

# SECOND REPORT

OF THE

## SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

*To the Honourable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:*

SIR,—The Committee of Public Accounts have the honour to submit their second report.

That the sum of \$166,599 34 has been paid in the year 1876, on contracts entered into in 1875, viz.:

\$ 107,352 50	On Roads and Bridges.
33,496 84	„ Cofferdam and Machinery.
7,500 00	„ Victoria School.
775 00	„ Cache Creek School.
17,475 00	„ New Westminster Asylum.
<u>\$ 166,599 34</u>	

And there is a balance of \$89,347 66 to be provided for, viz.:

\$ 16,266 50	For Roads and Bridges.
58,482 16	„ Cofferdam and Machinery.
100 00	„ Cache Creek School.
14,499 00	„ New Westminster Asylum.
<u>89,347 66</u>	Due on Contracts, 1875.

and \$ 24,669 50 has been paid in 1876 on contracts entered into in 1876,  
14,024 00 has to be provided for in 1877.

\$ 38,693 50

Showing \$ 166,599 34  
And 24,669 50

\$ 191,268 84 Paid.

And \$ 89,347 66  
14,024 00

\$ 103,371 66 To be paid.

\$ 294,640 50

The Assessed and School Tax collected in 1876, amounted to:

\$ 11,485 47	Victoria City.	Cost \$ 1,993 86	Collecting.
2,706 18	Victoria District.	" 376 61	"
2,104 93	Esquimalt.	" 235 00	"
845 72	Cowichan.	" 159 57	"
4,586 80	Nanaimo.	" 90 50	"
466 66	Comox.	" 46 67	"
2,589 60	New Westminster.	" 828 79	"
531 56	Kootenay.	" 82 00	"
4,187 85	Cariboo.	" 509 01	"
4,341 94	Yale.	" 391 24	"
1,892 44	Lillooet.	" 475 24	"
925 63	Cassiar.	" 15 00	"
<u>\$ 36,964 78</u>		<u>\$ 5,233 49</u>	

The Assessment, 1876, was.....	\$ 20,574 49	On Real Estate.
	12,608 45	" Personal.
	1,424 00	" Income.
	7,918 00	" Wild Land.
	<u>\$ 42,594 85</u>	

The amount of Road Tolls collected was:

\$ 12,089 58	In Yale, and cost of collection,	\$ 633 33
7,075 36	Clinton, " "	616 13
8,416 60	Cassiar, " "	500 00
<u>\$ 27,581 54</u>		<u>\$ 1,749 46</u>

Revenue collected under "Assessment Act, 1876," collected since 31st December.

	Real.	Personal.	Wild Land.	Income.	Total.
Victoria City .....	1,728 58	609 12		126 80	
Victoria District .....	213 42	7 14	7 40		
Cowichan .....	44 63	7 50			
Nanaimo .....	270 92	95 00	94 10		
New Westminster .....	1,271 53	209 50	402 02	22 00	
Cariboo .....	50 00	27 21			
Yale .....	65 18	49 59			
	<u>\$3,644 26</u>	<u>\$1,005 06</u>	<u>\$503 52</u>	<u>\$148 80</u>	<u>\$5,301 64</u>

The Lands and Works Department owed the Treasury—

\$ 3,942 16	31st December, 1876,
13,318 33	31st March, 1877.

Liabilities (other than contracts) due by Lands and Works Department 31st December, 1876:—

\$ 600 00	Lillooet District roads, proportion salary to Mahood.
1,700 00	In hands of Yale and Cariboo Road Superintendents, for which vouchers have not yet come to hand.
150 00	Trunk Road.
5,000 00	Cariboo Road, remitted to complete payments for Quesnelle Bridge restoration, for which vouchers have not yet come to hand.
13,775 00	Graving lock, Esquimalt, due to Kinipple & Morris for plans, &c.

\$21,225 00

\$277,925 50	was at the debit in the Bank of British Columbia on the 31st December, 1876, at 8 per cent. interest; and
249,156 95	on 19th March, 1877; and
261,551 00	on 31st March, 1877, which does not include the special Graving Dock account--
31,069 59	incurred in 1875, also bearing interest at 8 per cent.
20,000 00	is the amount of Debentures bearing interest at 7 per cent. per annum, under the "Loan Act, 1874," redeemable on 1st February, 1879.
88,000 00	Debentures issued in 1876, redeemable in two years from date of issue, bearing interest at 7 per cent. per annum.
\$119,733 99	liabilities in Lands and Works Department, including \$71,256 16 incurred on account of Graving Dock in 1875.

Interest paid to Bank of British Columbia on overdrawn account from 1st June to 31st December, 1876.....	\$ 9,030 09
Which would have been due on Debentures lodged as collateral security had they been sold as above (dated 1st June, 1876,) at 7 per cent.....	10,780 00
Difference in favor of overdraft.....	\$ 1,749 91

There appears to be a considerable difference between the estimated revenue and the revenue received, and on this subject the Committee submit a statement for consideration.

(Signed) WILLIAM FISHER,  
*Chairman.*

Statement of the days appointed by Orders in Council, under the provisions of Sections 44, 48, and 53 of the "Assessment Act, 1876.

Districts.	Day appointed by Order in Council, under Section forty, for the completion of Assessors' Roll.	Day appointed by Order in Council, under Section 48, for final Revision of the Rolls.	Day prescribed by Order in Council for delivery of Assessor's Roll to Collector.
DISTRICT OF VICTORIA, including			
City of Victoria .....	November 17th	No Appointment	No day prescribed.
Victoria District .....	No Appointment	Do.	Do.
Lake .....	Do.	Do.	Do.
North and S. Saanich .....	Do.	Do.	Do.
Esquimalt .....	Do.	Do.	Do.
Metchosin .....	Do.	Do.	Do.
Highland .....	Do.	Do.	Do.
Sooke .....	Do.	Do.	Do.
DISTRICT OF NANAIMO .....	August 21st * November 20th †	September 15th	Do.
DISTRICT OF NEW WESTMINSTER	November 20th	No Appointment	Do.
DISTRICT OF CASSIAR .....	August 21st	September 15th	Do.
DISTRICT OF YALE, including Yale and Lillooet	August 21st	September 15th	Do.
DISTRICT OF CARIBOO .....	August 21st	September 15th	Do.
DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY.....	August 21st	September 15th	Do.
DISTRICT OF OMINACA .....	August 21st	September 15th	Do.

\* By Order in Council of 7th August.

† By Order in Council of 16th November.

## APPENDIX

Showing the Liabilities, but not the Assets, of the Province on the 31st December, 1876.

Overdraft at Bank of British Columbia on Account Current, bearing 8 per cent. interest per annum .....	\$ 277,925 50
Special Graving Dock account due Bank of British Columbia bearing 8 per cent. interest per annum (incurred in 1875).....	31,069 59
7 per cent. Debentures, "Loan Act, 1874," (redeemable 1st February, 1899).....	20,000 00
7 per cent. Debentures "Loan Act, 1876," (issued in 1876, redeemable in two years from date of issue).....	88,000 00
Liabilities Lands & Works Department.....	119,733 99
	\$ 536,729 08

(In this amount is included a liability of \$71,257 16 incurred on account of Graving Dock in 1875.)

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## REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed to enquire into the circumstances connected with the circulation of the Estimates before presentation to the House.

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*To the Honourable the Speaker:—*

Your Committee appointed to enquire into the circumstances attending the circulation of the Estimates before presentation to the House, beg leave to report,—

That on Tuesday evening, the 3rd April, Mr. Higgins, referring to the statement made in the House by Mr. Smithe, that the Estimates would be laid on the table on Wednesday, requested Mr. Smithe to let him have a copy as early as possible on Wednesday. Mr. Smithe promised to do so, meaning that he would give him the copy after the Estimates had been distributed.

Mr. Wolfenden states that on Wednesday, the 4th April, Mr. Higgins stated he had applied to the Finance Minister for a copy of the Estimates, and asked that if the Finance Minister should forget the matter, would he (Mr. Wolfenden) be good enough to send him (Mr. Higgins) a copy of the Estimates. Mr. Higgins was told the Estimates were not printed, but that when a final proof was taken, he (Mr. Wolfenden) would ask the Finance Minister for authority to comply with Mr. Higgins' request. That the final proof was taken on Thursday, shortly before twelve o'clock. Mr. Wolfenden took it to the Finance Minister and told him of Mr. Higgins' application.

Mr. Smithe said it was his intention to lay the Estimates before the House that day, and told Mr. Wolfenden he might send Mr. Higgins a copy under seal. Mr. Wolfenden accordingly did so.

The Committee find that prior to the Estimates being laid before the House, two copies of them were given, in pursuance of the authority of Mr. Smithe, to Mr. Higgins of the *Colonist*, and to no one else.

They further find that after the question of privilege had arisen in the House, Mr. Smithe went to the Printing Office to enquire if a copy had been sent, and they infer from that fact that Mr. Smithe was unaware at the time that his authority had been acted upon.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. J. ARMSTRONG, *Chairman.*

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### MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

Taken by the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the circumstances attending the circulation of the Estimates before presentation to the House.

The Committee met at 10 A.M., on Monday, the 9th of April, 1877.

Present: Messrs. Armstrong, Mara, Walkem, Ash, Davie.

Richard Wolfenden, called, declares as follows:—

On Wednesday last, at 4 or 5 P.M. I can't say exactly at which hour, Mr. Higgins, Editor of the *Colonist*, stated he had applied to the Finance Minister for a copy of the Estimates. He said in case the Finance Minister should forget the matter, "Will you be good enough to send a copy of the Estimates next morning." I replied, "the Estimates were not then printed, but when a final proof was taken, I would ask the