
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

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RE BOOK-BINDING.

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MR. SPEAKER :

The Select Committee appointed to inquire into the truth of the allegations contained in the petition of R. T. Williams beg to report the evidence taken, and recommend that it be printed with the Sessional Papers.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

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SECOND MEETING.

Committee on petition of R. T. Williams re binding.

VICTORIA, 7th April, 1894.

Committee met at 10. a.m.

Present—Messrs. Booth (Chairman), Semlin, Smith, Martin, and Sword.

Proposed that reporters be admitted.—Negatived.

R. T. Williams, called and sworn, refused to be examined unless reporters were present.

Col. Wolfenden, S. Duck, R. Butler, A. Flett, M. Miller, and Jas. Scott examined.

Exhibits "A" to "G" put in.

On motion, Committee adjourned to 10 a.m. Monday.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

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THIRD MEETING, MONDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1894.

Present—Messrs. Booth, Semlin, Smith, Martin, and Sword.

Minutes of last meeting read and adopted.

Smith, Scott, and Hon. Mr. Turner examined. Exhibit "H" put in by Mr. Williams.

Committee adjourned to 10 a.m. to-morrow.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

—o—

FOURTH MEETING, 10TH APRIL, 1894.

Present—Messrs. Booth, Semlin, Smith, and Sword.

Minutes of last meeting read and adopted.

Committee adjourned to 10 a.m. to-morrow.

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 PETITION.

VICTORIA, B.C., 2nd April, 1894.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia:

GENTLEMEN,—

The undersigned petitioner desires to draw the attention of your Honourable Body to the following facts:—

For a period of eight years the Government of the Province have paid from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. more for their binding of the Statutes and other books than there has been any necessity for paying. (*See* pages 25, 55, 126, 130, &c., &c., Public Accounts ending June, 1893.) showing that the binding is costing more than half the amount paid out in salaries in the Government Printing Department for the vast amount of work performed by the Queen's Printer, or in round figures, the binding is costing over six thousand dollars per annum, or again in round figures, four thousand dollars more than the work is now worth.

The petitioner works his people shorter hours and pays higher wages, and has twice the amount of capital invested, than any other establishment of the kind in the Province, and has stood ready for years past to do the work for 50 per cent. less than the prices paid. In this work alone a saving of thousands of dollars could have been effected. Aside from the saving of money, is it just that only one line of business in the Province should be singled out by the Government, and excluded from the pay roll of distributing their patronage fair and square amongst those doing business in the Province? In other Provinces the work is given out by contract to the lowest bidder. It has at all times worked well elsewhere, and given satisfaction, why should there be any exception here? It is true that a few dollars have been paid me when the Government wanted a certain class of extra fine work done; as an example, the binding for the Columbian Exposition in 1893, which I had the honour of doing.

A Statute made and provided, and a former resolution of the House, has been disregarded—first by changing the style of the binding, which has destroyed the intention of said Statute in making a distinction between Sessional Papers and Statutes. (*See* Statutes and J. Act, page 917, Consolidated Laws, 1888), and not giving the work out by contract as per former resolution of the House.

In fact to put the whole thing in a nut shell, over 40 per cent. more was paid last year than we agreed to do the work for eight years ago—while stock and labour is at least 20 per cent. less than it was in 1886.

The binding should be given out to public competition, as there are four binding establishments in the Province capable of doing the work.

An immediate inquiry should be held, so that the work for 1894 may not be given out until prices are obtained from competent binders.

Being a heavy tax-payer, and one that has invested his money in building up the Province, you will, I feel sure, see the justice of my petition.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

ROBERT T. WILLIAMS.

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 EVIDENCE.

R. T. WILLIAMS, called:—

Asked by Chairman if he is prepared to swear to the statements in his petition to the House? States that he is prepared to swear to the truth of his statements, but not to produce evidence in support of his petition, as there are to be no reporters.

R. T. WILLIAMS, sworn:—

The statements in the petition to the House, of 6th April, 1894, are true.

To Col. Wolfenden:—I must look into the matter before answering whether I did the binding work for the Government from 1872 to 1884, inclusive.

Mr. Williams refused to submit to examination because no reporters were present.

COL. WOLFENDEN, sworn :—

Produce letter to Provincial Secretary, as a report on Williams' first petition—(Exhibit A.) This is correct, with the exception that Mr. Williams did not bind the Statutes of 1885; and my statement that Mr. Williams did "all the binding," means the binding of books, not of pamphlets in paper covers.

In reply to second statement, my impression is that Mr. Williams *did* absolutely refuse to do any further Government work.

I hand to the Committee a statement marked B, which I have extracted from the Public Accounts. These sums were extracted hurriedly, and do not cover all payments to Mr. Williams during the period mentioned.

I produce statement marked C, from Mr. Flett, *re* prices of binding paid. In connection with this (C), I find that Mr. Williams' work in 1884, amounted to 702 pages of Statutes, Journals, and Sessional Papers, for which he was paid at the rate of \$3.20 for the set. Mr. Miller's work in 1893 for the corresponding set of books amounted to 1,793 pages, and cost \$2.25.

In the year 1886, tenders were called for Government work, as per Exhibit D, handed in herewith.

On 10th April, 1888, the Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return to an Order of the House for copies of all the tenders invited and received, and the contract awarded for the binding of the Journals, etc., for 1886 and 1887. This return, apparently, was not ordered to be printed. I have searched all through the records of the House and am unable to find it. I have, however, an extract from the written tender of Mr. Miller, copied by myself in 1886, marked Exhibit E.

Cross-examined by Mr. Semlin :—I cannot produce Mr. Miller's original, from which Exhibit D was extracted, nor that of Mr. Williams. I have applied to the Deputy Provincial Secretary for these original tenders. He tells me they cannot be found. He thinks the original tenders may have been included in the return of 10th April, 1888.

I know of no other papers having been missed from the Provincial Secretary's Department, nor would be likely to know.

To Mr. Scott : I am not a practical bookbinder, but should think the 1893 work would cost more than the 1882 work.

To Mr. Williams : The extract from Mr. Miller's tender was made by myself in 1886.

I saw the original tender signed by Munroe Miller, and also the one signed by R. T. Williams; in fact, in conjunction with the then Deputy Provincial Secretary, Mr. Elwyn, I examined those tenders, and we found that Mr. Miller's was the lowest, taking it all round.

Probably they were opened by Mr. Elwyn.

I am not in a position to speak as to the relative prices of stock and labour now and five years ago, not being a bookbinder.

I see that the number of pages are not specified in the tenders called for. I would give it as my opinion that an increased number of pages would mean an increased cost.

The Journals of 1893, quarter sheep, cost 50 cents, 241 pages.

The Journals of 1890, quarter cloth, cost 30 cents, 277 pages.

I do not know why tenders were not called for when the style of binding was changed.

To Mr. Sword : Tenders were asked for the binding of Journals, &c., as contained in Exhibit "D," in 1886. Apparently, Statutes were not included in the call for tenders, but prices were quoted for them in Mr. Miller's tender.

Tenders, so far as I know, have not been called for for this kind of work since.

I think it was in 1891 that the price for the work was changed, the Statutes and Journals of that year being much thicker than the previous year.

The witness called the attention of the Committee to the difference between the Gazette of 1884, containing 500 pages, cost \$2, Mr. Williams' binding, and the Gazette of 1893, containing 1,045 pages, cost \$2.50, Mr. Miller's binding.

To Mr. Williams : In 1886, Mr. Miller offered to bind the Gazette for \$1.50, I presume on a book similar in size to the Gazette of 1884. I do not know what Mr. Williams' offer was.

In 1884, 28 Gazettes were bound; in 1893, at least 40.

S. DUCK, sworn :—

I think tenders were called for in 1886 for binding.

I think Mr. Williams refused to tender for the Government work because he could not get it all, and I produce copy (Exhibit "F"), which is taken from a copy I made in 1885, of a letter from Mr. Williams to Mr. McB. Smith. I understand the Government had given Mr. Miller some pamphlet work to do, at which Mr. Williams was dissatisfied.

To Mr. Williams : I do not know about the Statutes.

To Mr. Smith : Mr. Williams' statement in Exhibit "F" that the Government had told him (Mr. Williams) that they had handed over all work in the binding line to Mr. Duck, without calling for tenders, is, so far as I know, unjustified, and the Government had never done so.

SIMEON DUCK.

R. BUTLER, sworn :—

I am employed as foreman of the Government Printing Office.

With regard to Exhibit "E," I saw Mr. Wolfenden make the copy in 1886, to the best of my belief, exactly from Mr. Miller's tender, after such tender had been accepted. This copy was taken as a guide for checking the vouchers.

Mr. Williams did the binding previous to 1885, and, I think, the binding in 1885, with the exception of the Statutes.

In 1885, I reasoned with Mr. Williams on his expecting to have the binding taken from him on account of Mr. Duck being in the Ministry, and his expecting that, therefore, Mr. Miller, as a relation of Mr. Duck's would get it, and against his express intention of giving it up on that account.

I am certain that the binding of the Statutes in 1885 was given to Mr. Miller because Mr. Williams refused to do it.

To Mr. Williams : I do not remember of your sending to me for the Statutes and being refused. I was not aware of the letter to Mr. McB. Smith (Exhibit "F") till yesterday.

To the Chairman : I do not know what work is alluded to in Exhibit "F" as being "difficult and unprofitable."

To Mr. Williams : I do not remember of the advance sheets of the 1885 Statutes having been kept back, but think I should have remembered this if it had been the case.

ROBT. BUTLER.

ALFRED FLETT, sworn :—

Mr. Williams did the binding work for the Government up to 1884 or 1885. I do not know directly why he ceased to do the work. I swear to the correctness of Exhibit C.

To the Chairman : My impression was that Mr. Williams thought that Mr. Duck being in the Ministry and father-in-law to Mr. Miller, he, Mr. Williams, had no prospect of obtaining the work.

To Mr. Williams : You never refused to do any work for our Department, so far as I know.

To Mr. Miller : I am now Deputy Provincial Treasurer ; in 1884 and 1885 I was clerk. I have now authority to order work to be done ; in 1884 and 1885 I had not.

To Mr. Smith : I have not ordered any binding from Mr. Williams since I have been Deputy Provincial Treasurer.

To Mr. Miller : I cannot say off-hand whether or not I ever ordered any binding from Mr. Williams.

To Col. Wolfenden : I cannot say whether Mr. Williams refused to do Government work or not. I was under the impression he had refused.

To the Chairman : I know nothing of Exhibit F.

ALFRED FLETT.

MUNROE MILLER, sworn :—

To Col. Wolfenden : I read Col. Wolfenden's report (in the "Colonist") to the Provincial Secretary. This report now shewn to me is, so far as I know, substantially true. The first Government binding I had to do was in 1885. I could not say exactly what it was, but it was of a trifling character. Some few weeks afterwards, Mr. Robson gave me to understand, in almost as many words, that I had got the Government into a scrape, his having shewn me

a kindness resulting in the Government bookbinder refusing to do any more work for them. He asked me if I felt competent to take up some of the work and do it. I was then only prepared to do pamphlet binding, and after considering the matter told him that it would put me to a considerable expense, and that I was rather fearful of undertaking it without some assurance that the work would be continued. He would not give me that assurance, telling me that I would be compelled to compete for it, and argued that if I would put in a bindery it would become a valuable adjunct to my printing office. I then ordered the plant, and in due time bid for, gained, and was awarded the contract for doing the Government binding. I bound the Statutes for 1885. Mr. Robson told me that the Government bookbinder refused to do any more work for them, but I do not remember that the binding of the Statutes of 1885 were specifically mentioned. Since that date I have done practically all the Government binding, except what has been done in Vancouver and New Westminster.

I sent in a tender, I think in 1886. I kept a copy of the tender. When the building was reconstructed the tender disappeared with other documents.

I swear to the correctness of Exhibit E. In my tender, I tendered for the binding of the Statutes.

To Mr. Williams: I tendered for the binding of the Consolidated Statutes, and in proof of this put in a letter from Mr. Robson, marked Exhibit G. My copy of this tender has disappeared, as well as the other.

Mr. Williams: In tendering for \$400 worth of work in 1892, how did it occur that you got over \$3,000 worth of work?

A.—I did not. What I tendered on I received. If there was more work, it was another affair. Mr. Williams tendered against me; my offer was \$400, his offer was \$447. The tender was for the outfit for the Kamloops Registry Office.

To Mr. Scott: The letter to Mr. Williams and to myself asking for tenders for this work were duplicates.

To Col. Wolfenden: I have given no written tenders besides those mentioned for Government work, but I have given verbal tenders to various and sundry of the departments, and I have had to figure close to get the work.

To the Chairman: When I tendered on the work in the beginning, together with Mr. Williams, the volume of business done in the various departments was nothing like what it is at present, the result being that when the reports, &c., came to be bound they made much larger books, and Mr. Robson, when I called his attention to it (I claiming that it was unfair to hold me to the price that was given), allowed a slight advance.

To Mr. Semlin: I never figured the percentage of the advance; it was advanced from a price to a price, without taking percentage into account. It was over 50 per cent., taking into account Statutes, Journals, Sessional Papers, and Gazettes, as shewn by Exhibit "C." The other work remains about the same rate as the tender.

To Mr. Williams: There was, I think, no given time for the tender.

Mr. Sword: Do you know of competing tenders being called for for work outside of these called for in 1886, and for the work of the Registry Office, Kamloops, in 1892?

A.—I do not know if tenders were called for or not.

I do know that work was given out in Vancouver to the extent of \$400 or \$600 on which I had no chance to tender.

MUNROE MILLER.

COL. WOLFENDEN, recalled.

Mr. Semlin: Is it the custom in the printing department to ask continuing tenders?

A.—The circular asking for tenders specified one year as the time (*see* Exhibit "D"). The tenders are called for for a year as a basis, without its being intended that the contract shall last for only a year. This tender was called for in 1886, and awarded to Mr. Miller. No tenders have been asked for for this work, so far as I know, since then.

Q.—What part of this work has been advanced over 50 per cent. since 1886?

A.—Statutes, Journals, Gazettes, and Sessional Papers have been advanced, but I cannot say how much per cent.

R. WOLFENDEN.

JAMES SCOTT, sworn:—

I am foreman with Mr. R. T. Williams.

The cost of straw-board in 1884 was \$60 per ton; in 1893, \$47.50. Cloth per roll was, in 1884, \$9.50 and \$10.50; in 1894, \$4.25 and \$5.25, practically the same quality. Bark

skiver, in 1884, \$14.50 per dozen skins; in 1894, \$7.25. These estimates are as near as I can make them.

I can state to the Committee that the binding of 1893 Statutes, as per copy before them, is not worth more than 45 cents per copy, and I am prepared, as manager for R. T. Williams & Co., to do the same class of work, of the same number of pages, for less than 45 cents.

The prices of material are liable to fluctuations, but I took the prices given of material for these years indiscriminately from the books of these years.

I have, since I have been here, since 1891 only once had a chance of tendering on Government work, and the only proper way to tender on binding work is so much per thousand sections, so many pages per form.

To Col. Wolfenden: At a rough estimate, I would do the binding of the set, Gazette, Journals, Sessional Papers, and Statutes, as shewn to me, and taking into account the numbers required, *i. e.*, Gazette, 40; Sessional Papers, 300; Statutes, 500; Journals, 300, based on the books of 1893, for \$3 per set.

Mr. Miller: What is the proportion of cost, labour to material?

A.—The cost of the material would be, I think, about the same for the set of four books now as for the corresponding set in 1884.

JAMES SCOTT.

MR. DUCK recalled:—

Mr. Williams had no cause to fear the result of his competing for the work in 1886, on account of my being a member of the Government, because I made no attempt to influence other members of the Government in the matter.

SIMEON DUCK.

9th April, 1894.

PHILIP R. SMITH, sworn:—

Am foreman to Munroe Miller, in the binding department.

The price of skiver in Chicago is from \$12 to \$14 per dozen, at present. There is an import duty of 20 per cent. In bookbinders' material there has been very little change in the last eight years, and whatever change has been upward, especially in the last three years; straw-boards, air dried, are at \$55 per ton, duty on which is \$8 additional. We use cloth board, which we consider better, the price is the same. I was five years with Mr. Williams, and eight years with Mr. Miller.

To the Chairman: Eight years ago I was working with Mr. Miller, and cannot tell what Mr. Williams' figures were on his tender. I should think it would cost more now to do the work than it would eight years ago, stock and labour being both higher. Eight years ago the hours were 60 per week, now they are 53 for the same wages; and overtime now is paid at time and a half, formerly it was paid the same as time. Wages paid by us are the standard wages of the Pacific Coast.

To Mr. Smith: There is a decided difference in the wages paid by Miller and Williams. Mr. Miller pays: rulers, \$3 per diem; forwarders, \$18 per week; sewers, \$3 to \$8 per week of 50 hours; foreman, \$24 per week.

To Mr. Williams:

The catalogue I quoted from was Gane Bros., of Chicago and New York. They are manufacturers; they tan their own leathers; we use law skiver as being cheaper than law sheep; xx law sheep is worth \$9.50 to \$11 per doz.; xxx is not quoted; law sheep is smaller than skiver; we cannot get so many backs out of sheep as out of skiver, so that skiver comes cheaper.

To Mr. Scott:

I have never seen a xxxx sheep, but I have seen a xxxx roan; I base the quality of both sheep and skiver on the thickness; I did not allow any discount for cash in quoting prices; the discount usually given is 5 per cent. for cash.

Mr. Scott asked:

Did you ever find skins of xxx as thin as skins of xx?

Ans.—I have, but it is not the rule.

Ques.—Are you ready to swear that xxx skin has always been used on the Government work?

Ans.—I have been absent different times from Mr. Miller's employment, once for over a year, and another time the largest portion of a year, and cannot answer the question; while

with Mr. Miller I did not cut all the leather used in the work ; I delivered it to those that did cut it ; I never to my knowledge gave out anything but xxx ; I got \$3 per day ten years ago ; I was the only man at that time receiving those wages in Mr. Williams' establishment outside of the foreman ; I was afterwards offered \$15 per week, as Mr. Williams stated he could not afford at the prices then paid, especially for Government work, to pay \$18 ; there was no other reason given ; our facilities now for doing the work are much the same as Mr. Williams' were ten years ago ; I learned my trade in Mr. Williams' ; I stated that I was the only man outside of the foreman employed in Mr. Williams' at \$3 per diem when I was with him about ten years ago ; Mr. Williams at that time had the only bindery in the Province ; from common report I believe the wages paid by Mr. Williams to be lower than those paid by Mr. Miller ; in stating the week as consisting of fifty-three hours, I mean that fifty-three hours must be worked to entitle to a full week's wages ; any time over that is paid for as overtime ; this rule, to the best of my knowledge, has been in force over three years ; since this rule has come in force overtime has been allowed for all work beyond the fifty-three hours ; I believe there is more paid for wages in Mr. Miller's bindery per annum than in Mr. Williams'.

Mr. Williams :

Are you aware that the total Government work when you were in my employment was less some years than is now (so far as dollars and cents are concerned) done in three months ? I am not aware.

PHILIP R. SMITH.

JAS. SCOTT:—

The skivers I quoted on Saturday was only xx at \$14.50 in 1884 ; law sheep, a better quality, \$8.50 per dozen in 1893 ; I cannot tell without looking into the matter what the price was in 1891 ; I believe that in everything that comes into our establishment the invoice shows the price ; with improved plant and a large number of men employed work can be done cheaper, and there is now three times as many hands employed as in 1884.

JAMES SCOTT.

HON. MR. TURNER, SWORN:—

My statement with respect to the \$3.05 was that that was the price paid to Mr. Williams at a certain time in 1884. This was based on the vouchers in the Treasury, and the prices are as follows: Statutes, 75 cents, Journals, 80 cents, and Sessional Papers, \$1.65, making a total of \$3.20 ; that I felt positive that tenders had been called for in connection with work for Kamloops Registry Office, and that Mr. Williams' tender was higher than Mr. Miller's.

To Mr. Semlin :

I have been in the Government eight years. I do not know, but think that tenders were called for the binding, besides the tenders for the Kamloops binding referred to, on one previous occasion ; my reason for thinking so, I was shewn on one occasion by Mr. Robson a copy of volume bound as the Statutes of 1893 are now bound, and another as the Statutes of 1884 are bound, and I was asked which I thought most suitable for us, and I at once said that I thought the volume bound as the 1893 is bound the best ; Mr. Robson, as I understand, then said that he should give the contract for a certain number of years to the one that sent the volume in bound in that way ; I could not say the number of years, I think three or four ; I cannot feel certain what year this occurred in, but it was shortly after a general election, or my re-election in 1887.

To Mr. Sword : I do not know of tenders having been called for since.

J. H. TURNER.

EXHIBIT "A."

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,

VICTORIA, B. C., 3rd April, 1894.

The Hon. the Provincial Secretary, Victoria:

SIR,—With reference to the petition of Mr. R. T. Williams, respecting the binding of the Statutes, &c., I beg to report as follows:—

From and after the date of Confederation, and up to and including the year 1885, Mr. Williams did all Government binding, when, for some reason unknown to me, he refused to do any further Government work. The binding was then given to Mr. Munroe Miller, the only other bookbinder then in Victoria.

Some year or two later tenders were called for the work, when the tender of Mr. Miller was accepted as being the lowest, and the work has been done by him up to the present date, at a cost of at least 50 per cent. less than the prices formerly paid to Mr. Williams.

With reference to Mr. Williams' remark that the work is not done in accordance with the Statute, I have to report that owing to the Statutes and Journals of late years being more bulky than formerly it was deemed desirable by the late Hon. Mr. Robson that this class of work should be more substantially bound than before.

I may state that the work done by Mr. Miller is quite equal to that formerly done by Mr. Williams.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. WOLFENDEN,

Queen's Printer.

EXHIBIT "B."

RE BINDING STATUTES, ETC. (Sums paid to R. T. Williams.)

1871,	Folio 15,	Binding Revised Statutes.....	\$ 391 50
1872,	" 33,	Land Registry.....	203 00
"	" 34,	Gazettes, &c.....	29 50
"	" 34,	Portfolios.....	20 00
"	" 37,	Binding and ruling.....	258 00
1873,	" 30,	Numbering.....	77 64
"	" 31,	Ruling.....	3 00
"	" "	Binding.....	4 50
"	" 32,	".....	105 25
"	" 36,	" Statutes, &c.....	694 37
"	" 61,	".....	17 50
"	" "	".....	11 50
"	" "	".....	12 25
"	" 63,	200 Statutes.....	261 00
"	" 98,	".....	20 00
"	" "	".....	19 00
"	" "	".....	2 00
"	" 99,	".....	10 00
"	" "	".....	27 75
"	" "	".....	2 00
"	" 100,	".....	8 00
"	" "	".....	10 00
"	" 101,	".....	11 50
1874,	" 85,	".....	28 25
"	" 132,	".....	9 37
"	" 133,	".....	3 25
"	" "	".....	68 00
"	" 134,	".....	9 00

1874, Folio	144, Journals	264 20
"	" 180 _B ,	165 50
"	" "	16 00
"	" 180 _F ,	37 10
1875,	" 335, Statutes, &c.	744 30
"	" 370,	65 75
"	" 371,	53 80
"	" "	214 00
"	" 372,	67 50
"	" "	103 25
"	" 383, Journals, &c.	453 75
1876,	" 175, Statutes, Journals and Sessional Papers	685 00
"	" 218, Sessional Papers	597 25
1877,	" 95, Statutes and Journals	590 00
"	" 131,	287 80
"	" "	18 00
"	" 132,	76 80
"	" "	21 50
"	" 135,	11 75
"	" 146, Sessional Papers, &c.	664 00
"	" 168 _G ,	40 00
"	" "	33 00
1878,	" 637, Statutes, &c.	324 00
"	" 111, Statutes, Journals and Sessional Papers	519 50
"	" 135,	17 50
"	" "	121 00
"	" 138,	68 25
"	" 149, Sessional Papers	443 85
1879,	" 16, Statutes, &c.	344 00
"	" 32,	20 10
"	" 45, Journals and Sessional Papers	587 50
"	" 58 _M ,	8 00
"	" "	4 80
"	" "	30 10
"	" "	66 00
"	" 58 _N ,	21 00
1880,	" 461,	47 00
"	" 475,	22 80
"	" "	49 25
"	" 100, Journals, Statutes, &c.	325 25
"	" 121,	55 75
"	" 122,	38 00
1881,	" 180, Sessional Papers, Journals and Statutes	979 25
"	" 221,	592 00
1882,	" 130, Sessional Papers, Journals and Statutes	970 75
"	" 171,	357 05
"	" 173,	216 50
"	" 175,	221 55
1883,	" 24, Sessional Papers, Journals and Statutes	897 75
"	" 76,	433 90
1884,	" 52, Sessional Papers, Journals and Statutes	1,085 75
"	" 114,	837 95
1885,	" 133, Sessional Papers, Journals, &c.	1,059 27
"	" 198,	1,081 35
"	" 200,	105 50
"	" 204,	473 00

EXHIBIT "C."

PRICES PAID FOR GOVERNMENT BINDING TO R. T. WILLIAMS AND M. MILLER.

	R. T. Williams in 1884.	M. Miller in 1887.	M. Miller in 1893.
Statutes	\$.75	\$.30	\$.75 & \$1.00
Journals80	.30	.50
Sessional Papers.....	1.65	.75	1.00
Gazettes	2.00	1.50	2.50
Consolidated Statutes.....	2.25 (1877)		1.75 (1888)

ALFRED FLETT,
Deputy Treasurer.

EXHIBIT "D."

(A similar letter to the following was sent to Mr. R. T. Williams.)

VICTORIA, B. C., 21st April, 1886.

SIR,—Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned up to twelve noon of the 30th instant for the following Government binding, as per samples which can be seen at this office, for the period of one year from date of contract, viz:—

Journals of Legislative Assembly (including labelling).

Sessional Papers

" "

Newspapers

" "

B. C. Gazette

" "

Assessment Tax receipt books

" "

Agents' account books, J. (including printing, ruling, and supplying the paper).

" " K. " " "

School Registers of Standing and Progress.

" Monthly Progress Reports.

" Register of Pupils.

Provincial Revenue Tax and other receipts in books of 100, including labelling (paper covers).

Departmental Reports.

Tenders to state the lowest price per book at which the work will be performed, including, where necessary, numbering and perforating.

The successful tenderer will be required to enter into a contract, and furnish satisfactory security in the sum of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars for the faithful performance of the contract.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. ELWYN,

*Deputy Provincial Secretary.**Munroe Miller, Esq.,**Bookbinder, &c., Johnson Street.*

EXHIBIT "E."

MILLER'S TENDER FOR BINDING.

Statutes and Journals, per vol.....	\$0 30
Sessional Papers.....	0 75
Blank Books, J. and K.....	1 75
Newspapers.....	3 00
Gazettes.....	1 50
School Registers, Progress Reports, etc.....	0 15
Assessment Tax Receipts.....	0 30
Provincial Revenue Tax Receipts, and other Receipt Books.....	0 25
Departmental Reports.....	0 01
1,200 Consolidated Statutes, half in calf and half in sheep.....	1 75

EXHIBIT "F."

VICTORIA, B. C., June 22nd, 1885.

J. MCB. SMITH :

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your esteemed telephone message, I had been informed previously by the Government that all work in the binding line had been handed over to the Hon. Mr. Duck without calling for tenders. Such being the case, I would not now wish to accept of the difficult and unprofitable part of the Government binding that you require me to do. I am willing to come to a proper and honest business-like understanding about the whole work, if the Government so desire, and thank you personally very much for sending to me as you did.

Yours very truly,
R. T. WILLIAMS.

EXHIBIT "G."

VICTORIA, 21st January, 1889.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of November remained unanswered till now, for various reasons, chiefly in consequence of my absence.

I am now to inform you that your offer to bind 600 copies of Consolidated Statutes in calf (back and corners), and 600 in sheep, for \$1.75 a volume, is accepted, on condition of the material and workmanship being good and satisfactory; the work to be done in such reasonable time as may be required by this Department.

I am, yours faithfully,
JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

Munroe Miller, Esq.,
Johnson Street, City.

EXHIBIT "H."

COPY FROM RECEIPTS FROM MANUFACTURERS.

1891—Price of Law Sheep, \$8.50 per dozen.

1884—Price of Bark Skiver (xx), \$14.50 per dozen.

Correct copy of R. T. Williams' invoices, and correct and exact price paid.

R. T. WILLIAMS.

VICTORIA, B. C., July 3rd, 1888.

Hon. John Robson,

Provincial Secretary, Minister of Mines, &c., Victoria:

SIR,—Referring to your favour of the 7th April, 1888, I shall be glad to know when tenders will be called for binding the Consolidated Statutes, and also the general binding required by the Legislature, in conformity with the intimation contained in your favour.

Yours truly,

R. T. WILLIAMS.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

VICTORIA, 4th July, 1888.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and to say, in reply, that whenever the work of consolidating the Statutes is sufficiently advanced tenders for binding the same will be in order. Meanwhile the ordinary binding is being satisfactorily performed by the present contractor.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. ROBSON,

Provincial Secretary.

R. T. Williams, Esq.,

Broad Street, City.

VICTORIA, B. C., July 12th, 1888.

Hon. John Robson,

Provincial Secretary, Minister of Mines, &c.:

SIR,—Your favour of the 4th inst. duly received. The reference to the "Present Contractor" in your communication is not understood by myself, as your circular of April 21st, 1886, headed "Provincial Secretary's Department," called for tenders for one year for a portion of the work. The said circular was addressed to me, and it was on this distinct understanding, and the good faith of the circular, that we tendered for one year, and at the price for one year only. Had you any intention of extending the time beyond one year, we could have very materially reduced our figures.

If in your department you are anxious to reduce public expense as an aid to expenditure for public school purposes, I would respectfully say that we are ready to execute the Government bookbinding at a saving to the Government of \$500.00 per year, as compared with last year's payments to the party having charge of the work at present, and also that the quality in every particular shall be much better, and that the work will be executed in half the time it is at present being done.

Bonds to guarantee both the above requirements can be given.

Bakers, grocers, and all other taxpayers are given a chance in supplying the needs of the Government. I therefore again respectfully call your attention to what I consider a just privilege, as a large taxpayer and citizen of the country, that I should have a fair chance to compete for the work, not asking for or wishing any advantage over anyone else.

The fact of my having held the work for a number of years is no argument in the case against my now tendering, as I simply did the work in former years because no one else could be induced to carry it on at that time, and at our prices, although every effort of a non-political character was put forth at the period to induce Eastern and other parties to undertake the work. The matter was carried so far that after I had imported a paging machine with ample wheels, at an expense of one hundred pounds, to do a doubtful \$100 worth of Government work per year in the paging line, the Government of the day immediately imported from England a machine almost a counterpart of the one I had imported so that they might take from me the trifling amount of numbering I had to do, as they could manage the numbering but not the binding.

There was very little made out of the Government work during the period I carried on the same, in consequence of the uncertain way that I was compelled, over a part of the period, to carry on the work; therefore, all I ask for now is a chance to tender for all the work in

our line given out by the Government, as is done in all other Provinces of the Dominion, and on the principle of British or Canadian fair play.

If the work were divided up equally and fairly amongst those in the binding line, in lieu of tendering, as you do the supplying of the stationery amongst the stationers, would meet the case as long as justice is done.

Fair open tendering for the work is, of course, the fairest, and at the same time just alike to the taxpayer and the one tendering.

I am, Sir,
Yours very truly,
R. T. WILLIAMS.

VICTORIA, B. C., July 31st, 1888.

Hon. Jno. Robson,
Provincial Secretary,
Minister of Mines, etc.:

SIR,—On the 12th July, 1888, I wrote you in reference to the Government book-binding. Will you kindly oblige me by informing me if the Government intend to entertain the question therein proposed.

I am, Sir,
Yours very truly,
R. T. WILLIAMS.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 1st August, 1888.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Honourable the Provincial Secretary to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, having reference to the Government binding, and to inform you that he has no further communication to make to you on the subject at present.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
For the Deputy Prov. Sec.

R. T. Williams, Esq.,
Victoria.

29 BROAD STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.,
February 15th, 1893.

Lieut.-Col. the Honourable James Baker,
Provincial Secretary, Minister of Mines, &c.:

DEAR SIR,—I hereby apply for a fair share of at least half of the book-binding and paper ruling required for your Department. I take pleasure in referring you to the Honourable the Premier, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing most favourably for years.

In making application to you I base my claim, if such you will allow me to call the same, on the following reasons:—

1st. I feel convinced that you and your Government, whom you have the honour of representing, wish and will deal justly with all.

2nd. Bookbinding requires in this Province a certain amount of Governmental aid to make it profitable for one like myself who has invested thousands of dollars in the industry without receiving a municipal bonus of any kind.

3rd. To the stationers and trades people you distribute your patronage.

4th. I employ more help than all other binders in the Province put together, and use a plant costing more than all others combined.

5th. I have resided in the Province for 34 years, and claim relationship to no less than fifty persons, also residents of this Province.

6th. Considering that I have had no work from the Local Government for eight years, in all fairness I simply ask for a fair half of your sessional and blank book work required.

7th. I employ the only practical blank book binder in the Province, there being no other person here capable of making perfect work in that line.

8th. I feel convinced that your Government will encourage manufacturing, and with the assistance that half of your work will give I can greatly increase my present facilities for turning out work.

I am, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

R. T. WILLIAMS.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 6th March, 1893.

SIR,—I am instructed to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th ultimo, making application for a share of the Government business in respect of the book-binding and paper ruling portion, and to state that the same will be laid before the Executive.

Owing to the press of work, this matter, amongst others, has not yet received attention.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Mr. R. T. Williams,
Book-binder, &c.,
Victoria.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.