
SECOND REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Committee have examined into the statement made by the Honourable Mr. Beaven, Finance Minister, when submitting the Public Accounts to the 31st December, 1878, viz. : "That a proper audit of Provincial Accounts to 30th June, 1878, does not appear to have been made," and beg to report as follows :—

That an error of \$1,000 was made in posting up the Sub-Accountant's account of Cariboo, in October, 1876, which remained undiscovered until the autumn of 1878.

That an error of \$550 was made in posting up the Sub-Accountant's account of Kootenay, in August, 1876, which also remained undiscovered until the autumn of 1878.

That the balance, Bank of British Columbia Graving Dock Account, \$35,647 35, on 31st December, 1876, was omitted to be brought down in the Treasury Ledger, on the 1st January, 1877, and that, on the 14th July, 1877, the sum of \$35,647 35 was posted in error to the Bank of British Columbia Current Account, instead of to the Bank of British Columbia Graving Dock Account, and that these mistakes were not detected by the Auditor.

That there was no pass book of the Bank of British Columbia Graving Dock Account, and that the pass book of the Bank of British Columbia Current Account was not periodically checked by the Auditor.

That counterfoils and accounts from many Collectors and Sub-Accountants throughout the Province, during the year 1877 and for the first half of 1878, have never been audited; and that many of the packages containing counterfoil receipts sent to the Treasury during that period were not even opened.

The Committee are of opinion that, in the interest of the public service, it is desirable that the responsible position of Finance Minister should at all times be held by a gentleman possessed of a knowledge of accounts.

WM. WILSON,
Chairman.

18th April, 1879.

SECOND REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

NON-PUBLICATION OF RAILWAY DESPATCH.

MR. SPEAKER :

The Committee appointed to enquire into the circumstances attending the non-publication of a despatch relating to the reservation of Railway lands, dated Ottawa, 13th June, 1876, have the honour to further report as follows:—

That a despatch dated Ottawa, 13th June, 1876, relating to the conveyance of a tract of land on each side of the portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway surveyed and located in this Province, from Yellow Head Pass, turning the north end of the Cariboo range, to a point near the confluence of the Rivers Stewart and Chilacoh, was duly received on the 4th day of July, 1876, by Mr. J. W. Trutch, then Lieutenant-Governor of this Province.

That Lieutenant Governor Trutch informed the Dominion Government, by letter, that he had laid the said despatch before his Executive Council.

That Messrs. A. C. Elliott, F. G. Vernon, E. Brown, and T. B. Humphreys, who at the time of the receipt of the said despatch were the members of the Executive Council of the Province, have stated to the Committee that they knew nothing of the said despatch until the time when a copy thereof was read in the Legislative Assembly, on the 4th of February of the current year.

That there is no evidence to show that either the Dominion Government or Lieutenant Governor Trutch made enquiry into the cause of the non-reservation of the lands asked for, by the Provincial Government, in the said despatch.

That Mr. Trutch, according to his letter dated Folkestone, 12th February, 1879, "cannot recall to mind any despatch on the railway question which was received by him "at or about the date of the said despatch."

That the Dominion Government have informed Mr. Speaker that the Order in Council of the 9th June, 1876, was superseded by a subsequent Order in Council of the 3rd September last.

JOHN ASH,
Chairman.
