

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

ON BILL INTITLED

“AN ACT TO AMEND THE GOLD MINING AND MINERAL ACTS.”

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee, to whom was referred Bill No. 9, intituled “An Act to amend the Gold Mining and Mineral Acts,” beg leave to report—

That Sec. 2, sub-sec. *a*, should be amended as follows:—

If any free miner, or party of free miners, shall discover a new mine, and such discovery shall be established to the satisfaction of the Gold Commissioner, the first discoverer, or party of discoverers, if not more than one in number shall be entitled to a claim of three hundred feet; two in number, six hundred feet; three in number, eight hundred feet; four in number, one thousand feet (*i. e.*, dry, bar, or bench diggings); and no additional ground shall be granted as discovery claims, and any number beyond a party of four discoverers shall be entitled to take up claims of the ordinary size. A new stratum of auriferous earth or rock situated in a locality where the claims are abandoned, shall for this purpose be deemed a new mine, although the same locality shall have been previously worked at a different level; and dry diggings discovered in the vicinity of bar diggings shall be deemed a new mine, and *vice versâ*. A discoverer's claim shall, for all purposes, be reckoned as one ordinary claim.

LEASES.

That Sec. 3, line 3, be amended by striking out the words “in general.”

That Sec. 4, line 3, be amended by striking out the words “in general.”

That, as a general wish has been expressed that the “Quartz Act, 1878,” should be amended, your Committee recommend that a Select Committee be appointed to amend said Act, and that the amendments thereto be brought in in the form of a separate Bill.

February 9th 1881.

R. L. T. GALBRAITH,
Chairman.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

ESQUIMALT GRAVING DOCK.

MR. SPEAKER,—

Your Dock Committee beg to report that they visited the Dock site and found the work of excavation proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

Your Committee, after inspection of the work and examination of the plans, are of opinion that it would have been in the interest of the Province had granite been substituted for brick and sandstone in the plans and specifications.

The granite now on the Dock site is pronounced by experts to be of a very superior quality and equal to any to be obtained in any other part of the world, whereas the sandstone of this Province is known not to be equal to its granite. In the opinion of your Committee a granite Dock would be a more permanent structure and one more in character with the important Imperial, Dominion and Provincial interests associated with it, than one built of brick and sandstone, which, before many years, would probably require large Provincial outlays for repairs.

Your Committee therefore recommend to the favourable consideration of the Government the desirability of having granite substituted for brick and sandstone, if reasonable arrangements can be made with the Contractors which will keep the expenditure upon the Dock within the limits of the grants agreed to be given in aid thereof by the Imperial and Dominion Governments.

3rd March, 1881.

WM. WILSON,
Chairman.
