

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed to take evidence and enquire into the manner in which lands within the Province have been dealt with during the past year.

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:—

SIR,—Your Committee appointed to take evidence and enquire into the manner in which lands within the Province have been dealt with during the past year, have the honour to submit the evidence taken, together with tracings of certain surveys made in Osoyoos District.

17th April, 1877.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

EVIDENCE.

MARCH 16th, 1877.

Members Committee present:—Messrs. Beaven, Dickinson, Evans and Morrison.

Mr. Beaven appointed Chairman; Mr. Dickinson appointed Secretary.

Moved by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Evans,—

That an officer of the Land Department be requested to attend on Monday at 9:30 a. m., with the Departmental Index Books, inwards and outwards, and the Crown Grant Book. Carried.

The Committee then adjourned until 9.30 a. m. Monday next.

Minutes adopted.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

MARCH 19th, 1877.

Members present:—Messrs. Beaven, Morrison, Evans, Dickinson and Smithe.

Mr. Evans called for names of parties that applied for portions of timber lands in possession of Moody & Co., Burrard Inlet.

On motion, application was made to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for certain applications to purchase unsurveyed land.

On motion, application was made for the field notes and plans of surveys made by W. Ralph at Osoyoos, and W. Patterson at Dean's Canal.

Minutes adopted 21st March 1877.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

MARCH 21st, 1877.

Members present:—Messrs. Morrison, Beaven, Dickinson, Evans and Smithe.

Papers and documents called for at last meeting laid before Committee.

October 4th, 1875.—Application from J. C. Haynes to purchase 1,000 acres unsurveyed, unoccupied and unreserved Crown lands.

October 4th, 1875.—Application from W. H. Lowe to purchase 1,000 acres unsurveyed, unoccupied and unreserved Crown lands.

Letter outwards, folio page 107, vol. 8,	} Wanted for consideration of Committee.
” ” ” 106, ” 8,	
” ” ” 78, ” 10,	
” ” ” 170, ” 9,	
” ” ” 218, ” 9,	

Moved by Mr. Morrison,—That Mr. F. G. Richards be requested to attend Committee. Carried.

Questions to F. G. RICHARDS :—

Ques.—Is lot 104, group 1, surveyed in accordance with clause 62, "Land Act, 1875?"

Ans.—It is not, as far as the rectangular system is concerned.

Ques.—What length of valley would lot 104, group 1, cover?

Ans.—About five miles.

Ques.—Does survey lot 104, Group 1, cover land on both sides of Okanagan River?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Was lot 104, group 1, surveyed for J. C. Haynes.

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—What is the average distance from each side of the survey to the base of the mountains, lot 104, group 1?

Ans.—I cannot state positively. According to the map, on the east side the average distance is about half a mile, and on the west side about a quarter of a mile.

Ques.—About what percentage of valley does J. C. Haynes' claim cover?

Question withdrawn.

Ques.—Whom was lot 105, group 1, surveyed for?

Ans.—Mr. Lowe.

Ques.—What is the acreage?

Ans.—1400 acres.

Ques.—Is lot 105, group 1, surveyed in accordance with clause 62 of the "Land Act, 1875?"

Ans.—No.

Ques.—What length of valley would lot 105, group 1, cover?

Ans.—About five and a half miles.

Ques.—Does survey lot 105, group 1, cover the land on both sides Okanagan River?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Does it cover any other water besides the river?

Ans.—Yes, a lake.

Ques.—Does it include all the water in the valley within the 5½ miles.

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—What is the average distance from each side of the survey to the base of the mountains, lot 105, group 1?

Ans.—On the western boundary, for the first mile and a half the average distance is about three-quarters of a mile; the balance of the distance appears to run along the base of the mountain. The distance on the eastern side I cannot state.

Ques.—Lot 102, group 1,—For whom was it surveyed?

Ans.—T. Robertson.

Ques.—Does not Mr. Haynes claim it under a Sapper's grant?

Ans.—I cannot say.

Ques.—Is the land surveyed in the rectangular system?

Ans.—No.

Ques.—Is its southern boundary the north shore of Osoyoos Lake?

Ans.—It is a portion of the north shore.

Ques.—Does it cover the land in the valley on both sides of the Okanagan River?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Lot 26, group 8, adjoins lot 102, group 1, to the north, does it not?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Who is the owner of lot 26, group 8?

Ans.—J. C. Haynes.

Ques.—It covers also the valley land on both sides of the Okanagan River?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Lot 27, group 8, adjoins lot 26, group 8, to the north?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Who is the owner of lot 27, group 8?

Ans.—J. C. Haynes.

Ques.—It covers also the valley land on both sides the Okanagan River?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—The land surveyed last season and known as lot 104, group 1, claimed by J. C. Haynes, joins lot 27, group 8, on the north ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—And lot 105, group 1, surveyed last season for Mr. Lowe, joins lot 104, group 1, to the north ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—So that the southern boundary of lot 102, group 1, and the northern boundary of lot 105, group 1, covers all the valley land and water in that vicinity.

Ans.—It does, with the exception of four small lakes.

Ques.—Those surveys extend from the head of Osoyoos Lake up the valley, how many miles ?

Ans.—About twelve and a half miles.

Ques.—Lot 101, group 1, who was that surveyed for ?

Ans.—W. Bently.

Ques.—Is not that claimed by J. C. Haynes under military grant ?

Ans.—I could not say.

Ques.—Is the land surveyed on the rectangular principle ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Is it surveyed in accordance with the principles of the "Land Act, 1875" ?

Ans.—It is twenty chains longer and narrower in proportion to make up the 160 acres required.

Ques.—It fronts on the east side Osoyoos Lake ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—What is the frontage on the lake ?

Ans.—One and a quarter miles.

Ques.—And the depth of the lot averages about how many chains ?

Ans.—About sixteen chains.

Ques.—Lot 101, group 1, who was that surveyed for ?

Ans.—J. C. Haynes.

Ques.—It contains what acreage ?

Ans.—It contains 69 acres, but 19 deducted for water leaves 50 acres of land.

Ques.—Does part of it consist of a long narrow strip, 50 chains long and about 1 chain wide, running into Osoyoos Lake ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Lot 103, group 1, who is that surveyed for ?

Ans.—For the Customs Department at request of J. C. Haynes.

Ques.—What frontage has it on Osoyoos Lake ?

Ans.—Little over a quarter of a mile.

Ques.—The acreage is ?

Ans.—One hundred acres.

Ques.—Lot 106, group 1, is that surveyed as J. Normansell's sapper's right ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Is it claimed by J. C. Haynes ?

Ans.—I couldn't say.

Ques.—What is the acreage ?

Ans.—160 acres.

Ques.—Do its boundaries run true north and south and true east and west ?

Ans.—No.

Ques.—The field notes show that it is situated on a prairie ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—The prairie is about midway on the trail between Osoyoos and Penticton, and about five miles west of the Okanagan River ?

Ans.—It is, according to Ralph's field notes.

Ques.—Do the field notes state that it is first-rate land, all prairie, and contains an abundance of grass ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Lot 108, group 1; that was surveyed as a military grant taken up by Roger Moore, was it not ?

Ans.—According to Ralph's notes it was.

Ques.—The land lies between the Forks of Kettle River, does it not ?

- Ans.—Yes.
- Ques.—What is the acreage?
- Ans.—160 acres.
- Ques.—About what is the frontage on Kettle River?
- Ans.—Little over a mile.
- Ques.—The field notes say that the land is chiefly prairie, sandy soil, good grass, but requires irrigation, do they not?
- Ans.—Yes.
- Ques.—Is this land claimed by J. C. Haynes?
- Ans.—I could not say.
- Ques.—Lot 109, group 1, who was that surveyed for?
- Ans.—Thomas Cole.
- Ques.—This is an application to purchase land under clause 62, "Land Act, 1875," is it not?
- Ans.—Yes, according to memorandum in Ralph's notes.
- Ques.—The application was made 10th June, 1876, was it not?
- Ans.—According to memorandum in Ralph's notes it was.
- Ques.—What is the acreage?
- Ans.—Ten acres.
- Ques.—Are the bearings in accordance with the Land Act?
- Ans.—No, they are not run true north and south, east and west.
- Ques.—The land is situated on both sides the Keremeos Creek, is it not?
- Ans.—Yes.
- Ques.—Lot 110, group 1, who was it surveyed for?
- Ans.—The Hudson Bay Company.
- Ques.—What is the acreage?
- Ans.—500 acres.
- Ques.—It fronts on the Similkameen River, does it not?
- Ans.—The southern boundary is on the river.
- Ques.—Are the boundaries of this lot surveyed in accordance with the "Land Act, 1875"?
- Ans.—No, the boundaries are not run true north and south, east and west.
- Ques.—Lot 112, group 1, Ralph's notes show that this was applied for on 2nd July, 1876, by Barrington Price, under clause 62, "Land Act, 1875," do they not?
- Ans.—Yes.
- Ques.—What is the acreage?
- Ans.—320 acres.
- Ques.—Is the land surveyed in accordance with the Act?
- Ans.—No; the bearings are not run true north and south, east and west.
- Ques.—Lot 113, group 1, was surveyed as F. Richter's pre-emption claim, was it not?
- Ans.—Yes.
- Ques.—What is the acreage?
- Ans.—320 acres.
- Ques.—Are the boundaries true north and south, east and west.
- Ans.—No.
- Ques.—Lot 114, group 1, was surveyed for F. Richter under application to purchase on 14th July, 1876, was it not?
- Ans.—It was surveyed for F. Richter. The application bears that date according to memorandum in Ralph's notes.
- Ques.—Are the boundaries in accordance with the "Land Act, 1875."
- Ans.—No, the boundaries are not run true north and south, east and west.
- Ques.—Lot 115, group 1, Ralph's field notes show that this is surveyed for T. Ellis as military grant of sapper Stevens, do they not?
- Ans.—Yes.
- Ques.—What is the acreage?
- Ans.—160 acres.
- Ques.—Is the land surveyed in accordance with the "Land Act, 1875"?
- Ans.—No, the boundaries are not run true north and south, east and west. The northern boundary could not as it joins lot 5, group 7, which had previously been surveyed.

Ques.—Whose name is shown in the map as owner of lot 5, group 7?

Ans.—T. Ellis.

Ques.—The western boundary of lot 115, group 1, is the Okanagan River, is it not?

Ans.—A portion of it is.

Ques.—Lot 116, group 1, do you know who that was surveyed for?

Ans.—It was surveyed, according to Ralph's field notes, for T. Ellis under an application to purchase.

Ques.—What is the acreage?

Ans.—320 acres.

Ques.—Are its boundaries surveyed according to the "Land Act, 1875?"

Ans.—It is surveyed on the rectangular system, but not true north and south, east and west.

Ques.—What is the distance from the northern boundary of lot 5, group 7, owned by T. Ellis, to the southern boundary of lot 116, group 1, surveyed this year for Mr. Ellis?

Ans.—Two miles.

F. G. RICHARDS, JUN.

Moved by Mr. Beaven,—That the names of the owners of lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, group 7, be furnished the Committee.

The Committee then adjourned until Monday next, 9.30 a.m.

Minutes adopted 26th March, 1877.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

MARCH 26th, 1877.

Members present:—Messrs. Beaven, Dickinson, Evans, and Morrison.

Received information from the Land Office that lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, group 7, Yale-Lytton District (Osoyoos Division of Yale District), contain 642 acres, more or less; Crown Grant 1325, dated 14th October, 1872, issued to Thomas Ellis.

Also received copies of letters outwards—

Folio page 107, vol. 8,	
" 106, " 8,	
" 78, " 10,	
" 170, " 9,	
" 218, " 9.	

Moved by Mr. Evans,—That the above letters form part of the evidence. Carried.

MR. FARWELL'S evidence:—

Ques.—Why was not lot 104, group 1, surveyed in accordance with "Land Act, 1875?"

Ans.—I do not know, other than that the surveyor did not carry out his instructions.

Ques.—Mr. Ralph had been doing duty for the Department for years?

Ans.—Of and on for ten or twelve years.

Ques.—Have any of the surveys made by Mr. Ralph in Osoyoos in the year 1876 been accepted by the Department?

Ans.—No; none of the surveys made under clause 62, "Land Act, 1875," or any pre-emption claim under the same Act.

Ques.—Have the surveys of the sappers' grants made at the same time been accepted by the Department?

Ans.—They have not been dealt with in any way at present.

Ques.—Most of these sappers' claims are surveyed for Mr. Haynes, are they not?

Ans.—Three for Mr. Haynes, one for Mr. Ellis, and one for Mr. Bentley.

Ques.—The Crown Grants for these sappers' claims will have to be issued in the name of the sappers?

Ans.—They always have been.

Ques.—What was the date of the refusal of the Department to accept the survey of Ralph for Messrs. Haynes and Lowe?

Ans.—The Chief Commissioner declined to accept Mr. Ralph's survey, in writing, on the 22nd January, 1877.

Ques.—Can an applicant take up a narrow strip of land enclosing a river, along a valley?

Ans.—Any person can purchase land under clause 62, "Land Act, 1875," as long as he conforms to the rectangular square system.

Ques.—Land purchased under clause 62 must be surveyed in a manner approved of by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, or the Surveyor-General, must it not?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—What does section 6 of the Land Act specially apply to?

Ans.—It provides for the way in which intending pre-emptors will stake off the land they desire to pre-empt.

Ques.—Does it apply to the way in which land is to be purchased?

Ans.—The measurement would.

Ques.—Does the Land Act of 1875 provide for the sale of ten acres of land?

Ans.—To the best of my belief, it does not specially mention it.

Ques.—Supposing Messrs. Haynes and Lowe had accepted the proposition contained in letter of 22nd January, 1877, what distance of the Okanagan would the land cover?

Ans.—I could not say.

Ques.—At the time Mr. Ralph was paid by the Department, the tracings of these surveys were in the office?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Were there any exceptions taken to the surveys at that time?

Ans.—I cannot say; I took none.

Ques.—For what purpose did Mr. Ralph go to Osoyoos?

Ans.—To carry out the instructions contained in the letters of the 3rd and 13th July, 1876.

Ques.—Who paid Mr. Ralph's travelling expenses to and from Osoyoos?

Ans.—Mr. Austin can give you full particulars.

A. S. FARWELL,

Surveyor-General.

MR. VERNON'S EVIDENCE:—

Ques.—3,273 acres, more or less, is your rough calculation of the acreage Messrs. Haynes and Lowe would have to purchase to secure the land now surveyed as lots 104 and 105, group 1, is it not?

Ans.—That is an extremely rough approximate calculation, only merely made for the guidance of Messrs. Haynes and Lowe, to show them in what respect Ralph's survey differed from Land Office regulations.

Ques.—Do you know, roughly, how much of the Okanagan Valley the parcel of land Messrs. Haynes and Lowe were desirous to obtain would cover in extreme length?

Ans.—Ten miles, more or less, as far as I know.

Ques.—Are you aware that Messrs. Haynes and Lowe's survey embraces all the water in the valley?

Ans.—It embraces only that portion for which application has been made to purchase.

Ques.—Would Messrs. Haynes and Lowe's application to purchase cover all the available grass land in the valley between the two points?

Ans.—Bunch grass is scattered along in places on both sides of the application.

F. GEO. VERNON,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Minutes adopted.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. J. C. Haynes.

Copy.] (Fol. 106, 107, Vol. 8.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA, 18th November, 1875.

SIR,—Referring to your application to purchase 1000 acres of unsurveyed land at Osoyoos, I have the honour to inform you that the application was received by this Department too late in the season for a Surveyor to be instructed to proceed to Osoyoos.

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

ROBERT BEAVEN.

NOTE.—A similar letter was sent to W. H. Lowe, Esq., on same date. (Signed) J. GORDON VINTER.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. W. Ralph, C. E.

COPY.] (Fol. 170, Vol. 8.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA, July 3rd, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to instruct you to proceed forthwith and survey two tracts of land applied for by Messrs. Haynes and Lowe under clause 62, "Land Act, 1875. I enclose copies of their applications for your guidance. You will also survey a tract of land claimed by the Hudson Bay Co., a sketch of which you are provided with the land having been held formerly as a pre-emption by Mr. McLean. You will also survey three military grants claimed as having been purchased by Mr. J. C. Haynes from ex-sappers Moore, James Normansell, and Thomas Robertson. The precise locality of these grants will be pointed out to you by Mr. Haynes.

As Messrs. Haynes and Lowe will have to defray part of the expenses of these surveys you will keep a correct account of your disbursements on the usual voucher forms.

You will number these lots of land from lot 100, Osoyoos Division of Yale District upwards.

These surveys you will carry out in the usual manner adopted by this Department, with which you are well acquainted.

If possible you will connect some of these lots and place them on a sketch map provided the expense of doing so is moderate.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) F. GEO. VERNON.

The Surveyor-General to Mr. W. Ralph, C. E.

COPY.] (Fol. 218, Vol. 9.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA, July 13th, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to instruct you to survey a military grant of sapper Stevens and a tract of land applied for by Mr. T. Ellis.

The land is situate on the Similkameen, and I enclose a sketch for your guidance. You will give these tracts of land some of the group numbers you are already provided with.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) A. S. FARWELL.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Messrs. Haynes and Lowe.

COPY.] (Fol. 78, Vol. 10.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA, 22nd January, 1877.

GENTLEMEN,—I regret to have to inform you that I have been unable to accept the survey of the land as executed by Mr. Ralph, for which you made application to purchase.

All lands must now, by the Land Laws of the Province, be surveyed upon the rectangular system unless shown to be impossible. In order to acquire the parcel of land you seem desirous to obtain, the ground containing 3273 acres, more or less, will have to be re-surveyed as per enclosed sketch.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) F. GEO. VERNON

COPY.

No. of Voucher, 1519.

No. 1149.

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Lands and Works Department.

W. Ralph, C. E., Victoria, Cr. for the undermentioned on account of Requisition No. 1.

Date of purchase or service rendered.	Items in Detail.	Rate of each Article.	\$	cts
Oct. 26, 1876.	Survey of Military Grants, in Osoyoos District, R. Moore, W. Bentley, Thomas Robertson, J. Normansell, R. Stevens, 804 acres aggregate.....	Verbal agreement.	200	00
	Survey of sundry pre-emption purchases to be hereafter refunded by occupiers as follows:—			
	Hudson Bay Co., \$ 67 25, 500 acres @ 13.45 cts.....	4109 acres @ 13.45 cts. per acre.	552	92
	Ellis, 43 31, 320 " "			
	Custom House, 13 45, 100 " "			
	Haynes & Lowe, 384 53, 2,859 " "			
	Price & Co., 44 38, 330 " "			
	Balance due by Price & Co.....	38 38		
	" Custom House.....	13 45		
	" Hudson Bay Company.....	67 25		
	" Haynes & Co.....	249 80		
	Paid on account, Price & Co.....\$ 6 00			
	" " Haynes & Lowe..... 134 73			
	" " Ellis..... 43 31			
		184 04		
		\$ 552 92	\$ 752	92

Pay at Treasury, Victoria.

Certified Correct,

(Signed)

F. G. VERNON,
Victoria, 27th Oct., 1876.

VICTORIA, 27th Oct., 1876.

Received from Treasury the above sum of Seven hundred and fifty-two dollars and ninety-two cents.

(Signed)

WILLIAM RALPH.

28TH MARCH, 1877.

Members present:—Messrs. Morrison, Evans, Dickinson, Beaven and Smithe.

MR. FARWELL'S evidence:—

Ques.—Mr. Ralph is generally very particular in carrying out the instructions of the Department, is he not?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Mr. Ralph was instructed to survey the land in Okanagan District according to "Land Act, 1875," was he not?

Ans.—Yes, the letter of instructions speaks for itself.

Ques.—Whether instructions from any body else other than the persons mentioned in clause 62 had any right to be followed by Mr. Ralph?

Ans.—No.

A. S. FARWELL,
Surveyor-General

MR. AUSTIN'S evidence:—

Ques.—Was Mr. Ralph paid by the Department for his surveys in Osoyoos ?

Ans.—He was.

Ques.—What was the total amount of his charges ?

Ans.—\$752 92.

Ques.—What was the date of your order on the Treasury for that amount ?

Ans.—October 27th, 1876.

Ques.—What was the acreage surveyed ?

Ans.—4914 acres, 804 acres of which was for the Government, for which \$200 was paid.

Ques.—What was the average cost per acre for these surveys ?

Ans.—\$13 45 per acre for 4109 acres.

Ques.—The payments for the surveys made for Haynes and Lowe were included in the voucher, were they not ?

Ans.—They were.

Ques.—Is it customary for the Department to pay for surveys made under the 62nd clause of the Land Act ?

Ans.—I am not aware that such is the custom.

Ques.—Do you know of any instance in which it has been done ?

Ans.—Not without reference to accounts.

Ques.—Under whose instructions was Mr. Ralph paid ?

Ans.—The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

J. J. AUSTIN.

MR. FARWELL'S evidence:—

Ques.—Do you know any instance of any surveyor having been paid by the Department for land surveyed under the 62nd clause of the Land Act ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—On what occasion ?

Ans.—During the prosecution of Government surveys on south branch of Thompson River.

Ques.—In what year was that ?

Ans.—I do not know at present.

Ques.—You consider this payment (to Ralph) as one of the exceptional cases ?

Ans.—Yes ; I look on it as such.

Ques.—Under what circumstances do you consider it exceptional ?

Ans.—Because the private and Government surveys are mixed up together.

Ques.—How so, when the number of acres for private parties and Government are specified in each case ?

Ans.—Because that could only be arrived at on the surveyor's return to Victoria.

Ques.—Was it the intention of the Department that Haynes and Lowe and other applicants should refund the money advanced to Mr. Ralph on account of these surveys ?

Ans.—To the best of my belief it was.

A. S. FARWELL.

Surveyor-General.

MR. VERNON'S evidence:—

Ques.—Do you know the character of the land mentioned in the application of Messrs. Haynes and Lowe ?

Ans.—Yes ; I have been there frequently.

Ques.—What is the character of the land on each side of the present application, and of that for which application was made ?

Ans.—The character of the land for which application was made is almost entirely a willow bottom; that on each side of the application is high hills and gravelly benches.

Ques.—Would, in your opinion, the granting of the application of Messrs. Haynes and Lowe interfere with actual settlement in this locality ?

Ans.—No ; not in the least.

Ques.—Do you know of any reason for refusing to grant the present application ?

Ans.—No ; not so long as the land laws are complied with.

Ques.—Is this not an unusual amount of land to grant any applicant ?

Ans.—No ; applications have been granted to a much larger extent.

Ques.—Do you know of any larger tracts having been granted ?

Ans.—Yes ; Messrs. Mathers, on the Fraser, purchased 6,500 acres two years ago, and have received a Crown Grant for the same a year ago or more; Harper also, 11,000 acres, more or less. Bunster made application to purchase some 2,500 acres, and the land, upon being surveyed, came to something over 5,000 acres, for which permission was granted to purchase.

Ques.—Did you, verbally or otherwise, notify Haynes or Lowe that you could not accept Ralph's survey, previous to 22nd January, 1877 ?

Ans.—Yes ; I notified them both, Mr. Lowe twice, verbally, when at New Westminster.

Ques.—When the bottom land in a valley of the nature of the one under consideration is taken up in narrow strips enclosing all the water, allowing the land outside of such to be valueless to any settlers taking it up separately, would it be so to the owners of that commanding the water ?

Ans.—It would be of some value to them.

Ques.—Was it the intention of the Department that Haynes and Lowe and other applicants should refund the money advanced to Mr. Ralph on account of these surveys ?

Ans.—Yes, of course.

Ques.—Has the course adopted in paying Mr. Ralph for these surveys on behalf of the applicant ever been adopted on other occasions ?

Ans.—Yes ; to the best of my belief.

F. GEO. VERNON,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Moved that the Committee now adjourn to the call of the Chairman.

The Committee then adjourned.

Minutes adopted.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

MARCH 29th, 1877.

All the members present.

MR. FARWELL'S evidence :—

Ques.—The Government surveyors on the South Thompson River were sent to the upper country to make township surveys and adjust pre-emption claims in 1874, were they not ?

Ans.—Two surveyors were sent by the Department in 1874 to carry out township surveys and adjust pre-emption claims in Nicola Valley, and connected their surveys with Thompson River and continued the work on the South Thompson River that fall.

Ques.—Are these the surveyors you referred to as having surveyed land for which application to purchase under clause 62 of the Land Act had been made ?

Ans.—Yes ; either Jane or Stephens did the work.

Ques.—They were not specially sent from the Department to survey land for which application had been made to purchase under clause 62 ?

Ans.—I would like to turn to their letter of instructions before I answer the question.

Ques.—Was the survey of the 6,500 acres of land purchased by Mathers on the Fraser paid for by Government ?

Ans.—No.

Ques.—Was survey of Bunster's land paid for by Government ?

Ans.—No.

MR. AUSTIN'S evidence :—

Ques.—Does the payment of \$752 92 include the travelling expenses of Mr. Ralph from and to Victoria ?

Ans.—Yes.

J. J. AUSTIN.

Minutes adopted 6th April, 1877.

R. BEAVEN.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. E. Stephens.

COPY EXTRACT.]

VICTORIA, 17th April, 1874.

* * * * *

Application has been made by Mr. Thaddeus Harper to purchase 2,500 acres of land on the south branch of the Thompson River, situate between the Indian Reserve and Yates' military grant, and I send you a sketch of his application.

The land should be surveyed into sections of 640 acres, and should be numbered and marked in accordance with the township system, and should include all the land fronting on the South branch of the Thompson River, between the Indian Reserve and Yates' military grant, extending back one mile.

Harper's application does not show the cardinal points of the compass, but the lines should be run due north and south, and due east and west, and any fractional pieces should be shewn in such a manner that the acreage can be correctly computed. Sketches of this Indian Reserve and Yates' military grant are forwarded to you by this steamer. Unless Harper's land comes into any township you have under survey, you should keep the notes in a separate and distinct book, numbering it as a township. It is also necessary that you should make as accurate an estimate as possible of the time occupied and expense incurred in making Harper's survey, in order that the amount may be collected from him. These particulars should be given in your diary and attention called to them in your field notes

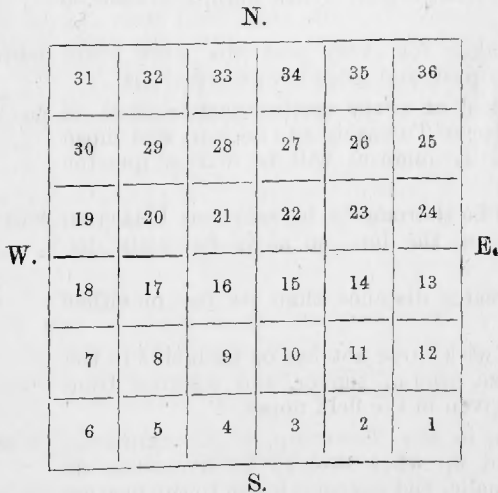
Mr. Harper has also applied for a piece of land containing about 500 acres, situated somewhere in the Kamloops District, but the sketch and description sent is too vague to identify it. You can, however, perhaps, find out all particulars in the office of J. Boyd, Esq., at Kamloops. If so, you can survey this land also, under the same class of instructions, being careful to connect it with some known surveyed point, in order that it can be correctly placed upon the district map. The acreage should be 480 acres, or some corresponding legal subdivision.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN

SPECIFICATION FOR THE SUBDIVISION OF TOWNSHIP No. _____ DISTRICT,
BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Each Township shall be laid off and surveyed into thirty-six sections, Sections, as near as may be one mile square, by lines running North and South, crossed by others running East and West.

The sections shall be numbered as shown in the following diagram:—



Quarter section corners shall be established equidistant between the $\frac{1}{4}$ Sections. section corners, except on the section lines closing on the North and West boundaries of Townships, on which they are set at forty chains from the last section corner, and excess or deficiency of measure, if any, shall be carried out into the last half-mile, and cast upon the North and West sides of the Township.

The dimensions and area of the irregular quarter sections shall in all Area. cases be returned by the Surveyor at their actual measurements and contents.

All sections shall be closed by first running a random line East or Random lines. West, as the case may be, to intersect the opposite corresponding corner post. Should this random line not intersect the post, then the distance shall be measured and a correct line run (care being taken to note the course) East or West, as the case may be, upon which the quarter section post shall be established. East and West lines must close within one hundred links.

All lines shall be run to the cardinal points of the compass. Lines.

Section lines shall be run with Burt's Solar Compass or Circum- Compasses. ferentors, with not less than 5 inch needles, or Transits.

Section posts shall not be less than 4 inches square, 4 feet out of the Posts. ground, and scribed with the number of the Township and adjoining sections on the sides facing them.

Quarter section posts shall be not less than three inches square, three feet out of the ground, and marked $\frac{1}{4}$ S.

All posts shall be squared two feet from the top, except $\frac{1}{2}$ section posts, which shall be flattened only on two sides.

All posts shall be pointed at the top to shed the water.

All posts shall be securely placed in the ground where practicable.

Pieces of charcoal or marked stones shall be placed under each post, and the fact carefully noted in field book.

In prairies, posts shall have mounds raised round them to a height of at least two feet six inches, either of earth or stones, and the post to be scribed with number of Township and Section on each side.

Mounds shall be three feet square at base. At a distance of one foot from each side of each mound, a trench shall be dug at least two feet wide and one foot deep.

On rocks, or where it is impossible to sink posts, they shall be surrounded with a cairn of stones at least thirty inches high, the base to be three feet square.

Four bearing trees shall be taken for every post, the trees being Bearing trees. marked B. T., with distance from post, and faced towards the post.

Four faced trees will be marked at every section corner, each of Faced trees. which will be marked with number of Township and Section, and those at the quarter section posts (two in number) will be marked quarter section.

The lines through timber shall be thoroughly blazed, two blazes to Marking the lines. be made on each tree quartering on the line, so as to be easily distinguished and traced.

No tree shall be blazed at a greater distance than six feet on either side of the line.

All line trees shall be notched with three notches on each side in the direction of the line, and their size, kind of timber, and distance from the last section corner, shall be given in the field notes.

Surveys that have been made in any Township, of Pre-emptions, Old surveys. Military Grants, &c., to be taken up when crossed by Township or Section lines, and measurement made, and bearings taken to the nearest

post, in such a manner that the fractional quarter sections can be plotted and computed accurately.

Field Notes.

1. The first entry in the field book each morning shall be the date. Field notes.
2. The Surveyor shall make full notes, as he proceeds, of the character of the country, nature of the soil, lakes, timber, &c., on both sides of the line.
3. All field notes must be clearly and distinctly made in pencil on the spot; no additional notes should be entered with the original notes after the day on which the latter are written. Duplicates are to be kept in ink.
4. Plans must be plotted to a scale of two inches to a mile, showing all the information contained in the notes, with number of page in the field book written on each section line.
5. The chaining must be as correct as possible.
6. All streams and rivers that are crossed shall be noted, also their width, volume, and direction.
7. Prairie land, timber, nature of soil, &c., shall be carefully noted.
8. The Surveyor shall describe each section as he completes its survey in his notes, as regards soil, timber, &c.; and on the completion of a survey of a Township, will append a general description of the said Township.
9. Meander posts will be placed on the banks of large rivers, lakes, and on the sea-coast; and meanders made along such banks or sea shore where necessary, so as to obtain the exact acreage of each fractional section. Meander lines must close to 100 links. Meander posts.
10. Bearings, and distances to bearing trees, shall be carefully noted, also the kind of timber, and size of the trees.
11. Indian villages or settlements, houses and cabins, fields, or other improvements, shall be carefully described and noted.
12. Any unsurveyed pre-emption claims shall be shown on plans as correctly as possible. Settlers' houses and improvements shall be carefully described. The names of all bona fide settlers shall also be carefully noted.
13. All roads and trails, with their direction whence and whither, shall be carefully noted.
14. The Surveyor shall commence the survey of each Township at the South-east corner, and complete the Eastern tier of sections, viz.: Nos. 1, 12, 13, &c., first; then return to the Southern boundary of the Township and complete the second tier of sections, viz.: 2, 11, 14, &c., and so on until the Township is completed. In cases where it is found absolutely necessary to deviate from this rule, the duplicate notes shall be arranged and copied in regular order, as if no such irregularity had taken place.
15. The field notes and duplicates must be sworn to as correct by the contractor before some person duly authorized to administer oaths in the Province of British Columbia, prior to their acceptance by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works or his agent.

The random lines run by the Contractor shall not be included in mileage to be paid for.

Payment will be made on the completion of the work to the satisfaction of the said Chief Commissioner or his agent. Payment.

The whole of this work to be completed in accordance with this Specification, on or before the _____ day of _____ 187 . Time of completion

Dated at _____ }
 this _____ day of _____ A. D. 187 . }

WITNESS:

APRIL 3rd, 1877.

Members present :—Messrs. Beaven, Smithe, Evans and Dickinson.

Moved by Mr. Beaven, seconded by Mr. Evans,—That the Department be requested to supply the Committee with a tracing of surveys made by Mr. Ralph at Osoyoos in 1876. Carried.

MR. VERNON'S evidence :—

Ques.—Did Messrs. Haynes and Lowe, or either of them, request you to give instructions to Mr. Ralph, conflicting in any way with your letter to Ralph of the 13th July, 1876 ?

Ans.—Not that I recollect.

Ques.—Did you give Mr. Ralph any verbal instructions conflicting with your letter of the 13th July, 1876 ?

Ans.—No.

Ques.—Did you take any exception to the surveys made by Mr. Ralph at the time you paid him ?

Ans.—Yes ; to the best of my recollection, I called his attention to the deviation from the requirements of the land laws.

Ques.—Can you explain how you came to pay Mr. Ralph this large sum of money for surveys that are practically valueless, either to the Department or to Messrs. Haynes and Lowe, as the land laws do not permit you to accept such surveys, and they had been made by Mr. Ralph entirely at variance with your letter of the 13th July, 1876 ?

Ans.—Mr. Ralph informed the office that on account of representations made to him by Haynes, and from the barren character of the land sought to be acquired, he reluctantly deviated from his instructions, informing Mr. Haynes at the time that he (Haynes) would be held responsible should the survey be not accepted ; and under these circumstances I allowed Mr. Ralph what sum remained due to him, holding, of course, Messrs. Haynes and Lowe responsible.

Ques.—How does this answer apply to surveys made for Government and other parties, and for which you paid Mr. Ralph at the same time ?

Ans.—Messrs. Haynes and Lowe being the principal applicants, all communications were addressed to them, other applicants for land being held in the same position as Messrs. Haynes and Lowe. To the best of my recollection, the surveys for the Government were very trifling, and the land surveyed was land acquired by parties many years ago, under different land laws, and who are not bound to accept the rectangular system.

Ques.—When was your attention first called to the nature of the surveys made by Mr. Ralph ?

Ans.—Some little time after he returned to the office.

Ques.—During what month did you visit New Westminster and verbally inform Mr. Lowe that the survey of his land could not be accepted ?

Ans.—November, to the best of my recollection.

Ques.—Do you remember Mr. Beaven's visit in the middle of December to the Land Office, accompanied by J. McConnell ?

Ans.—Yes, very well.

Ques.—Messrs. Lowe and Haynes first applied to purchase these lands during Mr. Beaven's term of office in the Land Department, did they not ?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—Did Mr. Beaven enquire from you in December last as to the shape of these surveys that Ralph had made ?

Ans.—I think he did.

Ques.—What reply did you make to him ?

Ans.—I don't recollect that I made any reply.

Ques.—Did not Mr. Beaven point out to you that if a Crown Grant for land so irregularly surveyed as then reported was issued, that it would be waste paper, and that the Legislature or Courts could set it aside as illegal, and that it would be a serious matter for the Department and Mr. Haynes ?

Ans.—I really do not recollect.

Ques.—Does the Land Act authorize you to sell a ten-acre plot of land, other than on a town-site ?

Ans.—Not that I am aware of.

Ques.—Will you explain the proposition you made to Messrs. Haynes and Lowe in your letter of 22nd January, 1877?

Ans.—I made no proposition to Messrs. Haynes and Lowe, but merely pointed out to them that the land for which they made application would have to be surveyed in blocks of not less than 40 acres.

Ques.—If they accepted your suggestions your idea was that they would acquire the land on both sides of the Okanagan River for a distance of 10½ miles, by purchasing about 4,000 acres?

Ans.—If you ask me whether they would not acquire a tract of land along the Okanagan River for a distance of 10 miles, more or less, by complying with the regulations of the land law as I suggested to them, I answer yes.

Ques.—Did Mr. Ralph make any township surveys at Osoyoos?

Ans.—No.

F. GEO. VERNON,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Minutes adopted.

R. BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

APRIL 4th, 1877.

Members present:—Messrs. Beaven, Dickinson, Smithe, and Evans.

Papers called for at last meeting laid before Committee.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for further information to be laid before the Committee next Friday, 10 a. m.

The Committee then adjourned until Friday next, 10 a. m.

Minutes adopted 6th April, 1877.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*

APRIL 6th, 1877.

Members present:—Messrs. Beaven, Morrison, Smithe, Evans, and Dickinson.

MR. VERNON'S evidence:—

Ques.—In your report, page 351, to the Governor, of surveys made by Lands and Works Department in 1876, you state that the following lots were surveyed by Mr. Ralph in the Osoyoos Division of Yale viz:—Lots 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116. How is that you have reported these lots as surveyed (specially the lots of Messrs. Haynes & Lowe viz: Lots 104, & 105,) to the Governor and Legislature, and you now inform the Committee that the survey of these lots has not been accepted by your Department.

Ans.—In setting forth the amount of survey work performed during the year 1876 in my Report, whether accepted or otherwise, I have followed the custom of the Department since the passage of the "Public Works Amendment Act, 1873."

1. In the Departmental Report for the year 1874, page 148, under the heading of Lillooet District 11,496 acres are stated to have been surveyed.

2. In the Report of my predecessor in office for the year 1875, page 117, under a similar heading, 5,605 acres of land are reported as surveyed.

Both of the above-mentioned tracts of land were applied for under clause 62 "Land Act, 1874," and neither of them had been accepted at the dates of the respective reports.

F. GEO. VERNON,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

The Department placed before the Committee papers in reference to certain masses of rock applied for by trustees of the estate of the late John Wark, and on examination found that no further action had been taken in the matter since 28th January, 1876.

Evidence of Mr. Farwell, who attended the Committee on behalf of Department.

Crown Grant No. 1,696:—

Ques.—What is the number of the Certificate of Improvement?

Ans.—The original pre-emptor of the ground, Alexander Nicholson, died before a Certificate of Improvement was applied for, and he bequeathed all his interest in the property to James and Matilda Jolly. Mr. and Mrs. Jolly administered to the estate and on the will being proved the Crown Grant was made out in their favour.

Crown Grant No. 1,702:—

Ques.—What is the number of the Certificate of Improvement :

Ans.—The same remarks as to 1,696 apply to this.

Crown Grant No. 1,706 :—

Ques.—What is the number of the Certificate of Improvement ?

Ans.—There does not appear to have been any.

Ques.—How long has J. Dougan been in possession of the land ?

Ans.—Probably 3 or 4 years.

Ques.—What course did Mr. Walkem and Mr. McCreight suggest to the Chief Commissioner should be taken in reference to the issuing of a Crown Grant for this land ?

Ans.—I should prefer to place copies of the documents before you and they will speak for themselves.

Ques.—What is the substance of Mr. Beaven's reply to Mr. A. R. Robertson, on the subject of issuing this Crown Grant ?

Ans.—I should prefer to place a copy of the document before you; it will speak for itself.

Ques.—Before this Crown Grant was issued was the course pointed out to Mr. Robertson in that letter of 20th October, 1875, carried out ?

Ans.—I cannot say.

Ques.—Have you any legal opinion in writing from the Attorney-General authorizing the Department to issue this Crown Grant ?

Ans.—I can find none in the Department.

A. S. FARWELL.

The Committee then adjourned.

Messrs. Robertson & Johnson to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

COPY.]

VICTORIA, 26th April, 1875.

SIR,—We have the honour to forward herewith an affidavit of Martha Dougan of San Francisco, shewing that she is entitled, as heiress at law of James Dougan, late of Comox, deceased, to 160 acres of land in Shawnigan District described in the affidavit. We presume you will refer the matter to the Registrar-General, and in the meantime the usual notices will be put up on the land so that when the matter is in such a position that a Crown Grant can be issued the usual notices will have been posted.

Your obedient servants,
(Signed) ROBERTSON & JOHNSON.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to the Honourable the Attorney-General.

COPY.]

(Fol. 440, Vol. 6.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,

VICTORIA, 13th May, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose the affidavit of Martha Dougan of San Francisco, shewing that she is entitled to certain lands in Shawnigan District as heiress at law of James Dougan, late of Comox deceased, and request that you will examine the same and inform me whether this affidavit is sufficient legal evidence to prove heirship.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

The Honourable the Attorney-General to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

COPY.]

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

June 1st, 1875.

SIR,—In reply to the application of the 26th April last, of Messrs. Robertson and Johnson, that a Crown Grant of certain pre-emption lands in Comox be issued through the Registrar-General to one Martha Dougan as alleged heiress at law of her son James Dougan, deceased, the pre-emptor of the land in question, I beg to say:—

1st. That the affidavit accompanying the application is valueless except for its information, as it is not entitled in any matter pending in our Courts.

2nd. The "Inheritance Act, 1872," under which the claim is apparently made, does not apply to equitable estates such as pre-emptions, but is confined to lands held in fee simple or for life by intestates.

3rd. It does not appear that the deceased pre-emptor died intestate.

4th. Even if the Act did apply, a Crown Grant could not be issued to Martha Dougan as she would only be entitled to a life interest (and not to a fee simple) in the lands (see sec. 6.)

5th. The Chief Commissioner under section 24 of the "Land Ordinance 1870," has power in the absence from the Province of heirs or devisees of pre-emptions to dispose of the lands for their benefit; he would, in such an event doubtless be held as a Trustee as to the proceeds and might divest himself of the trust under the "Relief Trustees Ordinance, 1868."

I would suggest for their consideration that an application be made to the Supreme Court in this matter by Messrs. Robertson & Johnson under the "Intestate Estate Ordinance, 1868."

I can not advise you to issue a Crown Grant or to refer the application to the Registrar-General.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Messrs. Robertson and Johnson.

COPY.] (Fol. 684, Vol. 6.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA, 15th June, 1875.

GENTLEMEN,—Referring to your letter of the 26th ultimo, applying for a Crown Grant on behalf of Martha Dougan, of land formerly held under Pre-emption Record No. 1298, by James Dougan, sen., I have the honour to inform you that I am advised by the Honourable the Attorney-General not to issue a Crown Grant to her, but at the same time he suggests for your consideration, that you make application to the Supreme Court in the matter under the "Intestate Estate Ordinance, 1868." Under any circumstances a survey of and payment for the land will be necessary prior to the Crown Grant issuing.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to J. F. McCreight.

Re JAMES DOUGAN.

COPY.] (Vol. 7, Fol. 722.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA, Oct. 1st, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose the following documents in reference to the application for Crown Grants of certain lands in Shawnigan District, Vancouver Island, viz:—

E.	$\frac{1}{2}$	of Section 18, Range 6.
E.	$\frac{1}{2}$	do. 19, " 6.
W.	$\frac{1}{2}$	do. 19, " 7.
W.	end	do. 18, " 7.

Covered by Pre-emption Record No. 1,298; a Certificate of Improvement No. 216, upon which was issued 22nd June, 1874, and would request you to advise me in the matter.

Documents enclosed.

1. Letter from Messrs. Robertson & Johnson, 26th April, No. 1,084, enclosing affidavit of Martha Dougan.

2. Affidavit of Martha Dougan.

3. Letter from Attorney-General to Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works 1st June, 1875, No. 1,478.

4. Letter from Chief Commissioner to Messrs. Robertson and Johnson, 15th June, 1875.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN.

Mr. J. F. McCreight to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Work.

COPY.]

GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA,
October 15th, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honour to report in answer to your letter of the 1st inst., and the accompanying documents, as follows :—

The "Crown Grants Ordinance, 1870," has no operation except as to lands purchased previous to 1870, a grant cannot therefore be issued under that Ordinance.

Further, I think a pre-emption record, even with a certificate of improvement, is not a fee simple interest in real estate within the "Inheritance Act, 1872."

The only claim Dougan's representatives can have is under section 24 of the "Land Ordinance, 1870," and it may be observed that this right is scarcely so clear in consequence of section 20 of the Acts of 1874 and 1875, notwithstanding section 1; and in any event in the case of absent heirs a wide discretion is left in the Chief Commissioner, with which I doubt whether the Courts would interfere as long as it is fairly and reasonably used.

It seems of little importance that a certificate of improvement issued, as sections 13 and 14 of the "Land Act, 1870," do not appear to have been complied with. In addition to the remarks of the Attorney-General, I would make the following observations :—

I think it would be a good course to answer the application, if a further answer is intended, by referring to section 24 of the "Land Ordinance, 1870," but pointing out that the object of that and subsequent Acts is to promote the settlement of the Province; and that whilst the Crown Grants Ordinance is inapplicable, the Chief Commissioner would be glad to receive information and consider any proposition to be made by Messrs. Robertson and Johnson, with a view to taking action under that section. Though I think the section gives much discretion to the Chief Commissioner; he should not act under it without in some way hearing the representatives of Dougan, as that is a fundamental principle of justice.

Probably the most convenient course—and some system should be adopted—would be to sell as suggested by the Attorney-General, and pay, or offer to pay, the money into Court under the "Trustees Relief Ordinance, 1868;" but in all cases I should act only after giving full notice to the representatives where known, or their legal advisers.

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

J. F. MCCREIGHT.

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. A. R. Robertson.

COPY] (Fol. 876A, Vol. 7.)

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA, 20th October, 1875.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 30th ult. and the issuance of a Crown Grant to James Dougan of land covered by pre-emption record No. 1298, Shawnigan District, I have the honour to inform you that I have obtained Mr. McCreight's legal views on the subject, and can only again suggest for your consideration that you make application to the Supreme Court in the matter, under the "Intestate Estate Ordinance, 1868."

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

ROBERT BEAVEN.

APRIL 10th, 1877.

Members present :—Messrs. Beaven, Dickinson, Morrison, Smithe and Evans.

MR. FARWELL'S evidence :—

Crown Grant No. 1697, Section 39, Comox District :—

Ques.—What is the number of certificate of improvement ?

Ans.—Certificate of improvement No. 30 was issued to J. Thompson. The claim was afterwards transferred to Mr. Kelvey.

Crown Grant No. 1707:—

Ques.—What is the number of certificate of improvement ?

Ans.—The land was sold without a certificate of improvement, permission to purchase having been granted as in former cases.

Crown Grant No. 1713:—

Ques.—What is the number of pre-emption record and certificate of improvement ?

Ans.—Pre-emption record No. 1186 ; there was no certificate of improvement. W. J. Westwood, the pre-emptor, died, and the Crown Grant was issued to D. H. Westwood on the advice of the Attorney-General.

Crown Grants No. 1733 and 1734:—

Ques.—What is the number of the certificate of improvement ?

Ans.—There is no certificate of improvement; this is a purchase pre-emption under the Act of 1865.

Ques.—In whose name is the Crown Grant issued ?

Ans.—Robert Mellor.

Crown Grant No. 1722:—

Ques.—What is the number of certificate of improvement ?

Ans.—There is no certificate of improvement; this is a pre-emption purchase under Act of 1865, issued to E. S. Brown.

No. 1741 in Crown Grant Book:—

Ques.—What is this document ?

Ans.—It is not of the slightest value at present.

A. S. FARWELL,
Surveyor-General.

The Committee then adjourned.

APRIL 17th, 1877.

Members present:—Messrs. Beaven, Dickinson, Smithe and Evans.

On motion, the Chairman was instructed to report the evidence taken before the Committee to the House, with a request that the evidence be printed and bound with the Sessional Papers.

On motion, a similar course was ordered in reference to the tracings of surveys made in 1876 in Osoyoos.

On motion, the Committee adjourned.

ROBERT BEAVEN, *Chairman.*