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## MINORITY REPORT.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee, appointed to enquire whether clauses 6 and 7 of the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee of 1877 are correct, and whether there was any special authority on requisition for the payment of the sum of \$16,590 34 to Messrs. Tolmie and Finlayson, and to enquire the date of the Lands and Works vouchers relative thereto, and what officers of the Executive Council were acquainted with the transaction, beg leave to report:—

1. That clauses 6 and 7 of the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee of 1877 are correct.

2. That there is no special authority on requisition for the payment of the sum of \$16,590 34 to Messrs. Tolmie and Finlayson.

3. That there is no special authority under Order in Council for the payment of this sum to Messrs. Tolmie and Finlayson.

4. That the Lands and Works voucher upon which the payment was made is dated 4th August, 1876.

5. That no formal meeting of the Executive Council appears to have been held for the purpose of considering the payment before making it; and that Messrs. Elliott, Vernon, E. Brown, and W. Smithe were members of the Executive Council when payment was made.

6. That the only members of the Executive who appear to have been directly cognizant of the payment at the date it was made, are the Honourable A. C. Elliott and the Honourable F. G. Vernon.

7. That the Honourable William Smithe was absent at Cowichan at date of payment, and had authorized the Honourable A. C. Elliott, by letter dated 27th July, 1876, to countersign cheques during his absence.

8. That the Honourable E. Brown was of opinion that, under the circumstances, he considered the sum was ridiculously high; that it would have been far better in his (Mr. Brown's) opinion for the Government to have abandoned the construction of the dock, but that, owing to the decision of the arbitrators, and the opinions expressed by Mr. McCreight, he (Mr. Brown) considered that Government had no other alternative than to pay the money.

9. That the Honourable T. B. Humphreys was not a member of the Executive Council at the date of payment.

ROBERT BEAVEN,  
GEORGE COWAN.

4th March, 1878.