
REPORT

OF THE

CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee beg leave to report—

That they have inspected the Public Offices, and find them in good working order:

That in some of the offices the time-register is well kept.

The Committee recommend—

That an effort should be made by the Lands and Works Department to ascertain, through the Assessors, and any other available sources, what pre-emptions are occupied, and what amounts are due thereon, so that the information can be laid before the House next Session :

That assistance be granted the Registrar-General of Titles, as the work in his office is somewhat in arrear :

That security should be required from every person holding moneys for which the Province is liable:

That the attention of the Attorney-General be called to the small remuneration of the Sheriff of Victoria, and the different custom here in serving writs to that practised in the Eastern Provinces:

That the time-register for the Public Offices, other than Printing Department, be kept in the Treasury under the charge of the Auditor, and be closed between quarter past 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.; also between quarter past 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

WM. WILSON,

Chairman.

19th March, 1879.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

To enquire into all the circumstances connected with the suppression or non-production of a Despatch from Ottawa, bearing date 13th June, 1876, referring to Railway matters, with power to call for persons and papers; said Committee consisting of Messrs. Ash, Wilson, Abrams, Harris, and Bennett.

Your Committee report that they have obtained the evidence of every person resident in the City of Victoria, whom they considered likely to be able to afford information on the subject of the enquiry:

That they telegraphed, through Mr. Speaker, to Mr. Trutch, in Europe, and have received a telegraphic reply from him, and also an explanatory letter:

That they telegraphed, through Mr. Speaker, to the Secretary of State of Canada, and have received a telegraphic reply, which showed that their telegram had been misunderstood:

That they have sent a second telegram to the Secretary of State of Canada, to which a reply has not yet been received:

That, pending a reply to their second telegram to the Secretary of State, your Committee are unable to make a final Report, but deeming that the evidence now before them should be submitted to the consideration of the House, they submit it herewith in order that it may be printed.

Your Committee will submit a final Report when they shall have received a reply to the telegram last sent to the Secretary of State of Canada.

JOHN ASH,
Chairman.

21st March, 1879.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

CAPT. G. R. LAYTON examined.

Do you remember anything of a despatch on Railway matters, received about 13th June, 1876?

Ans.—I saw a copy of a despatch in the newspaper this morning. I remember something about it, but I cannot say precisely without seeing the original. The original may bear some mark which might recall the matter to my memory.

The Committee, with Captain Layton, here went to the office of the Private Secretary, and inspected the original document.

By Dr. Ash—Have you seen anything recalling this despatch to your mind?

Ans.—On looking at Schedule Book I found an entry, made by myself, dated 4th July, stating that a despatch was transmitted informing Secretary of State that a copy of their despatch of the 30th June was laid before the Executive Council, and copy of an Order of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council and Memorandum of Minister of Public Works, in relation to a conveyance, 20 miles in width, from this Government to that of the Dominion, on each side of the line surveyed and located by Canada Pacific Railroad in this Province.

Did you make a copy of the despatch?

Ans.—I made a copy. It is so long since that I cannot say whether I gave it to the Messenger or to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Are you quite sure that you transmitted it in the usual way?

Ans.—It is so long since I cannot remember.

By Mr. Harris—Had you any orders to suppress this despatch?

Ans.—None whatever.