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THIRD REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

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*Mr. Speaker :*

The undersigned members of your Public Accounts Committee beg leave to report, with reference to the advance of \$3,500 to the Hon. A. DeCosmos, that the warrant for \$1,000 was approved on the 16th November, 1880, and the cheque issued 17th November, 1880; that the warrant for \$2,500 was approved 2nd April, 1881, and the cheque issued on 5th April, 1881.

Your Committee further report that the warrants above referred to were properly issued; but they cannot, in the absence of a satisfactory explanation, express a like opinion of the abstract of vouchers produced in the House by the Hon. Minister of Finance, and headed "*In repayment of advance to be accounted for, Schedule B.*" From the evidence of the Auditor the Committee find that this form of abstract of voucher is not now, nor ever was, in general use at the Treasury, and that it was printed and prepared to suit this special case, payment of a portion of the expenses of Mr. DeCosmos having been made without proper voucher.

The Committee also find that there was no vote for the advance of \$3,500 to Mr. DeCosmos, and that the item appears on the Public Accounts for 1880-81 as charged to the expenditure of the Province, when it should, in the opinion of the Committee, have appeared as an asset, until the expenditure had been properly accounted for.

SIMEON DUCK,  
*Chairman.*

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