to make Provision for Aid to the Ship-building Industry in the Province of British

Columbia," and recommends amendment thereto by striking out subsections (b) and (c) of section 44 and relettering the remaining subsections in alphabetical order.

Government House,

May 30th, 1916.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House forthwith.

Pursuant to Order, the said Message and Bill were considered in Committee of the Whole. Bill reported with amendments.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The petition from Colonel Henry Appleton asking for an investigation into the matter of the acquisition by the Canadian Puget Sound Lumber Company of certain Crown lands in Renfrew District, and for cancellation of the grants if fraud be proved, was received.

Mr. Lucas presented a report from the Select Committee appointed to inquire into offences against the "Provincial Elections Act" during the late by-election at Victoria City, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,

VICTORIA, May 30th, 1916.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Committee appointed to inquire into offences against the "Provincial Elections Act" during the late by-election in Victoria City beg leave to report as follows:—

From the evidence submitted we make the following findings:—

(1.) Your Committee held fifteen meetings and examined ten witnesses. A verbatim report of the evidence is submitted herewith.

(2.) There were certain premises on Wharf Street, in the City of Victoria, occupied by Messrs. Slavin and McBride as a meeting-place for soldiers, and they had beer and sandwiches to give away.

(3.) That Mr. H. Wolverton, a soldier, met Mr. Slavin in the morning of the day of the election, and was invited by Mr. Slavin to enter the premises occupied by Messrs. Slavin and McBride; that he did so, and that he had a drink of beer; that he was in Slavin's company for about half an hour; that he was not canvassed by Slavin or any one else to vote for either of the candidates; that he was a Liberal and voted for the Liberal candidate that day.

(4.) That only soldiers or men in uniform were admitted to those premises.

(5.) That 4 gallons of Scotch whisky were delivered to Mr. McBride by the Hudson's Bay Company to certain premises on Wharf Street, but there was no evidence to show that that liquor was consumed on those premises.

(6.) That Mr. Moore, the Returning Officer, upon hearing of this place being open, informed the police and instructed them to take action if anything was being done contrary to the "Elections Act." Such action was immediately taken and the place was closed.

(7.) That Messrs. Slavin and McBride were arrested and finally brought before the Police Magistrate for a hearing, when an officer from the 67th Battalion appeared and asked the Police Magistrate to turn the men over to him for trial before a court-martial. The Police Magistrate granted the request and the men were turned over. It was shown that a similar action was taken with soldiers on former occasions, and that on this occasion the evidence proved conclusively that no influence was exercised with the Magistrate by the Attorney-General or his Department, or the Government in any way whatever; nor was the matter brought to the attention of the Attorney-General's Department at all.

(8.) That between twenty-five and thirty excursion tickets were purchased by Mr. Harry Price for the crew of the Government dredge "Ajax" from Nanaimo to Victoria and return on election-day, and that he paid for those tickets out of his own funds; that the tickets were handed to the men by Mr. Roberts, engineer of the dredge, without inquiring as to what their political affiliations were.

ALEX. LUCAS, *Chairman.*

The report was received.

Mr. *Williams* moved, seconded by Mr. *Place*.—

Whereas the matter of the issuance of gill-net licences restricted to certain waters and the system of cannery boat rating serves to place the fishermen in a position of peonage to the cannery interest:

And whereas the prohibition against motor-boats in certain areas is a restriction and a needless danger:

And whereas the refusal to grant cannery licences is a restriction on industry that serves only to enrich a favoured monopoly:

And whereas the Board advising the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries is not representative of the fishermen or public interest:

And whereas these and other unreasonable regulations and impositions operated to favour the alien, erect a monopoly, and prevent the founding of a fishing population or the upbuilding of the fishing industry in any true sense:

Therefore, be it Resolved, That an humble Address be presented through His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, praying that such changes be made in the Fisheries Regulations as will effect,—

(a.) That gill licences be issued to all applicants being citizens, and in such form as to remove the necessity for two or more licences in one season:

(b.) That the restriction on motor-boats in No. 2 District be removed:

(c.) That the system of cannery rating be discontinued, and all gill-net licences be issued to and on behalf and for the use of the applicant:

(d.) That cannery licences to issued to all applicants without restriction:

(e.) That the Fisheries Advisory Board be reconstructed in such manner as to give the fishermen and public representation thereon.

The Hon. Mr. *Manson* moved in amendment, seconded by the Hon. Mr. *Bowser*, to strike out all the words after the first word "Whereas," and insert the following in lieu thereof: "the Dominion Fishery Regulations governing salmon-fishing in District No. 2 during the past five years have been shown to have been successful in conserving the salmon fisheries in the waters of that district, which include the Skeena and Nass Rivers and Smith and Rivers Inlet:

"And whereas it has been demonstrated that the salmon fisheries of District No. 2 are the only salmon fisheries on the Pacific Coast of America, including Alaska waters, which are shown to be intelligently conserved and in a stable condition:

"And whereas the regulations governing salmon-fishing in District No. 2 during the past five years were based upon the findings and recommendations of Commissions sitting from 1905 to 1907 and in 1910:

"And whereas, under the existing policy of issuing independent licences, provision is made for the employment of all fishermen resident in the district, and such policy redounds to the encouragement of settlement on the lands contiguous to the salmon-fishing areas:

"And whereas it is believed that some changes in the fishing regulations of District No. 2 are necessary to meet the changing conditions in said district owing to increased settlement:

"Therefore, be it Resolved, That an humble Address be presented through His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Government of Canada, praying for the appointment of a Commission to investigate and report upon fishing conditions in District No. 2, with a view to recommending such changes as are deemed necessary."

Question proposed—"Shall the words proposed to be struck out stand part of the question?" and Resolved in the negative on the following division:—

YEAS—1.

Mr. *Williams*.

NAYS—19.

Messieurs

<i>Shaw,</i>	<i>Jackson,</i>	<i>Thomson,</i>	<i>Campbell,</i>
<i>Fraser,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Schofield,</i>	<i>Taylor,</i>
<i>MacKenzie,</i>	<i>Bowser,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>	<i>Young,</i>
<i>Manson, Michael,</i>	<i>Manson, Wm.,</i>	<i>Manson, Wm. J.,</i>	<i>Gifford,</i>
<i>Lucas,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>	<i>Ross,</i>	

Question proposed—" Shall the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the question?" and *Resolved* in the affirmative.

Resolution as amended passed.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock p.m. to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

Wednesday, 31st May, 1916.

FOUR O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. W. J. Flinton.

Mr. Miller presented a report from the Select Committee appointed to inquire whether or no the expenditure of \$300,000 in the purchase of the Kitsilano Reserve was authorized by the Legislative Assembly, and to inquire generally into all matters relating to the purchase of said reserve.

The said report is as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VICTORIA, May 31st, 1916.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Committee appointed to inquire into the purchase of the Kitsilano Indian Reserve beg leave to report as follows:—

Your Committee was composed of Messrs. Miller, Gifford, Shatford, Williams, and M. A. Macdonald, and held in all sixteen meetings. Every scope and latitude was given for the purpose of ascertaining the true status of the questions submitted to your Committee. In all, eleven witnesses were examined, and your Committee now beg leave to make the following findings:—

(1.) The Public Accounts have not in any way been falsified, but by reason of the change in the personnel of the Auditor-General from Mr. Anderson to Mr. Allison, the entry in the Public Accounts relating to the purchase price of the said reserve was not made in accordance with the plan now in vogue and put in force since the advent of Mr. Allison to the position of Auditor-General. In this connection no blame can be attached to Mr. Anderson or to Mr. Allison. The expenditure of the said moneys was made just prior to the date when Mr. Anderson ceased to be employed as Auditor-General, and the accounts were made up after the said Anderson had left the Department. No attempt was made to conceal the transaction, as appears by the evidence and by the fact that the matter of the purchase was at the time fully discussed and advertised in the Press of the Province.

(2.) The Province secured from the Indians the transfer of all their interests in the reserve for the sum of \$300,000, since which time, under arrangement with the Dominion, the said reserve is to be transferred to the Harbour Board, and an arbitration is to be held to determine the amount to be paid to the Province, which amount must not be less than the sum paid by the Province for the purchase of this reserve from the Indians—namely, the sum of \$300,000.

Out of the purchase price of the said reserve so paid as aforesaid by the Province, Mr. H. O. Alexander received the sum of \$79,050, out of which the said Alexander paid to Mr. Hamilton Read the sum of \$39,525. No sum, as far as your Committee could ascertain, was paid to Mr. Joseph Cole.

None of the moneys so paid were returned directly or indirectly to any member of the Government, nor to any member of the firm of Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge. In view of the reference to Mr. Hamilton Read in the preamble of the Resolution appointing this Committee, your Committee finds from the evidence submitted that neither the Government of the Province,

nor any member thereof, at any time dealt with Mr. Hamilton Read in reference to the purchase of the said reserve, but all such dealings were with Mr. H. O. Alexander; and further find that Mr. Hamilton Read was not in the employ of the law firm of Mr. Bowser, the Premier of British Columbia, nor had he any connection whatsoever with such firm at the time the said purchase was made, or for some period of time prior to said purchase.

Your Committee further find from the evidence that the said purchase by the Province and the removal of the Indians from the said reserve was of great public benefit and was conducted in a fair and proper manner, and that the purchase price was reasonable.

Your Committee beg leave to submit herewith a copy of the Resolution appointing your Committee, and a transcript of the evidence taken before your Committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ERNEST MILLER, *Chairman.*

The report was received.

Mr. Mackay presented a report from the Select Committee appointed to inquire into alleged frauds in connection with the by-election held in Vancouver on the 26th February last.

The report is as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VICTORIA, May 31st, 1916.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Committee appointed by Resolution of the House on the 27th of April last to inquire into alleged frauds in connection with the by-election held in Vancouver on the 26th February last begs to report as follows:—

Your Committee held its first meeting on the 28th April last, and the last meeting was held on this the closing day of this Session, twenty-six meetings in all being held. Fifty-five witnesses in all were examined, a number of them being from Seattle. From the evidence adduced before the Committee, your Committee beg to submit the following findings:—

(1.) That in connection with the said by-election in Vancouver a conspiracy to carry on personation on an extensive scale was entered into with the object of securing the election of the Liberal candidate.

(2.) That in pursuance of this conspiracy a large number of men were collected in Seattle and brought to Vancouver in separate groups and instructed to personate for Mr. M. A. Macdonald, the Liberal candidate.

(3.) That, in addition to the men brought from Seattle, groups of men were collected from the water-front and other places in Vancouver for the same purpose.

(4.) That all these various groups were brought to certain rooming-houses in Vancouver during election day, whence they were taken from time to time to various polls and instructed to personate for the Liberal candidate.

(5.) That the men brought from Seattle were paid \$10 and expenses each, and those collected in Vancouver \$10 each.

(6.) That all these men employed to personate were paid by J. T. Scott, or by those acting in his behalf.

(7.) That prior to election day lists for the purpose of facilitating personation were prepared by J. T. Scott and his assistants.

(8.) That for some time prior to the election J. T. Scott was employed by the organization committee of the Provincial Liberal Association, said committee being composed of Mr. M. A. Macdonald, Mr. James Stables, Mr. J. W. DeB. Farris, Mr. F. R. McB. Russell, and others.

(9.) That the said J. T. Scott and his assistants were paid their salary by the Provincial Liberal Association, of which Mr. M. A. Macdonald is President and Mr. A. M. Pound is Treasurer.

(10.) That for the purpose of personating each man was handed a card bearing the name, address, and occupation of the voter in whose name the personator was to vote.

(11.) That several thousands of these cards were prepared by Mr. Scott and his staff to carry out the scheme.

(12.) That a detective employed by Mr. M. A. Macdonald to investigate the methods of the Conservative organization appeared before the Committee and stated that he had investigated

said methods and had operators in the Conservative organization, and from the reports of his operators he came to the conclusion that no illegal practices had been carried on by the Conservatives.

(13.) That the witness H. H. Pearce, one of the employees in J. T. Scott's office, who was active in conveying personators to the polls on election day, was induced to go to Seattle by motor-car, where he was kept for three weeks, practically under duress, to prevent him from appearing before the Committee.

Your Committee, in view of the fact that some of the personal relations of the Liberal candidate with those who carried on the personation conspiracy are now in dispute and before the Courts, does not wish to make a finding on any of the evidence in this regard, preferring to leave to the country final judgment in this matter.

Your Committee recommends that the Attorney-General's Department continue the investigation carried on by the Committee for the purpose of bringing to justice those primarily responsible for the frauds committed at the said election.

A copy of the Resolution passed by the House appointing the Committee is appended hereto, and a copy of the evidence taken before the Committee is submitted herewith.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

NEIL F. MACKAY, *Chairman.*

The report was received.

The Hon. the Minister of Public Works presented the correspondence relating to an arrangement with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company for the use of the railway bridge across the Fraser River at Fort George by the public as an ordinary traffic bridge.

Mr. Speaker presented the Report of the Provincial Library for the year ended 31st March, 1916.

The Hon. the Minister of Public Works presented a Report of the Provincial Archives Department for the year ended 31st March, 1916.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until eight o'clock p.m. to-day.

And then the House adjourned at 4.15 p.m.

NINE O'CLOCK P.M.

Mr. Mackay presented a report from the Printing Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
May 31st, 1916.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Standing Committee on Printing beg leave to report as follows:—

That your Committee recommend that the following be printed:—

- (1.) The Report of the Commissioner of Fisheries for the year ending December 31st, 1915.
- (2.) The Report of the Provincial Librarian to March 31st, 1916.
- (3.) The Report of the Provincial Archives Department to March 31st, 1916.

NEIL F. MACKAY, *Chairman.*

The report was received.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor having entered the House, and being seated in the Chair,

Thornton Fell, K.C., the Clerk of the House, read the titles to the following Bills:—

- (No. 1) An Act to amend the "Interpretation Act."
- (No. 8) An Act to amend the "Municipal Act."
- (No. 12) An Act to amend the "Municipal Elections Act."
- (No. 13) An Act to provide for Free Grants to Pre-emptors in Active Service.
- (No. 15) An Act to provide Homesteads and Homestead Loans for Returned Soldiers.
- (No. 17) An Act to amend the "Constitution Act."

- (No. 18) An Act respecting the Department of Agriculture.
- (No. 19) An Act to amend the "Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital Act, 1890."
- (No. 22) An Act to facilitate the Execution of Trusts during the Present War.
- (No. 23) An Act to amend the "Revenue Act."
- (No. 26) An Act to amend the "Local Improvement Act."
- (No. 27) An Act to amend the "Trust Companies Act."
- (No. 28) An Act to amend the "Taxation Act."
- (No. 29) An Act to authorize the Grant of certain Lands to the Corporation of the City of Nanaimo.
- (No. 30) An Act to provide for Compensation to Workmen for Injuries sustained and Industrial Diseases contracted in the Course of their Employment.
- (No. 31) An Act to authorize the Sale to the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company of a Portion of the Former Songhees Indian Reserve.
- (No. 32) An Act to amend the "Companies Act."
- (No. 33) An Act to amend the "Companies Clauses Act."
- (No. 34) An Act to amend the "Bills of Sale Act."
- (No. 35) An Act to amend the "British Columbia Land Surveyors Act."
- (No. 36) An Act to amend the "Moving Pictures Act."
- (No. 37) An Act to amend the "British Columbia University Act."
- (No. 38) An Act to amend the "Benevolent Societies Act."
- (No. 39) An Act to amend the "British Columbia Railway Act."
- (No. 40) An Act to amend the "Forest Act."
- (No. 41) An Act to amend the "Succession Duty Act."
- (No. 43) An Act respecting Shipping and to make Provision for Aid to the Ship-building Industry in the Province of British Columbia.
- (No. 44) An Act to amend the "Kelp-reduction Works Licence Act."
- (No. 45) An Act to amend the "Medical Act."
- (No. 47) An Act to amend the "Shops Regulation Act."
- (No. 48) An Act to amend the "Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1900, Amendment Act, 1916."
- (No. 49) An Act to authorize the Issue of a Crown Grant to Lot 113, Group 1, Cariboo District.
- (No. 53) An Act to amend the "Nass and Skeena Rivers Railway Act, 1911."
- (No. 58) An Act to amend the "Sale of Goods Act."
- (No. 59) An Act to amend the "Administration Act."
- (No. 60) An Act to validate a certain Grant made by the Corporation of the City of Victoria in Aid of the Militia.
- (No. 61) An Act to amend the "Replevin Act."
- (No. 62) An Act respecting the Marking of Eggs.
- (No. 64) An Act to amend the "Fire-insurance Policy Act."
- (No. 65) An Act to amend the "Insurance Act."
- (No. 66) An Act to amend the "British Columbia Fire Insurance Act."
- (No. 67) An Act to amend the "Evidence Act."
- (No. 68) An Act to amend the "Execution Act."
- (No. 69) An Act to amend the "Law Stamp Act."
- (No. 70) An Act to amend "An Act to enable the Corporation of the City of Prince Rupert to issue Annuity Instalment or Serial Bonds, instead of Sinking Fund Debentures; and to provide for the Financing of the said City, both Permanent and Temporary, with regard to Present Actual Indebtedness, and to Permanently Finance with regard to Authorized but not Actual Indebtedness."
- (No. 71) An Act to amend the "Special Surveys Act."
- (No. 72) An Act to amend the "Land Registry Act."
- (No. 73) An Act to amend the "Burnaby-New Westminster Sewer Act."
- (No. 74) An Act to amend the "Saanich Municipality Act, 1915."
- (No. 75) An Act to amend the "Official Guardians Act."
- (No. 76) An Act for the Regulation of Creameries and Dairies.
- (No. 77) An Act to grant Special Aid for the Development of the Mining Industry of the Province.

- (No. 78) An Act for the Prevention of the Unauthorized Use of Certificates of Competency issued under the "Coal-mines Regulation Act."
- (No. 79) An Act to borrow the Sum of Ten million Dollars for the Purposes therein specified.
- (No. 80) An Act to amend the "Hospital Act."
- (No. 81) An Act to amend the "Vital Statistics Act."
- (No. 84) An Act to amend the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905."
- (No. 85) An Act for preventing Frauds upon Creditors by Secret Assignments of Book Accounts.
- (No. 86) An Act to enable Soldiers serving in the Present War to exercise their Electoral Franchise.
- (No. 88) An Act intituled the "British Columbia Prohibition Act."
- (No. 89) An Act for referring to the Electors the Questions of the Expediency of suppressing the Liquor Traffic in British Columbia by prohibiting Provincial Transactions in Liquor, and of the Extension of the Electoral Franchise to Women.
- (No. 90) An Act to extend the Electoral Franchise to Women.
- (No. 91) An Act to amend the "Provincial Elections Act."
- (No. 92) An Act to amend the "Liquor Licence Act."
- (No. 93) An Act for the Protection of Volunteers serving in the Forces raised by the Government of Canada in Aid of His Majesty and of other Persons.
- (No. 94) An Act to amend an Act intituled "An Act to confer certain Powers upon the Lieutenant-Governor in Council respecting Contracts relating to Land."
- (No. 95) An Act to provide for a Weekly Half-holiday for Store Employees.
- (No. 96) An Act to ratify an Agreement between His Majesty the King and the French's Complex Ore Reduction Company, Limited.
- (No. 98) An Act to authorize the Grant of certain Public Lands in the District of Kootenay to the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

His Honour was pleased, in His Majesty's name, to give assent to these Bills.

The said assent was announced by the Clerk of the House in the following words:—

"In His Majesty's name, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor doth assent to these Bills."

Then His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to deliver the following gracious Speech:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—

In relieving you of the arduous duties of the last Session of the present Parliament, I desire to express my high appreciation of the very earnest and assiduous efforts you have put forth in dealing with the many and unusually important subjects that have engaged your attention.

Among the measures you have dealt with is the Act for the encouragement of ship-building, in the operation of which I am confident that great benefit will inure to the Province in providing facilities of communication whereby products of British Columbia may be able to reach profitable markets.

The aid provided for the completion of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to Fort George will relieve a serious situation caused by the disturbed condition of the money markets, and will also ensure profitable extension to new and fertile districts which have desired this long-delayed communication.

I am advised that the "Agricultural Act" of last Session is in force and that funds are available for its operation. The provision you have made for a Minister of Agriculture separate from the portfolio of Finance, who will devote his exclusive attention to his Department, is calculated to greatly benefit the interests of agriculture in this Province.

It is a matter of sincere congratulation that so complete and satisfactory a measure as the "Workmen's Compensation Act" has been framed and passed.

I am encouraged to believe that the measures taken in the interests of mining development will have splendid results in that direction.

By virtue of the "Prohibition and Woman Suffrage Referendum Act" you have authorized the reference of the questions of prohibition and woman's suffrage to the electors on the day to be selected for the general elections in this Province.

It is a matter of eminent satisfaction that you have made so liberal provision for the welfare of soldiers who are returning from the front and for the protection of their various rights while absent serving the Empire.

As the time of this Parliament expires on June 1st, dissolution will follow almost immediately, and in taking leave of you on this occasion it is with my sincerest good wishes for your personal welfare. I sincerely trust that your earnest labours in this Parliament may have results highly conducive to the best interests of the people of British Columbia.

The Hon. Mr. *Taylor*, Provincial Secretary, then said:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—

It is His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's will and pleasure that the Legislative Assembly be prorogued until it shall please His Honour to summon the same for dispatch of business, and this Provincial Legislative Assembly is hereby prorogued accordingly.

D. M. EBERTS, *Speaker*.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

Printed by WILLIAM H. CULLIN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1916.