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# REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE QUESTION OF

## CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

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Your Committee appointed to consider the question of Chinese Immigration as it affects this Province, and to devise means, if possible, to arrest or materially diminish it, have felt much embarrassment in framing their report, in consequence of the scanty information at their command with respect to the views held and the course taken upon the subject by older communities; and this embarrassment has rather been increased, than otherwise, by the recent action of the President of the United States in vetoing an Anti-Chinese measure, passed by Congress in the interests of the neighbouring Pacific States. The measure referred to, as the House is doubtless aware, was not dissimilar in some of its provisions to the Queensland Act, which received the Imperial sanction notwithstanding the existing Treaty between Great Britain and China.

It has, however, been admitted that this Legislature has no power to pass the Queensland Act, as its provisions would interfere with trade and commerce, and thus conflict with the British North America Act, which confers the regulation of that subject upon the Dominion Parliament.

As the Australias are now organizing a combined movement to obtain, if possible, from the Imperial Government such measures of protection against the further influx of Chinese into their country, the time would seem opportune for united or independent action on the part of the Dominion in the same direction.

Your Committee have ascertained that several measures of an Anti-Chinese tendency, and more or less restrictive in character, have been passed in New Zealand, and in Victoria and other Australian Colonies, but have been disallowed by the Home Government.

It is, therefore, respectfully suggested that an Address to the Dominion Government should be passed by the House, setting forth the baneful effects of the presence of Chinese in our midst, and the necessity of such measures being adopted as will effectually prevent their further immigration to the Province.

J. W. WILLIAMS,  
*Chairman.*

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# EVIDENCE

TAKEN BY THE

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE KOOTENAY (BOOTH) ENQUIRY.

The Select Committee appointed to enquire into any charges of malfeasance in office against the late Gold Commissioner at Kootenay, Mr. Booth. Such Committee to have power to call for persons and papers, and to report to the House all the facts and circumstances connected therewith.

The Committee met at the Library, on Friday, 21st February. Present—Messrs. Wilson, Williams, Evans, Smithe, McGillivray.

On motion, Mr. Wilson was elected Chairman and Mr. McGillivray Secretary.

*Resolved*,—That application be made to the Government for copies of affidavits containing charges against Mr. Booth, late Gold Commissioner at Kootenay.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. A. C. Elliott, Galbraith, and Gallagher be requested to appear before this Committee on Tuesday next, the 25th instant, to give evidence.

*Resolved*, That the Committee adjourn to Tuesday, the 25th instant, at 10 A.M.

WM. WILSON, *Chairman*.

The Kootenay Committee met at the House of Assembly Rooms, on Tuesday, 25th February, at 10 A.M. Present—Messrs. Wilson, Evans, Williams, Smithe, and McGillivray.

Mr. Harrison produced the following letter from the Attorney-General's Department:—

“VICTORIA, B. C.,  
“February 22nd, 1879.

“SIR,—The Honourable the Attorney-General has referred to me your letter of the 21st instant, applying, on behalf of your Honourable Committee, for affidavits of charges against Mr. C. Booth, of malfeasance by him in his office of Gold Commissioner at Kootenay; and I have the honour to state that, at the request of Mr. Booth, search was made some time ago for affidavits containing the charges above referred to, but neither then nor after the receipt of your letter, though further search was made, could such affidavits be found. I have, &c.

(Signed) “ELI HARRISON, JR.,  
“Solicitor, A. G. O.

“Wm. Wilson, Esq.,  
“Chairman of the Honourable Committee of Enquiry  
“into charges against C. Booth, Esq.”

Messrs. Harrison, Elliott, Galbraith, and Smithe were examined.