

# REPORT

OF THE

## SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Public Accounts Committee beg to report as follows:—

1. That the Debt of the Province, as per Statement of the Auditor, 30th June, 1878, presented herewith, was..... \$809,948 95

2. That the Auditor's Annual Statements show that this debt has arisen from an expenditure in excess of income—

In 1875 of .....	\$160,194 00	
In 1876 .....	312,924 00	
In 1877 .....	255,404 00	-
In 1878 (6 months) .....	81,426 95	
	<u>809,948 95</u>	

3. That there was taken from the allowed debt of the Dominion to this Province, on which B. C. was drawing 5 per cent. interest..... \$189,000 00  
 150,000 00  
339,000 00

Making the total amount expended by the Province in excess of income in 4½ years, from 1874 to 30th June, 1878, inclusive..... 1,148,948 95

4. That this expenditure has reduced the annual amount of Provincial income available for ordinary purposes as follows:  
 5 per cent. on \$339,000 ..... 16,950 00  
 Interest and Sinking Fund, &c., &c., on Loans, as per Statement of Finance Minister ..... 68,692 64  
85,642 64

5. That no Ledger Accounts have been kept of Lands Sold, Loans to Immigrants, Arrears of Real Estate Tax, V. I., Pastoral Lease Rents, Assessed and School Taxes.

6. That the amounts for which Lands have been sold, as also Loans to Immigrants, are omitted in the Auditor's Statement of Assets.

7. That the value of Taxes and Rents outstanding are roughly estimated in an unsatisfactory manner.

8. That it is impossible to ascertain what are the arrears of taxes for 1876 and 1877 in the different districts, and by whom owing.

9. That this arises from the provisions of the Assessment Act not having been complied with.

10. That notes for over \$1,400 of advances to Immigrants are now over-due, and it appears to be nobody's business to obtain payment.

11. That many of the receipts in the hands of the Auditor are in blank, not having been filled up by the persons receiving the money.

The Committee are of opinion—

That steps should be taken by the Government to ascertain the value and enforce the collection of the Rents and Taxes in arrear, and to obtain payment for all Lands for which the cash is due.

Handwritten calculations:  
 339,000  
 160,194  
 499,194  
 255,404  
 762,228

That the Assets of the Province should appear in the books of the Treasury.

That a Committee should be appointed to enquire into the advances made to Immigrants.

That the auditing of the Public Accounts should be kept as closely up as possible.

WM. WILSON, *Chairman.*

Statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Province of British Columbia  
on 30th June, 1878.

ASSETS.	AMOUNT.	LIABILITIES.	AMOUNT.
Balance in hand .....	\$9,810 14	Loan of 1877 .....	\$ 727,500 00
Estimated Arrears of Real Estate Tax (late V. I.) .....	1,500 00	Loan of 1876 .....	90,500 00
Estimated Arrears of Pastoral Lease Rents .....	4,000 00	Loan of 1874 .....	20,000 00
Estimated Arrears of Assessed and School Taxes .....	10,000 00	Deposits (Intestate and other Estates)	16,001 67
Remittances on account of Sinking Fund (Loan of 1877) .....	14,662 50	Overdraft in Account Current with Bank of British Columbia .....	72,419 92
Special Deposit with Bank of B.C. ....	75,000 00		
Interest on do. (to 7th July) .....	1,500 00		
Balance (Liabilities) .....	809,948 95		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	926,421 59		926,421 59