
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CLAIM OF ROBERT DEXTER.

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MR. SPEAKER,—

Your Committee appointed to enquire into the claim of Robert Dexter when employed as Foreman on the Cofferdam at Esquimalt, between the 1st November, 1878, and the 31st July, 1879, beg to report as follows :—

That Mr. Dexter was employed as foreman on the work of constructing the Cofferdam at Esquimalt from the first of November, 1878, until July 31st, 1879, at one hundred and fifty dollars per month.

That Mr. Dexter received on account various sums amounting to five hundred and sixty four dollars and eighty cents.

That the balance due him is seven hundred and eighty-five dollars and twenty cents.

That from what was stated in the Legislature on February 21st, 1881, by the members of the Government, as reported in both the Standard and the Colonist of next day's date and confirmed by evidence before the Committee, and which is herewith submitted, your Committee are of opinion that Mr. Dexter had a right to reasonably expect, in case of an award being given in favour of Reed Bros., that his claim would be paid him by the Government, hence Mr. Dexter did not take any steps to detain the sum of the indebtedness of Reed Bros. to him in the hands of the Government.

That Mr. Dexter was promised a bonus of \$500 on the satisfactory completion of the work.

That the Cofferdam, as constructed under his supervision, was done in such a satisfactory manner that no further alterations were required to enable the contractors to complete the dock with any additional expenditure on said work.

Therefore your Committee respectfully suggest that the Government should take the claim of Mr. Dexter into their favourable consideration.

Respectfully submitted.

GEO. B. MARTIN,
Chairman.

 MINUTES AND EVIDENCE.

MARCH 24TH, 1890.

Committee to enquire into the claim of Robert Dexter when employed as foreman on the Cofferdam at Esquimalt, between November 1st, 1878, and July 31st, 1879.

Present: Messrs. Martin, Duck and Orr.

Robert Dexter appeared before the Committee and made a statement of his claim, which is the same as contained in his petition in clauses five (5), six (6), and seven (7). He also stated that all the employés on the Cofferdam had, with the exception of himself, been settled with by Reed Bros.

The statement of claim that was made in February, 1881, by Robert Dexter on behalf of himself and the employés was left in the office of the then Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Hon. Mr. Walkem, at his request, and the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works at the same time gave him an assurance that if any moneys were given under the arbitration with Reed Bros. the debts due in the Province should be satisfied first. We find the sum of \$11,930 was the amount of award paid by Government on December 1st, 1882, to Messrs. Reed Bros.

Committee adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

G. B. MARTIN, *Chairman*.

MARCH 25TH, 1890.

Committee met in Library. Present: Messrs. Grant, Duck, Orr and Martin.

On reference to the Votes and Proceedings of the House of the 21st February, 1881, we find that by a unanimous vote of the House it was considered desirable that the claims of the creditors of Messrs. Reed Bros. be fully considered by the Government.

MR. WALL'S statement:—

Mr. Dexter went up country in the spring of 1881, and wrote to me to attend to various matters for him, particularly to his claim against Reed Bros. In April, 1881, I saw Mr. Beaven. I saw the account of wages due the employés of the Cofferdam. I mentioned the amount due to Mr. Dexter to him. Mr. Beaven said he did not know whether anything was coming to Reed Bros & Co., but if there was the creditors would be paid in British Columbia, and the wages in priority. I again saw Mr. Beaven in July, 1881, in connection with the matter, and he said he thought it would be all right and there would be enough to pay the local creditors. Both these interviews were held in pursuance of instructions received from Captain Dexter. Two writs were sent to England—one in May, 1881, and one in May, 1884. I received word from England that Reed Bros. were hopelessly bankrupt, and it was useless to go to further expense. I paid about £7 in endeavouring to serve the proceedings.

Committee adjourned till March 27th.

MARCH 27TH.

Committee met. Present: Messrs. Orr, Cunningham and Martin.

Mr. SAUNDERS appeared before the Committee, and stated that he collected the moneys due him in London.

Mr. ORR—

Q.—Were the orders given employés on the Cofferdam drawn on Reed Bros. signed by Dexter or Mr. Dawson?

A.—They were signed by Mr. Dexter, as foreman, and also by Mr. Dawson, as agent for Messrs. Reed Bros.

Q.—Did you apply to the Provincial Government for payment of any of the orders in your possession?

A.—We asked the Government that these amounts should be deducted from any moneys that might be due Reed Bros.

Mr. DUCK—

Q.—What answer did you get from the Government to this?

A.—I understood them to say they would pay if they got any money under the award of the arbitration.

Q.—What member of the Government made this promise?

A.—Do not remember; it was a verbal promise.

Committee adjourned until Monday.

G. B. MARTIN, *Chairman*.

MARCH 31st.

Committee met in Library. Present: Messrs. Orr, Duck and Martin.

ROBERT DEXTER stated—

Mr. Dawson gave due bills, promising that the individual holding the same should be paid out of the first moneys received from the Government on account of Messrs. Reed Bros.

We consider that, Mr. Dawson being agent for Reed Bros., the Government would have been justified in paying these amounts.

“ Payable out of the first moneys I may receive from Government of British Columbia or Messrs. Reed Bros.

(Signed) “ C. E. DAWSON,
Agent.”

Mr. Dexter produced the originals of a Writ of Summons, Affidavit of Claim, and Order from Supreme Court.

The statement which Mr. Dexter stated he had left with the then Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. Walkem, cannot be found, and Mr. Dexter states that the statement was the same as (the wages and interest) attached.

Messrs. REED BROS, 11 Tokenhouse Yard, London, E. C., to ROBERT DEXTER, *Dr.*

November 30th, 1878—1 month's salary as foreman Cofferdam.....	\$150 00
" " to December 31st, 1878	150 00
7 months' salary from Jan. 1st, 1879, to July 31st, 1879..	1,050 00
	\$1,350 00
1879—March 12th.....	\$110 72
" " 19th.....	30 00
—April 4th.....	62 00
" " 5th (Saunders).....	100 00
" " 16th	70 33
" " 25th	41 75
—June 2nd	150 00
	\$564 80
<i>Dr.</i> To balance due	\$785 20

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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