
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

CLAIM OF JAMES ORR

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee have the honour to report that they have enquired into the claim of Mr. James Orr against the Government, and they find that he has a good claim for the sum of \$350. Evidence enclosed herewith.

CHAS. E. POOLEY,

Chairman.

12th February, 1884.

MONDAY, 11th FEBRUARY, 1884.

Present:—Messrs. C. Wilson, S. Duck, Geo. Cowan, G. B. Martin, and C. E. Pooley.

MR. ORR examined:—

In October, 1879, employed by Mr. Hughes to make copy of the Assessment Roll; I did so. No stipulation as to salary. On completion of Assessment Roll the work increased in the office so much that Mr. Hughes continued my services. I remained in the office until the 19th April, 1880. No stipulation as to my salary for this service with any one. Mr. Hughes stated that he had written a private note to Mr. Beaven advising him of my being employed in the office. [Copy of letter, J. C. Hughes, dated 3rd March, 1879, put in and read, marked "A."] Mr. Beaven told me \$250 would be paid me for my services, and I protested against this amount as being too small. I worked very long hours, and told Mr. Hughes I expected \$100 a month for my services. I worked steadily from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m., but often till 10 o'clock at night, and later. I was employed in the office six months—two weeks of which I was employed on the Assessment Roll. I put in copy of my claim marked "B." My full claim was for \$600, on account of which I received \$250. I signed a receipt for this amount, in full of all demands, under protest. [The original voucher produced by the Deputy Treasurer, Mr. Judson Young.] I signed in full because I could not have got anything unless I had done so. I did not ask Mr. Walkem for a Petition of Right, because I felt I should not get it. The verbal protest I made upon the payment was to Mr. Beaven and Mr. J. J. Young. [Copy of letter marked "C" put in and read, dated the 3rd April, 1883, from J. C. Hughes to Hon. John Robson.] One reason why I did not ask for a Petition of Right was, that I had no means of employing and paying for the necessary legal assistance. I applied for payment of the \$350, balance of my claim, to this Government last spring, and they told me to send my claim to the Public Accounts Committee. I sent my claim there and it was handed back to me with the answer that it was not a matter they could deal with.

JAMES ORR,

JAMES JUDSON YOUNG examined:—

I was Deputy Treasurer at the time Mr. Orr was employed at New Westminster in Mr. Hughes' office. The Treasury office was officially aware that Mr. Orr was employed by Mr. Hughes to assist him in his office. Mr. Beaven authorized me to instruct Mr. Hughes to employ some one to make a copy of the Assessment Roll. I believe it was known in the Treasury Office that Mr. Orr was employed by Mr. Hughes after Assessment Roll was complete. [Letter from J. Orr to Hon. R. Beaven, dated 13th February, 1880, put in and read—original.] Nothing was said as to salary Mr. Orr was to receive for services. Mr. Orr put in a claim for services for \$600. He only received \$250. He stated he thought he was very unfairly dealt with, and protested against the payment, and felt much aggrieved at the time. I told him that was the only sum on the Estimates, and that he would have to take that or none. I knew that Mr. Hughes was very busy at New Westminster. I do not think a charge of \$100 a month excessive; it is the rate at which we pay for temporary assistance in the offices here.

JAS. JUDSON YOUNG.

Mr. Beaven appeared before the Committee, but could not throw any additional light upon the matter.

“A.”

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.,
March 3rd, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following:—

In October last, I was authorized to have the Assessment Roll for the coming year copied, and I employed Mr. James Orr to do so; and, finding that the work of the office was more than I could keep up at that time alone, owing to the payment of so large an amount of revenue and the adjustment of land claims, &c., I still kept him on, thinking that, under the circumstances, an appropriation for assistance might be allowed; and I have now the honour of respectfully asking your consideration of this matter.

I have further to add that, should the present season be as busy as last season, that to do the work properly of this district that is growing so largely, that one person in the office will have a hard matter to keep up his work; and in view of this would respectfully ask you to take into consideration whether circumstances would permit of allowing an assistant for this office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. C. HUGHES,
Government Agent.

Hon. G. A. Walkem,
Premier, &c., &c., Victoria.

“B.”

THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To JAMES ORR.

To 5½ months' services in Land Office, New Westminster, from October 9th, 1879, to April 19th, 1880, at \$100 per month	\$550 00
Copying Assessment Roll for the year 1880	50 00
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By Cash, May 10th, 1880	600 00
	250 00
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Balance due	350 00

"C."

NEW WESTMINSTER,
April 3rd, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honour, in reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo respecting the claim made by J. Orr, Esq., M. P. P., for services rendered during the years 1878 and 1879, that Mr. Orr was actually employed for a period of 5½ months in the Government Office at this place, under the circumstances mentioned in my letter to the Hon. G. A. Walkem, under date March 3rd, 1879.

The copying of the Assessment Roll was a long and troublesome affair, the charge for which of fifty dollars I considered a remarkably low one.

I may mention further that the amount of work performed during the months Mr. Orr was employed, owing to the settlement of land claims, calculation of interest, both on land payments and taxes, &c., &c., could not have been done by any one person without assistance, and during five months, viz., from October to March, the amount of revenue reached the aggregate sum of \$35,421.92, by far the largest amount for any prior or subsequent months of the years 1878 or 1879.

The dates given in Mr. Orr's statement I believe to be correct as to the matter of 5½ months, although I can not be positive as to the precise date Mr. Orr left the office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

J. C. HUGHES,
Government Agent.

*Hon. J. Robson, Provincial Secretary,
Victoria, B. C.*

"D."

NEW WESTMINSTER,
13th February, 1880.

SIR,—I regret to inform you that Mr. Hughes has been so unwell that he has not been able to prepare the returns for this mail.

I will commence at them to-morrow, and will forward them, together with a copy of the Assessment Roll, by next steamer. Yours, &c.

(Signed) JAMES ORR,
Dep. Assr.

*Hon. R. Beaven,
Minister of Finance, Victoria.*