
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

CHARGES AGAINST HON. MR. DUNSMUIR.

MR SPEAKER:—

Your Committee appointed to enquire into the charges brought by the Honourable Thomas Basil Humphreys, Member of the Provincial Assembly, against the Honourable Robert Dunsmuir, President of the Council, beg leave to submit the minutes of their meetings, and their amended report as follows:—

That the Honourable T. B. Humphreys failed to appear before them to substantiate the grave charges preferred against the Honourable the President of the Council; that the Honourable the President of the Council appeared before them, and stated that he was prepared to prove, on oath, that the charges were absolutely untrue.

As the Honourable T. B. Humphreys was not present, your Committee agreed that they could not investigate the charges, and your Committee therefore beg leave to be discharged.

JAMES BAKER,

Chairman

 MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

 FEBRUARY 22ND, 1888.

Present—Messrs. Baker, Allan, Anderson, Fry, Duck, and Martin.

Colonel Baker was elected Chairman.

Colonel Baker was requested to notify the complainant and defendant to appear at the next meeting.

Mr. Martin was elected Secretary.

 FEBRUARY 23RD, 1888.

Present—Colonel Baker, Messrs. Allan, Anderson, Fry, Duck, and Martin.

The Chairman read the reply of the Honourable T. B. Humphreys to a letter inviting him to attend before the Committee to substantiate the charges made by him against the Honourable President of the Council, and in which reply the Honourable T. B. Humphreys wrote as follows:—

“Mr. Humphreys presents his compliments to the Chairman of Committee, and in reply has the honour to refer Mr. Chairman to a speech delivered by Mr. Humphreys in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, 20th instant.”

Mr. Dunsmuir appeared at the request of the Committee, and being informed by the Chairman that Honourable T. B. Humphreys had not appeared to prefer his charge against the President of the Council, replied, “that he was prepared to prove, on oath, that the charges were absolutely untrue.”

The accompanying letter from Mr. McLagan was received, in reply to one from the Chairman inviting him to attend:—

“OFFICE OF THE VICTORIA DAILY AND WEEKLY TIMES,

“VICTORIA, B. C., February 23rd, 1888.

“Col. Baker, M. P. P., Victoria.

“DEAR SIR,—Your note asking my attendance at a meeting to be held at 10.30 this a.m., of the Committee to investigate the charges preferred against the Honourable Robert Dunsmuir, President of the Council, by the Honourable the Member for Comox, names an hour at which it is impossible for me to leave the office, it being the busiest one I have in the whole day.

“However, finding it unable to be present, I can only state through this medium what I have already repeated to many with whom I have conversed on the subject, in reference to a conversation the President of the Council and myself had in his office, some few days prior to the driving of the last spike of the Oregon and California Railway.

“During our conversation trade matters generally came up for discussion, and, amongst others, I asked his opinion on the topic of a Commercial Union, between Canada and the United States, a question, I said, which was being considerably discussed in the East. The reply the President of the Council made was, that whilst it would be of advantage to him pecuniarily, to the extent of close upon a quarter of a million a year, he could not advocate it, fearing the ultimate outcome would be annexation. He could not endorse a policy legislating against Britain, which had afforded us so much protection. He respected the flag of that country, as well as the land of his birth, too much to go back on them. He was in favour of a reciprocity of the natural products of the soil, animals, fish, &c.—such a treaty as existed in the East, from 1854 to 1886.

“These were substantially the views he then expressed to me,

“Respectfully, &c.,

“J. C. McLAGAN.”

At a Committee meeting held the 28th February.

Present—Colonel Baker, Messrs. Duck, Allan, and Anderson.

The report, as returned by the Speaker, was considered, and amended as follows:—

(See Report).