
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO VISIT

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

Your Committee appointed to visit the Royal Hospital, have the honour to report:

That on inspecting the Royal Hospital, they found the whole building to be in a state of thorough order and cleanliness, and the patients well cared for.

Your Committee are of opinion that the amounts placed on the Estimates in aid of this important institution have been judiciously expended, and the recommendations of your Committee in last year's report have been fully carried out.

Your Committee also entertain the opinion that as the cost of repairs and maintenance of the Royal Hospital are for the most part furnished by the Provincial Government, your Committee would therefore recommend that the management of the institution be placed in the hands of the Government, as regards the appointment and dismissal of officers, and the furnishing of supplies.

Your Committee strongly recommend the necessity of having a new ward erected for the exclusive use of patients suffering from such communicable diseases as typhoid fever, erysipelas, diphtheria, &c. The only certain preventative being the complete isolation of patients.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBT. SMITH,

Chairman.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed to enquire into the circumstances connected with the disappearance from the Treasury of voucher No. 1461, dated 21st December, 1872, for the payment of the sum of \$360 to Mr. Holbrook, as President of the Executive Council,

ALEX. E. B. DAVIE,
Chairman.

FRIDAY, 23rd March, 1877.

Present :—Mr. Douglas, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Davie.

James Judson Young, Deputy Treasurer, stated, without being questioned, as follows:—

Some time in 1874 Mr. Walkem came to the Treasury and asked me if any payment had been made to Mr. Holbrook as President of the Council. I found out that I was not clerk in the Treasury while Mr. Holbrook was President, so I referred Mr. Walkem to the Auditor, Mr. Berkeley. The Auditor gave him the voucher, and on Mr. Walkem's coming through the Treasury I asked if he had what he wanted. He said yes, and he would take it up stairs for a time; I saw no more of it.

By the Committee (Mr. Gallagher)—I saw the voucher in Mr. Walkem's hands, but did not read it. I knew that it was the voucher because he stated he had got what he wanted. No object that I know of could be gained by Mr. Walkem in the destruction of the voucher. There is an entry of the voucher in the cash book. The entry in the cash book is as follows:—"December 21, 1872, No. 1461, H. Holbrook, travelling expenses officers on duty, \$360."

By Mr. Douglas—Mr. Walkem did not appear in any doubt as to Mr. Holbrook's having been paid, but simply asked for the voucher. The impression produced in my mind was that he thought it all correct. I think I was clerk of the Executive in those days. I told Mr. Elliott Mr. Walkem had had the voucher.

By Mr. Elliott, with consent of Committee—I think the way in which it was found out the voucher was missing was that some of the present Ministry came and enquired for it. I think it was in Mr. Humphreys' time.

By Mr. Douglas—The payment was made on 21st December, 1872, during Mr. McCreight's administration. I am not aware of any question being raised as to the legality of the payment at that time.

By Mr. Elliott—It has not been the practice of Ministers to take vouchers out in this way. I usually take a receipt and no objection is made to that mode by any of the Ministry.

By Mr. Dickinson—I have never seen the voucher since it was in Mr. Walkem's possession. I did not enquire for it because it was before my time. I was not in the Treasury when the money was paid.

By Mr. Elliott—After the Auditor has done with vouchers they ought to be filed away.

By Mr. Gallagher—It seems to me that the reason this voucher was required by Mr. Walkem was in reference to some case that had been raised as to a payment to be made, and the voucher was called for as a precedent in the case. Something of this kind was stated at the time.

By Mr. Douglas—Mr. Holbrook at one time was Chief Commissioner. This payment was not during the time he was Chief Commissioner.