
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Committee appointed to enquire into the statement made in this House by the Honourable the junior member for Cariboo, Mr. Evans, that "a road ten miles in length had been constructed for the benefit of one gentleman in Yale District, whose name could be given if a Committee of enquiry was appointed:" and that he further stated, in his place in this House on the 13th instant, that "the gentleman referred to was the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works," that "his informant was the Rev. Mr. Turner," and that "the fact was patent to every one in the Upper Country;" beg to report as follows:—

That the road in question is a part of the road to the Cherry Creek mines.

That a number of settlers have been benefitted by its construction.

That the length of road made does not exceed two and one half (2½) miles.

That the work was done by contract at a cost of \$550.

That the survey of the road and estimate of cost of construction were ordered by Mr. Beaven in August, 1875.

Your Committee request that the annexed letter of instructions from Mr. Beaven to Mr. Jane, the statement made by Mr. Evans to the Committee, and the letter from the Rev. Mr. Turner to Mr. Mara, be published. Mr. Evans also requests that the annexed copy of a letter sent by him to Rev. Mr. Turner be published with this Report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. MARA,
Chairman.

14th March, 1878.

Committee met at 10:30 a. m. Present—Messrs. Mara, Morrison, Evans, Douglas, and Cowan.

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Mr. Morrison, that Mr. Mara act as chairman. Carried.

Mr. Evans made the following statement:—

On my way up, after last session, I met Rev. Mr. Turner at Cache Creek. Having heard so many times of a piece of road having been made for Messrs. Vernon to the extent of about ten miles, I entered into conversation with Mr. Turner about the same, and told him what I had heard. He said it was quite true. I then asked him if he knew this to be the fact from his own knowledge, and not from hearsay. He said he was perfectly acquainted with the place, and it was perfectly true. I asked him again if the road passed no settlers. He said none that another road was not convenient for.

Letters produced from Lands and Works Department, showing the said road was ordered to be built in 1875. Letter read from Rev. Mr. Turner.

Mr. Evans further states—That I introduced the subject of the road, and not Mr. Turner, as I have already stated, and I deny the correctness of Mr. Turner in his letter, and I demand his presence face to face. And further, that I did not give the name till called for in the House.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. John Jane, C.E., Kamloops.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Victoria, August 12th, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honour to instruct you to survey a line of road from Okanagan (the valley on which the Messrs. Vernon reside) to connect with the main road from Kamloops to the Mission.

You will please obtain the necessary information for doing the work under contract, staking out the work and measuring it, and forward the same to this office, together with an estimate of the probable cost.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Rev. Mr. Turner to John A. Mara, Esq., M. P. P.

NICOLA VALLEY, 2nd March, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—I have just seen, through the Victoria papers, that one of the members for Cariboo, Captain Evans, has thought fit to bring my name before the public in connection with a statement that he made regarding the road leading to the residence of the Hon. Forbes George Vernon, in the Okanagan District.

Now, without saying anything as to the prudence, or otherwise, of the course adopted by Captain Evans, I feel called upon to state the facts of the case as far as I know.

I am not aware of ever having a conversation with Mr. Evans on the subject of roads. I visited once at his home in Cariboo, and as we talked of things in general, possibly the Lands and Works Department may have come in for a share of the criticism. But in any case I am quite sure I never made the statement he credits me with; I know I could not possibly have made such a mistake.

I am familiar with every part of the road, and knew it just as well before I met Captain Evans as I do now. I knew that the whole distance from the Honourable Chief Commissioner's to where the road in question forms a junction with the Mission Valley road is about 4 miles, at any rate that is what I have heard it called. I knew that there was not more than half that distance graded. I also knew that there were other settlers in the valley who would be benefited by the waggon road as well as Mr. Vernon, and further that it was on the direct route to Cherry Creek mines.

Unless, therefore, I wanted to state what I knew to be false, and that without any object in view, or any pressure being brought to bear upon me, I could not have made the assertion, and must therefore give it an unqualified denial.

If, in the course of our conversation, roads were mentioned, of which I have not the slightest recollection, and that I made use of the words "ten miles" they must have been used in reference to some other road, probably the Nicola and Kamloops road, as the first section of it was finished about that time. I hope Captain Evans will see the propriety of either retracting what he has said, or at least acknowledging that he was mistaken. Hoping that you will give this publicity.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) JAMES TURNER.

Mr. John Evans, M. P. P., to Reverend Mr. Turner.

VICTORIA, March 14th, 1878.

REV. SIR,—I take the opportunity of addressing you on the subject referred to in your letter to Mr. Mara, regarding a piece of road we had a conversation about when we met at Cache Creek last May.

As to the indiscretion hinted at: I said my informant was a gentleman not in any way mixed up with politics and reliable, and did not give the name until demanded in the House.

As to the denial, on your part, of the nature of the conversation between us, and your observations in answer to my questions: so far from feeling myself called upon either to retract or apologize, I most emphatically substantiate the truth of my statement, and am only sorry to be obliged conscientiously to do so in consideration of the character and calling of the gentleman whom I am addressing.

I had an object in entering into conversation at the time, and intended to make use of the information then received.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) JOHN EVANS.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

MINERAL ACTS.

APRIL 3rd, 1878.

Your Select Committee appointed to consider and advise upon the "Mineral Act, 1878," introduced this session, have the honour to report the Act with amendments.

Your Committee would remark that, before coming to any conclusion, they carefully examined the old and new Congressional Acts, as well as our own laws bearing upon the very important question which is the subject of the Bill now respectfully presented.

GEO. A. WALKER,

Chairman.
