
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed to enquire into the non-publication in the Journals of 1877 of certain evidence given by Mr. McCreight before the Public Accounts Committee, 1877.
Committee—Messrs. Evans, Galbraith, Dickinson, Morrison, and Beaven.

ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chairman.

20th February, 1878.

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee appointed to enquire into the non-publication in the Journals of 1877 of certain evidence given by Mr. McCreight before the Public Accounts Committee of the Session of 1877, beg leave to report—

That they have ascertained that Mr. McCreight did give voluminous evidence before the Committee which has not been published in the Journals of 1877, in accordance with the Resolution of the House on 17th April, 1877;

That such evidence, as far as we can ascertain, was handed to the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, but we are unable to state what subsequently became of it.

ROBERT BEAVEN.
Chairman.

20th February, 1878.

EVIDENCE.

LIBRARY, 15th February, 1878.

Committee present.

Mr. Beaven appointed chairman; Mr. Dickinson appointed secretary.

MR. MARA'S EVIDENCE:—

Do the Journals of 1877, page 27, contain the whole of the evidence of Mr. McCreight? *Ans.*—A number of questions were asked Mr. McCreight and answers given, but my impression is that they were not formal, and not intended to be taken down as evidence. (Mr. Beaven produced a number of questions in writing.) I have no recollection of Mr. McCreight having given answers to those questions. I don't recollect the written questions having been read over to Mr. McCreight, but I think they were to Mr. Robertson.

MR. FISHER'S EVIDENCE:—

Do you recollect Mr. McCreight being before the Public Accounts Committee last year? *Ans.*—Very well.

Do the Journals of 1877, page 27, contain all the evidence given by Mr. McCreight? *Ans.*—Decidedly not. But when I say so, it does not contain all he said.

Who acted as secretary and chairman to the Committee? *Ans.*—Mr. Fisher chairman, Dr. Ash secretary.

Do you recollect questions submitted to Mr. McCreight in writing? *Ans.*—Yes.

Do you remember whether he signed those questions? *Ans.*—I don't think he did.

Do the questions and answers appear in the Journal? *Ans.*—I can't say from memory, but my impression is that the questions and answers are not all printed.

Do you recollect Mr. Beaven putting several questions through the chairman to Mr. McCreight? *Ans.*—Yes.

Do you recollect whether Mr. McCreight signed his evidence? *Ans.*—I am almost certain he did not.

Do you think you presented all the evidence taken before the Committee? *Ans.*—If I presented any part I presented the whole.

(Signed) WILLIAM FISHER.

Moved by Mr. Morrison that the following gentlemen be notified to attend Committee at 10 a. m. to-morrow: Dr. Ash, E. Brown, Mr. McCreight, Mr. Hett. Carried.

The Committee then adjourned until to-morrow at 10 a. m.

Minutes adopted.

ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chairman.

16th February, 1878.

LIBRARY, 16th February, 1878.

Messrs. Beaven, Morrison, Dickinson, Galbraith, and Evans present.

Mr. BROWN's evidence:—

Does that report contain all the evidence given by Mr. McCreight to the Public Accounts Committee? *Ans.*—It does not.

Do you know what has become of the missing report? *Ans.*—No; but I am under the impression that some of the evidence was omitted by consent of the Committee.

To whom was it entrusted to make the selection of evidence to be printed? *Ans.*—Not to any one that I am aware of in particular.

Do you remember some questions submitted to Mr. McCreight in writing? *Ans.*—No; I do not.

Mr. McCREIGHT's evidence:—

Have you seen the printed report? *Ans.*—I have seen the Journals of 1877, page 27. During last Session I was examined before a Committee of the House relative to an arbitration as to Messrs. Finlayson and Tolmie's land. I had given an opinion some months before as to the legality of arbitrators, under the circumstances of the case, proceeding with the arbitration, and the opinion I gave there shows all I knew about the matter as well as I recollect. I was asked a great many questions, many of them relating to the legal grounds of my opinion. I believe I answered all the questions put to me.

Do you remember whether your answers were taken down in writing? *Ans.*—My answers were taken down in writing.

Were they read over to you and signed? *Ans.*—I believe they were read over. I am not sure if they were signed or not.

Do the Journals of the House contain the whole of your evidence? *Ans.*—The report does not contain all the questions and answers.

(Signed) J. F. McCREIGHT.

MEM.—Mr. Hett appeared before the Committee and presented the originals of the Final Report of the Public Accounts Committee and evidence, as handed to him by the Chairman and handed by Mr. Hett to the printer.

Mr. HETT's evidence:—

Is the report on page 27, Journals 1877, all the documents handed in as evidence? *Ans.*—Yes.

(Signed) J. ROLAND HETT.

The Committee then adjourned to the call of the Chairman.

Minutes adopted.

ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chairman.

19th February, 1878.

LIBRARY, 19th February, 1878.

All of the Committee present.

MR. ASH'S evidence:—

Do the Journals of 1877, page 27, contain all the evidence given by Mr. McCreight before the Committee on Public Accounts? *Ans.*—No, they do not. They only contain an immaterial portion of it. I remember that Mr. McCreight gave evidence respecting the construction that he put upon some statute, and I remember that Mr. McCreight read carefully what I had written as Secretary, and that he caused me to change the wording of part of his evidence, and that he did not sign his evidence until he had carefully considered the purport of what I had written down, and that he signed the evidence and I handed over that paper with others to Mr. Fisher.

In handing over the papers to Mr. Fisher was it intended by the Committee to publish the whole of the evidence or only a synopsis of it? *Ans.*—I expected the whole of the evidence would be printed, and from the extreme caution shown by Mr. McCreight about the form of his evidence, I feel sure that Mr. McCreight anticipated that his evidence would appear in print.

(Signed) JOHN ASH.

MR. FISHER'S evidence (re-examined):—

Did you hand the evidence taken down by Dr. Ash to Mr. Hett? *Ans.*—I don't know.

(Signed) WILLIAM FISHER.

MEM.—Mr. Fisher handed papers A and B to the Committee having reference to Mr. McCreight's evidence.

The Committee then adjourned.

Minutes adopted.

20th February, 1878.

ROBERT BEAVEN.

LIBRARY, 20th February, 1878.

All members of the Committee present.

The Committee agreed to draw up a report, which was adopted, and the Chairman instructed to present it and to request the House to order that the report and evidence be printed.

Minutes adopted.

ROBERT BEAVEN.

20th February, 1878.

Chairman.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

To enquire into the nature of the correspondence alleged to have passed between the Junior Member for Lillooet and the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works regarding the construction of certain public works in said district.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee beg leave to report as follows:—

That there was sufficient evidence produced to prove that correspondence in relation to public works of said district did pass between the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and the Junior Member for Lillooet; but the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works informed your Committee that he had kept no copy of the letters referred to, as he considered them to be of an entirely private nature.

But your Committee are of opinion that the said correspondence is of an entirely public nature, as it refers to the expenditure of the public moneys in said district.

FRED'K WILLIAMS,
Chairman.

March 11th, 1878.
