
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

ARTESIAN WELL BORING EXPERIMENT.

Mr. Speaker :

Your Select Committee appointed to enquire into all matters connected with the artesian well boring experiment beg to report as follows :—

1. Your Committee held six formal meetings, exclusive of the trip to Oyster Bay, and arrived at the following conclusions :—

2. An experimental artesian well was sunk on the south side of the South Thompson River, adjoining the farm of Mr. Martin, M. P. P., the work covering a period of about five months.

3. The well has been sunk about 116 feet, and the experiments so far have cost the sum of \$2,371.21.

4. Your Committee are of the opinion that the machinery used is not the best for the purpose of well boring.

5. Your Committee are further of the opinion that there is more modern machinery for artesian boring, by the use of which more expeditious, economical, and satisfactory results can be attained.

6. Your Committee are of the opinion that the failure to obtain water by sinking in one place is not a sufficient test of so important a matter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. H. LADNER,

Chairman.

29th March, 1889.

 MINUTES AND EVIDENCE.

FIRST MEETING.

TUESDAY, March 13th, 1889.

Committee composed of Messrs. Baker, Cowan, Tolmie, Ladner, and Semlin.

Mr. W. H. Ladner elected Chairman; Mr. C. A. Semlin elected Secretary.

Said Committee appointed under the following resolution of the House, passed Friday, February 29th, 1889:—

“On the motion of Mr. Semlin, seconded by Mr. Grant, it was *Resolved*,—

“That the names of Messrs. Ladner and Tolmie be substituted for those of Messrs. Beaven and Higgins. The Committee then to consist of Messrs. Baker, Cowan, Ladner, Tolmie, and the mover, with power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to report to this House upon all matters connected with the artesian well boring experiment, together with any conclusions that may be arrived at as to the work done, the implements used, &c.”

The Committee sent at 10:30 for Mr. Vernon. The messenger returned, saying Mr. Vernon was not in his office. 11:30—Mr. Vernon came to meeting.

Question—When was the party sent up to work on the artesian well?

Answer—Some time in June, 1888.

Q.—From McKay's report, do you consider the site selected the best for the experiment?

A.—I consider the selection a fair one. It is difficult to say as to the best site.

Q.—Did Mr. Martin offer any bonus to the Government to have the well sunk on his place?

A.—Not in writing.

Q.—Did Mr. Howse offer any inducements to have the work done in Nicola.

A.—He asked a question, but made no offer; certainly none in writing.

Q.—Did he offer to transport the machinery from Cook's Ferry and back to Cook's Ferry without cost to the Government?

A.—I have no recollection of any such offer. He submitted no proposition to my office.

Q.—Do you recollect Mr. Howse offering, in addition to the transport of the machinery, a bonus of \$200 if you would place the well in Nicola?

A.—I have no recollection of any such offer. He certainly submitted no such offer to the Government, to my knowledge.

F. G. VERNON.

Moved and carried to adjourn until Saturday.

WM. H. LADNER,
Chairman.

 SECOND MEETING.

Monday, March 18th, 1889.

Present—Messrs. Cowan, Baker, Ladner, Semlin, Tolmie.

Sent for Mr. Vernon to sign his evidence as given on 13th March; he was not found; messenger returned.

Sent for Mr. Robson. He being engaged, the Committee discussed the question of machinery best adapted for artesian boring, and adjourned until half-past ten on Tuesday.

WM. H. LADNER,
Chairman.

THIRD MEETING.

20th March, 1889.

Present—Messrs. Ladner, Tolmie, Cowan, Semlin and Baker.

Letter from Rand Bros. read—saying that they have a complete machine for boring at a price of \$7,500.

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 18th, 1889.

DEAR SIR,—We have an artesian well-boring machine at New Westminster, which cost in the neighborhood of \$7,500. It is complete, and will bore to a depth of 2,500 feet without any extra machinery. Its weight is about 15 tons. As for making any contract for working it, we are not in a position to make any proposal at the present time, but are in a position to receive proposals.

Yours, &c.,

(Signed) RAND BROS.

C. A. Semlin, Esq., M. P. P.,
Victoria, B. C.

Mr. Vernon came in and signed his evidence given on Tuesday, the 13th March.

Letter from Mr. Robson to Mr. Martin of June 13th, 1888, read and admitted.

VICTORIA, 13th June, 1888.

DEAR MR. MARTIN,—I have received your letter of the 9th instant, in which you express grave doubt as to the advisability of sinking the first test artesian well upon your own property.

The ground of objection would appear to be solely that of personal delicacy, or fear lest it might be thought that you had used your influence for your own personal advantage, or that the Government, in selecting your ranch, had favoured you as a political friend and supporter.

I think this difficulty is to a great extent met by a numerously signed petition, just received, from the settlers of South Thompson, praying that the first experiment may be made on your property, and giving good and substantial reasons for what they ask; and the petitioners mention the fact that they acted entirely without your knowledge in the matter.

Mr. McKay has already left under instructions to make the first experiment upon your property, and, under all the circumstances, and in view of the information in the possession of the Lands and Works Department, all pointing to your ranch as presenting favourable conditions for the experiment, I do not think the Government should be turned aside on account of the reasons assigned in your letter,—the governing object being to make the test as quickly, efficiently, and economically as possible.

It is hoped, therefore, you will waive any considerations of delicacy and agree to the work being done on your property, in order that an experiment of such importance, and of which you yourself have been such an earnest advocate, should be carried out as speedily as possible.

Yours truly,

(Signed) JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

G. B. Martin, Esq., M. P. P.,
South Thompson, B. C.

Mr. Robson appeared before the Committee, and upon being asked to produce the letter from Mr. Martin to which his of June 13th was an answer, said that the letter from Mr. Martin was a private letter and had been destroyed.

Col. Baker moved to have a telegram sent to Rand, asking him to let us know when the man in charge of his well boring machine could come before the Committee and give evidence

Moved to adjourn until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

WM. H. LADNER.
Chairman.

FOURTH MEETING.

March 21st, 1889.

Present—Messrs. Ladner, Baker, Tolmie, Cowan and Semlin.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Mr. Davys came before the Committee and gave the following evidence:—

Q.—What depth, in bad ground, can you sink a well in a day?

A.—About 15 feet.

Q.—What would you estimate the cost per foot?

A.—About \$2.50 per foot.

Q.—Did you use the diamond drill?

A.—We started with the diamond drill, but changed to the plunger drill. There are firms in Iowa who would contract for less than \$2.50 per foot.

Q.—How much water is requisite to work a plunger drill?

A.—Very little will do. Have worked diamond drill, but think plunger drill better for well sinking. Think it best to send east for a man who understands his work. The cost of a drill would be, approximately, \$500 for the clutch pipe. If the Government wanted, say, six wells, I think it could be done by contract more satisfactorily than by day-work. A firm in Des Moines, Iowa, Eagle Iron Works, can furnish the necessary machinery. Would recommend Wells' boring machinery. Think the whole plant would cost \$2,000 on the ground where used. Could get a good man, Maher, for \$5 per day, who thoroughly understands this work. The weight of a machine, without the pipe or engine, might be 4,000 lbs. The clutch, the part to be imported, weighs 400 lbs., about. Think the machinery used on the Martin ranch well last summer was the old hand process, which has long since been superseded by improved machinery.

M. L. DAVYS.

G. B. Martin, M. P. P., gave evidence as follows:—

Am not a practical well-borer. Think the distance from the surface to the rock about 60 feet. The party under Mr. McKay sunk in rock from four to six inches per day. Found water about 10 feet apparently from surface; this was surface water. McKay's party started to work some time in June, and I think continued until November; were delayed some days waiting for lumber from Kamloops. Sank, by McKay's report, 116 feet. I think McKay told me more. The report will show. I think the party done all the work that could be done by the process used. There was no lost time, except when waiting for lumber, and perhaps during rainy weather. If water is struck I would be the party benefited. Have corresponded with Mr. Mara, who says he has interviewed a member of the Dominion Government, and was informed that that Government would take the matter of artesian boring into its consideration for the purpose of assisting the experiment going on here.

GEO. B. MARTIN.

Adjourned until Saturday, March 23rd, 1889.

WM. H. LADNER,
Chairman.

On Saturday, March 23rd, 1889, the Committee availed itself of the generous offer of the President of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railroad, and visited Oyster Bay to inspect the work of prospecting for coal by the process of artesian boring.

We found there a party of three men, Mr. Boddy in charge of the work. These men had started work in January of this year, and already were down nearly 1,100 feet through hard shale.

The machine used was the P drill from the Diamond Prospecting Company of 74 West Lake Street, Chicago. The size of the bore is two and three-quarter inches. We were informed by Mr. Boddy that he had sunk as much as sixty feet in a day, often thirty-five feet, and would average, since he started, twenty-five feet per day. Mr. Boddy recommends a lighter and much less expensive machine for boring for water; one that would not weigh, all told, without boiler, more than twelve hundred pounds. A 10-horse power boiler would give ample

power for such a machine. He further stated that his company was prepared to contract for sinking for water, and that in so sinking, he could make thirty-five per cent. better time than at his present occupation, as he would not require to draw up his pipes in order to withdraw the core.

M. Boddy says, that for sinking with the diamond drill he had hauled water enough for the purpose four miles with one team. Mr. Boddy explained how he would make time in boring for water by saying, that in boring for water he would so arrange his diamonds as to grind the rock, which as pulverised would be washed out, thus saving the necessity of drawing the pipes; or, in other words, using a solid instead of a hollow bore. He further stated, that in quicksand he could wash through the sand without any delay.

WM. H. LADNER,
Chairman.

FIFTH MEETING.

March, 26th, 1889.

Present—Messrs. Cowan, Ladner, Tolmie and Semlin.

Minutes of former meetings and evidence read and considered.

Committee adjourned until Tuesday the 27th of March, at 10 A. M.

WM. H. LADNER,
Chairman.

SIXTH MEETING.

THURSDAY, March 28th, 1889.

Present—Messrs. Ladner, Cowan, Baker, Tolmie and Semlin.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Discussed the matter of well boring and adjourned until 10 A. M., Friday, 29th.

WM. H. LADNER,
Chairman.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

CLAIM OF JOHN STEVENS.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee appointed to enquire into the claim of John Stevens beg to report as follows:—

From evidence produced, we find that the said John Stevens suffered loss from a fire, caused by the burning of brush on a road being built by the Government.

We also examined the correspondence between the Lands and Works Department and John Stevens, in reference to the same.

We think that the claim of said John Stevens should be earnestly considered by the Government.

And we would further suggest that in all future contracts of road-making the burning of all brush or inflammable matter should be enforced.

GEO. W. ANDERSON,

Chairman.