
REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO VISIT

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

Your Committee on visiting the High School at Victoria, found an attendance of sixty-six pupils of both sexes, the most of whom are far advanced in composition, reading, recitation, arithmetic, and other branches of education. Some arrangements should be made, at as early a day as possible, in this important institution to separate the boys from the girls.

Your Committee would recommend, that, in order to improve ventilation and prevent accidents, the windows in the Public School building should be constructed so as to draw down in place of being pushed up.

Your Committee on visiting the boys' department of the Public School, found an attendance of two hundred and two pupils; they were very orderly and apparently attentive to lessons, discipline, organization, the efficiency in teaching being all that can possibly be desired. Another assistant teacher is much required in order to relieve the over-crowded divisions in gallery rooms.

Your Committee on visiting the girls' department of the Public School, found one hundred and ninety-four pupils in attendance, and Your Committee have much pleasure in expressing an unqualified approbation of all they have seen and heard in the girls' department; vocal music, reading, and writing were alike creditable to pupils and teachers, but the Committee think that instruction in music would be facilitated could an harmonium be procured.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT SMITH,
Chairman.

EVIDENCE

TAKEN BY THE

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. McCREIGHT appeared before the Committee on the 5th April.

The Chairman asked a preliminary question, if the witness required compensation?

Mr. McCreight answered.—I do not require any compensation.

Referring to 1st report, section 8,

Ques.—Do you consider the money was paid under an award?

Ans.—I know nothing about the award excepting as appears from the opinion.

11TH APRIL, 1877.

Mr. ROBERTSON attended and was asked by the Chairman if he expected to be remunerated?

Ans.—He would abide by the usual practice.

By the Chairman—Do you consider that the report made by the Committee that money paid to Messrs. Finlayson & Tolmie was paid as an award of the Arbitrators was correct?

Ans.—I have not seen the Report of the Committee that I recollect. If it contains that statement I should state that statement is inaccurate, as I consider the award is the award of the Umpire.

By the Chairman—Do you consider that an award given by the Umpire is not the award of the Arbitrators, seeing that they are bound by his decision?

Ans.—I do. It would have the same legal effect.

By Mr. Mara—Do you consider that the Arbitrators were in a position to give an award that would be binding on the Government?

Ans.—I do.

By Mr. Beaven (as written)—Were you ever asked by Government to give your legal opinion on the document of the 22nd April, 1876.

Ans.—No, I was not. The only opinion I recollect giving was on 13th April, 1876. I then considered it valid.

Ques.—Have you ever advised the Government that they could legally pay Messrs. Tolmie & Finlayson the \$16,000 under the authority of the document of the 22nd April, 1876?

Ans.—I have given no opinion to the Government on this matter later than 13th April, 1876.

By the Chairman—Have you ever advised the Government?

Ans.—I gave no opinion later than 13th April, 1876.

By the Chairman—Do you consider that the Arbitrators were in a position to give an award that would be binding upon the Government after 13th April, 1876.

Ans.—I do.