
MINORITY REPORT.

FIRST REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Speaker :—

Your Committee on Public Accounts beg leave to submit their first report:—

1. Items in detail of "Miscellaneous Receipts" from 1st July, 1886, to 31st December, 1887.
2. Items in detail of "Sale of Government Property" from 1st July, 1886, to 31st December, 1887.
3. Statement of sums due on 31st December, 1887, not brought to account at the Treasury at that date (partly approximate).
4. Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Executive Council with reference to the payment of \$37,500 as a bonus to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for building the branch line to New Westminster.

Your Committee report that: With regard to the sum of \$37,500 paid as a bonus as above, they find that the appropriation was made by the Legislature on 1st April, 1886, under the following conditions:—

That no Chinese were to be employed, either directly or indirectly, in or about or concerning the work in any manner whatever; and that in the event of any violation of this agreement the Government should not be liable or responsible in any way for the payment of the sum, or of any portion thereof; and further, that no portion of the sum of \$37,500 was to be paid by the Government until the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works reported in writing to the Executive Council that this condition had been fully and faithfully complied with, and the said branch line properly constructed and in running order.

That a Committee of the Executive Council, which was approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on 21st April, 1886, recommended that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company be paid the sum named upon the completion by the Company of a branch railway connecting the City of New Westminster with the Canadian Pacific Railway, as provided in clause 13 of an agreement made the 23rd February, 1885, between the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and that the Company should be informed that the Government had undertaken to pay such sum in accordance with the said agreement.

That the sum of \$37,500 was paid on 30th June, 1887, under authority of a warrant approved on 29th June, 1887.

Your Committee desire to draw your attention to the fact that the conditions of the resolution of the Legislature, under which authority the above sum was to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, was entirely ignored by the Government, although the Legislature was in Session for over two months between the interval when the money was appropriated and the sum paid.

JOHN GRANT,
ROBERT BEAVEN.

7th March, 1888.