Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry
under the "Public Inquiries Act"
in British Columbia
1872 - 1942

A CHECKLIST

By
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PREFATORY NOTE.

This guide to Royal Commissions held in British Columbia includes all documents that are known to exist up to date, either in print or in manuscript. It is more than likely, however, that others will be found during the course of time in departmental vaults, as the Checklist shows records of Commissions for which no report has yet been found.

The compiler wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks the assistance given by Mr. P. Walker, Deputy Provincial Secretary, and Mr. Ernest Protheroe, of that Department, and the various members of the Civil Service who gave their help in tracing elusive documents, and, last but not least, thanks are due to Mr. C. K. Morison, Provincial Librarian, and Dr. Kaye Lamb, Librarian of the University of British Columbia, who made this publication possible.

MARJORIE C. HOLMES.

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VICTORIA, B.C.
ROYAL COMMISSIONS AND COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY UNDER THE "PUBLIC INQUIRIES ACT" IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A CHECKLIST.

INTRODUCTION.

For some time the writer has felt the need for an adequate guide to the Royal Commissions which have been held in British Columbia since Confederation, as the only one which she has seen is the incomplete bibliography contained in Arthur Harrison Cole's *A Finding-List of Royal Commission Reports in the British Dominions* (Harvard University Press, 1939).

For the purpose of this checklist, the popularly-used term "Royal Commission" is taken to mean a Commission issued by the representative of the Crown—in the case of British Columbia, the Lieutenant-Governor—on the advice of his Ministers or by an Act of the Legislature, to a person or persons to investigate and report on certain matters. Such a Commission is signed by the Lieutenant-Governor under the Great Seal of the Province and issued under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act." The term "Royal" may, or may not, occur in the Commission. Nowadays, a Royal Commission is entirely distinct from an inquiry which a Minister may direct to be taken under the "Departmental Inquiries Act," although the Commissioner in that case is also appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Previous to the passing of the "Departmental Inquiries Act" in 1927, all Commissions in British Columbia must, perforce, be considered as "Royal Commissions" since they follow the procedure adopted by the above definition.

The usual procedure after the Commission is issued is for the Commissioner to advertise in the *British Columbia Gazette* the time and place of taking evidence of witnesses; to hold |  

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1. First passed 1872; amended 1873; revised 1897, amended 1935.
2. In the following list, however, no cognizance has been taken of Commissions appointed under Acts other than the "Public Inquiries Act," however designated.
sions, and, after digesting the evidence presented, to issue a report to the Lieutenant-Governor. From then on the procedure has varied. Usually, the report is presented to the Legislature, which may then decide to include it in the Sessional Papers for that year. Many reports are to be found in these volumes. However, this procedure has not always been followed. For instance, we find three cases, in the period 1872–1900, in which the report of a Commission was first printed in the British Columbia Gazette: Texada Island (1874), the Kootenay Royal Commission (1878), and the Nakusp and Slocan Railway inquiry (1894), which are to be found in the Gazette, October 17, 1874, pp. 243–44; November 16, 1878, p. 306; and May 17, 1894, p. 43, respectively.

The report of the Kootenay Royal Commission was brought down to the Legislature by means of a request for a Return, and appears in the Sessional Papers of 1880, two years after the report was submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor, while that of the Nakusp and Slocan Railway does not appear in the Sessional Papers at all, although certain correspondence in connection with the subject does. This report is found, however, in a pamphlet printed by the “Colonist Steam Presses” in 1894, and is so listed in the following bibliography. In the period 1900–1920, of some sixty-nine Commissions, only twenty-two are to be found in the Sessional Papers; many reports are missing altogether, at the time of writing, while others are in the vaults of the Provincial Secretary’s Office in Victoria. The latter usually consist of original reports, evidence, and exhibits.

Although the correct procedure is that a copy of a report be placed in the hands of the Provincial Secretary for safe-keeping, in earlier years this was not followed consistently, which accounts, to some extent, for the gaps in the files. It is, however, possible that in the future more of these reports may be discovered in the vaults of some other department of the Government.

For the purpose of this checklist, where a copy of the report is not available the title of the Commission follows as closely as possible the wording of the Order in Council appointing the Commissioners.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

It is interesting to note that the greater number of Commissioners appointed were either Judges or members of the legal profession, except in the case of such Commissions as the Smallpox inquiry (1893), and that on Milk-supply (1913), when practical and technical knowledge was essential.

The subjects of the inquiries are many and varied and the study of them throws interesting light on the development of the Province. They range from the investigation of a complaint into the conduct of an individual Civil Servant, or the management of a Government department or institution, to far-reaching inquiries affecting future legislation. A few contain information which perhaps does not come within the scope of the Commission, but which shows the interest of the Commissioner in his subject. Such a one is that on the Porcupine District (1901). Although he was sent to the district to settle certain mining disputes, a task which he completed, the Commissioner took the opportunity to write a short history of the district, make observations on the flora, fauna, and population, and also included in his report a bibliography of books and pamphlets.

The modern tendency is for a Royal Commission to be a fact-finding body to determine a policy with a view to subsequent legislation, rather than an investigation into something which has already happened. Of course, such inquiries are held, as for example, the John L. Barge inquiry (1929), but more often Commissions of to-day are comprehensive surveys of their subject, such as the Workmen's Compensation Commission (1942), leaving investigations of a more personal character to the "Departmental Inquiries Act."

Reports of inquiries should be carefully preserved, as old reports throw a good deal of light on events of to-day. For instance, statistics on forestry matters, previous to the formation of the Forest Branch in 1912, are difficult to obtain except in the Final Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Timber and Forestry, 1909-1910; consequently this report is constantly being consulted by those interested. The 1913 report on the Sect of Doukhobors throws a good deal of light on the present behaviour of these people, and so on. In spite of this, many of the reports have been forgotten or are comparatively little known.
Indeed, the chief purpose of this bibliography is to make it possible to ascertain easily and quickly what matters have already been investigated and where the reports of the various inquiries are to be found.

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Marjorie C. Holmes.
ROYAL COMMISSIONS AND COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY UNDER THE "PUBLIC INQUIRIES ACT" IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A CHECKLIST.

1872

1. [Report of a Committee of the Executive Council . . . on the subject of a report from Alexander Rocke Robertson, Robert Ker, and Francis James Roscoe, Commissioners appointed to inquire into and report upon a deficiency appearing in the accounts of Warner Reeve Spalding—Manager of the Savings Bank, Nanaimo.]

2 pp.

MS. Form A attached to Order in Council #41, 1872, on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Alexander Rocke Robertson, Robert Ker, and Francis James Roscoe.

Appointed June 29, 1872; report dated July 2, 1872.

Spalding was short in his accounts by $276.68. The commission investigated, and he was ordered to make good the amount forthwith.

1874


Cover-title, 66 pp.

Also in Journals of the Legislative Assembly . . . Session 1875, Appendix, Sessional Papers, pp. 181-246; and in British Columbia Gazette, October 17, 1874, pp. 243-244 (report only).

Commissioners: Chief Justice Matthew Baillie Begbie, Mr. Justice Henry Pering Pellew Crease, and Mr. Justice John Hamilton Gray; all of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Charles F. Pooley, Secretary.

Appointed March 13, 1874; report dated October 8, 1874.

The commission investigated charges made by John Robson "That prominent members of the late [De Cosmos] and present [Walkem] Government were in a ring to acquire possession of Texada Island, in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the public; . . ." Large deposits of iron ore had been found on the island. Suspicion was directed chiefly against Amor De Cosmos, and George A. Walkem, Premier and Attorney-General. Those giving evidence or submitting
statements included Sir John A. Macdonald, Gilbert Malcolm Sproat, and Sewell Prescott Moody. The commission found that there was “no sufficient ground” to substantiate the charges.

1878


15 pp.

In Sessional Papers . . . Session 1880, pp. 141–156; also in British Columbia Gazette, November 16, 1878, p. 306 (report only). The report was printed in its entirety in the Victoria Daily Colonist, November 17, 1878, p. 2.

Commissioners: Chief Justice Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, Mr. Justice Henry Pering Pelow Crease, and Mr. Justice John Hamilton Gray; all of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. G. Richard Layton, Secretary.

Appointed April 8, 1878; report dated November 14, 1878.

Charges had been made that a former Attorney-General, A. C. Elliott, had made offers through a store-keeper at Wild Horse Creek to bribe Charles Gallagher, M.P.P.1 for Kootenay, not to run in the forthcoming election. Robert Leslie Galbraith, M.P.P.1 for Kootenay, also made the same charges. Witnesses in the inquiry were A. C. Elliott, James Trimble, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and Forbes Vernon, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. The commissioners found the accused “not guilty.”

Reference should also be made to the Correspondence regarding the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the statements made by members for Kootenay 1878, Sessional Papers . . . 1878, p. 611; Further correspondence . . . in ibid., p. 685; and Return . . . of correspondence that has not already been printed . . . in Sessional Papers . . . 1879, p. 351.

1884


Cover-title, pp. 6, lxxxii.

Also in Sessional Papers . . . Session 1885. pp. 131–136, i.–lxxxii. The original MS. evidence is on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Alexander Edmund Batson Davie, Attorney-General, Henry Maynard Ball, and Andrew Charles Elliott. S. Fletcher, Secretary.

Appointed October 28, 1884; report dated December 9, 1884.

The commission investigated reports of disturbances and breaches of the peace at the Indian settlement of Metlakatlah, and was empowered

(1) As “M.P.P.” is used in the report of the commission, it is also used here, instead of the correct abbreviation, “M.L.A.”
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

11

to "inquire into the causes and sources of such disturbances and disquietudes in Our said Province, so far as the same refer to the good Government of Our said Province, or reflect upon the conduct of any part of the public business thereof."

The disturbances at Metlakatlah were caused mainly by the disputes between the missionary, William Duncan, and the Church Missionary Society, and the claim of the Indians that their title to the land be recognized. The settlement of Metlakatlah had been founded by William Duncan, a lay missionary connected with the Church Missionary Society, in 1862, and under his guidance had become a model village. Later, disputes arose between Duncan and Bishop Ridley, of Caledonia, regarding uniformity in ritual and practice, which culminated in the missionary's dismissal in 1881. He then proposed to move the mission to Alaska. The unrest among the Indians which the unfortunate disputes caused resulted in the destruction of the store and the Kitkatlah church, and other disorders.

Much of the evidence was furnished by the two missionaries, William Duncan and William Henry Collison, and Bishop William Ridley, of Caledonia, in Metlakatlah, and by P. J. O'Reilly, Indian land commissioner, in Victoria. The commissioners found that the disturbances were due to four main causes: the claims of the Indians to have their title to all the land recognized; the withdrawal of William Duncan from the Church Missionary Society; the fact that the two acres at Metlakatlah, known as Mission Point were not part of the Tsispsean Indian Reserve, and that Bishop Ridley, as temporary agent of the Church Missionary Society, was in occupation thereof; and the conduct of the Indian council at Metlakatlah.

1885

5. Report of Commission of enquiry concerning the genuineness of an alleged transfer, dated the 23rd day of June, 1884, from certain Indians to one J. M. M. Spinks.

22 pp.


Commissioner: Chief Justice Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, of the Supreme Court.

Appointed March 20, 1885; report dated May 1, 1885.

This was an inquiry into the ownership of certain lands on Coal Harbour, and was the outcome of an act passed by the Legislature "to authorize the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry concerning the genuineness of an alleged transfer . . . from certain Indians to one J. M. M. Spinks, after reciting that during the investigation by a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly of claims to lands in the vicinity of Coal Harbour, a document had been produced purporting to be a transfer of the alleged rights of two Indians to certain lands and improvements at False Creek to one J. M. M. Spinks . . . And that the genuineness of such document had been impugned . . ." The principal witness was J. M. M. Spinks, a store-keeper, and a new-comer to British Columbia; others were Samuel Greer, and Patrick McTiernan, Indian agent. The document was held to be a forgery.

This commission is popularly known as the "Greer case," and is so referred to in the Sessional Papers.
6. Return to an Order of the House for copies of the Report of the Commissioner appointed to investigate the claims of Dry Dock creditors, and the amounts paid to each; also the names of those whose claims were rejected, and the reason assigned for such rejection.

4 pp.

Commissioner: Edwin Johnson, barrister of Victoria.
Appointed April 21, 1885; reports dated April 27 and June 30, 1885.

The commissioner dealt with the claims for wages against F. B. McNamee & Co., contractors for the Esquimalt Graving Dock. Certain claims were admitted by the Commissioner and recommended to be paid; a few were rejected as being without the scope of the inquiry. Claims amounting to $5,542.79 were admitted.

1888


Cover-title, 59 pp.

Also in Sessional Papers . . . Session 1888. pp. 415-462L.
Commissioners: Clement F. Cornwall, former Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, for the Dominion Government, and Joseph Phrye Planta, for the Provincial Government.
Appointed September 30, 1887; report dated November 30, 1887.

This was a joint commission of the Dominion and Provincial governments, appointed to meet the Indians of the Nass River and those of Fort Simpson, for the purpose of hearing the expression of their wishes and any complaints. The commissioners were warned by the Hon. A. E. B. Davie, Attorney-General, “not to give undertakings or make promises, and in particular you will be careful to discountenance, should it arise, any claim of Indian title to Provincial lands.” Many subjects were discussed by the Indians, including their title to lands, fishing reserves, and the operation of the Indian Act. The commissioners commented on the state of the Indian village of Metlakatlah since the departure of William Duncan and certain Indians of his following, to a new settlement in Alaska. The report throws light on the occupations and customs of the Indians, and makes recommendations regarding disputes among the Indians themselves.

1889

8. Report . . . of commissioners appointed to examine, classify and revise and consolidate the statute law of British Columbia.

2 reports. MS. original reports on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

Commissioners: Edwin Johnson and Charles Wilson, barristers of Victoria.
Appointed July 29, 1886; reports dated January, 1889, and March 2, 1889.

The commissioners reported that they had revised the statutes and submitted a draft volume.


1 p.

In Sessional Papers . . . Session 1890. p. 463.
Original report is on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice M. W. Tyrwhitt Drake, of the Supreme Court.
Appointed October 29, 1889; report dated November 19, 1889.

The commissioner investigated charges concerning the operation of the Victoria city gaol, in respect to drunkenness and improper discipline on the part of the warders, and also of the serving of improper food. Two charges were sustained, but the food charge was dismissed as "frivolous."

1890

10. [Special commission composed of undermentioned to be appointed for the purpose of revising and consolidating the mining laws of the province.]

No report found.

Commissioners: George Cowan, of Barkerville, William Wilson, of Victoria, Gustavus B. Wright, of Hot Springs, James M. Kellie, of Illecillewaet.
Appointed November 28, 1890.

It is presumed that the commissioners presented a report to the proper authorities, as the mining laws of the province were revised and consolidated at the Session of 1891.

1892


Cover-title, pp. 7, xcvi.

Also in Sessional Papers . . . Session 1892. pp. 265-272, i-xcvi.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice Henry Pering Pellew Crease, of the Supreme Court.
Appointed November 4, 1891; report dated January 28, 1892.

Mr. Justice H. P. P. Crease investigated charges made by August May, of Seattle, regarding the conduct of the police magistrate of Victoria, Arthur Louis Belyea, of the firm of Belyea and Gregory.
The case involved a complaint by the father, August May, of a 15-year-old girl who had left her home in Seattle, and who was being "harboured in the house of one Fried, of Victoria, a barber," and the conduct of the case by the police magistrate of Victoria, A. L. Belyea, to whom the complaint had been made. The commissioner found that in the matter of the conduct of the magistrate there had been no appearance of criminality, but there had been an error of judgment in more respects than one.


Charges had been made against the municipal council of Victoria of mismanagement of the city's affairs in regard to financial arrangements and expenditures. The municipal council admitted most of the charges except in some matters of detail. The commission found that the charges were substantiated.


13 pp.


The commissioner investigated charges against Isaac Hoyt Hallett, stipendiary magistrate of New Westminster, that he had received fees not warranted by law. These charges were held to be fully substantiated. Mr. Justice Crease, however, drew attention to the anomaly of the law providing for a stipendiary magistrate without stipend, and the fact that the magistrate in question was "peculiarly ill-adapted to fill a responsible position which he never sought."

1893


12 pp.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

The commission was charged with the inquiry as to the "channel and means through which the said epidemic of small-pox was introduced into the Province, referring to the outbreak which occurred in the beginning of July last, which led to the Order in Council of 11th July 1892," and also "the spread and dissemination of the said epidemic in the Province." After examining many witnesses, the commission advised that more care should be taken in quarantine matters affecting both quarantine in regard to ships and in regard to cases already developed on shore.

1894


Cover-title, 16 pp.

The original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria. Also in British Columbia Gazette, May 17, 1894, p. 430 (report only).

Commissioners: Chief Justice Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, of the Supreme Court, and George W. Burbidge, Judge of the Exchequer Court of Canada.

Appointed April 20, 1894; report dated May 15, 1894.

Accusations were made, but no witnesses appeared before the commission in support of the accusations, despite the fact that due notice of the inquiry had been given in the newspapers and the British Columbia Gazette. The charges made against the Premier [Theodore Davie] of corruption, and "of working for the Company" were found to be untrue.

Reference should also be made to Papers relating to the Nakusp and Slocan Railway, in Sessional Papers . . . 1893, pp. 1109-1115; Additional papers relating to the Nakusp and Slocan Railway, in Sessional Papers . . . 1894, pp. 1117-1128; and Return . . . additional information with reference to the construction of the Nakusp and Slocan Railway, in ibid., pp. 1197-1207.

16. Report of Royal Commission on charges preferred against Captain N. Fitzstubbs.

2 pp.


Commissioner: Mr. Justice Henry Pering Pellew Crease, of the Supreme Court.

Appointed September 4, 1894; report dated September 29, 1894.

Charges were made by the foreman on the Government trail between Nakusp and Slocan, against Capt. Fitzstubbs, Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Works, involving a dispute in regard to the work. The commissioner found that while there was irregularity in the manner of charging the account in question, "that the work it represented was honestly done and paid for on Government account and for Government
work. There was consequently no culpability on the officer impugned, from which, in my opinion, he should be exonerated."

17. Return to an address of the Legislative Assembly requesting His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to cause to be laid before the House all the papers in connection with the late enquiry into the management of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, together with the letter of instructions to the Commissioners appointed to make the enquiry.

71 pp.

In Sessional Papers . . . Session 1894-95. pp. 563–574. The original typewritten report and enclosures are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Edward Hasell and Charles Frederick Newcombe, doctors of medicine of the city of Victoria.

Appointed October 23, 1894; report dated November 27, 1894.

The commission was charged with the inquiry into the "sanitary and professional treatment of inmates, the sanitary arrangements, number and duties of the officers and employees of the Asylum and their conduct, the cost of maintenance, and, generally, all matters concerning the management of the Asylum, or relating to the welfare of the inmates or the public interests." The report showed a condition of welfare and cleanliness in the Asylum, but uncovered a long list of cruelties and abuses in the treatment of the patients. The result of this investigation was that two male attendants were at once discharged, and Dr. Bentley, the superintendent, was relieved from office.

Reference should also be made to Correspondence, Re Royal Commission [on] Lunatic Asylum in Sessional Papers . . . 1894-95, pp. 659–662.

1895

18. Commission under the Public Inquiries Act appointing His Honour Judge Harrison to enquire into certain charges against Mr. J. P. Planta, police magistrate of the city of Nanaimo and into his general conduct as a police magistrate.

20 pp.

The original typewritten report is on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Eli Harrison, Judge of the County Court of Nanaimo.

Appointed December 15, 1894; report dated February 26, 1895.

It was charged that Planta entered into an agreement with the city of Nanaimo to waive salary, and in lieu, to accept such costs as might be collected in cases tried by him, or otherwise as the agreement might prescribe. Planta denied this agreement, which was illegal under the "Municipal Act." He was found guilty on a total of twenty-one charges.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

19. [Commission . . . by an order of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council . . . that an enquiry be made into the conduct of the public business by the Council of the City of Victoria in relation to the institution there established under the name of the "Old Men's Home," and generally into the management by the Council or its employees of said institution.]

No report found.

Commissioners: Theodore Davie, Attorney-General; John Braden, James McGregor, Thomas Kitchen, and Donald Graham, Members of the Provincial Legislature.

Appointed December 1, 1894.

This commission was issued under the authority of the "Municipal Act," 1892, section 313, which provided that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council might at any time cause an inquiry to be made into or concerning the good government of any Municipality, and for the purposes of such an inquiry the provisions of the "Public Inquiries Act" should apply.

1896

20. [Commission appointing Rt. Rev. John Nicholas Lemmens, Roman Catholic Bishop of Vancouver, to enquire into and ascertain the market to be obtained in the Republic of Guatemala for the kinds and qualities of lumber and fish produced and exported from British Columbia and into the state of trade for those articles generally . . .]

No report found.


Appointed September 28, 1896.

1898

21. [In the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act" . . . Commission to enquire into certain matters relating to agricultural interests in the province of British Columbia.]

Commissioners: T. A. Sharpe, Superintendent of Agricultural Station at Agassiz, Gaylord H. Hadwen, of Duncan, and R. E. Gosnell, of Victoria.

Appointed June 18, 1898; commission annulled October 13, 1898.

22. Commission . . . in the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act" and of an investigation under the said act as to the truth of certain allegations of mal-administration in the Department of Lands and Works.

2 pp.
Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice George A. Walkem, of the Supreme Court.
Appointed May 13, 1898; report dated July 23, 1898.

Inquiry was made into certain allegations by T. L. Grahame, editor of the Victoria Daily Times, in an editorial in the paper in which he stated that the Lands and Works Department was not properly managed, and that money had passed into the hands of the Surveyor-General from persons who had business with the Department. The commissioner found that the charges were not substantiated.

23. Commission appointed under the “Public Inquiries Act” to hold an inquiry into matters affecting the Provincial Gaol, Kamloops.
4 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Albert Edward Beck, of Vancouver.
Appointed September 10, 1898; report dated September 29, 1898.

Charges of neglect of duty were made against a gaoler, who in return made charges of laxity on the part of the warden. Those charges preferred against the gaoler were found to be partly substantiated, but not those against the warden. The commissioner made certain recommendations for the conduct of the gaol.

24. Commission appointed under the “Public Inquiries Act” to hold an inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of matter alleged in a letter from Mrs. Harry Thompson . . . regarding the conduct of Warden Armstrong or Guard Calbick of the Provincial Gaol at New Westminster.
5 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits are on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Eli Harrison the Younger, Judge of the County Court of Nanaimo. W. H. Bullock-Webster, Secretary.
Appointed January 15, 1898; report dated March 2, 1898.

It was found that the letter on which charges were based was written by a prisoner. Certain charges against the guard regarding appropriation of prisoners’ money were substantiated.

25. Return to an Order of the House for a Return of all papers, correspondence, evidence, and finding of the Judge, in connection with the Royal Commission of Inquiry appointed under the “Public Inquiries Act,” September 15th, 1898.
4 pp.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

Original report, evidence, and exhibits are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Chief Justice Angus John McColl, of the Supreme Court. Harvey Combe, Secretary.
Appointed September 15, 1898; report dated November 22, 1898.

This commission was appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the payment of two sums of $30,000.00 and $3,414.87 under contracts entered into with Frederick Adams and Richard Drake for the performance of certain work in connection with the construction of the new Parliament Buildings, and also into circumstances connected with the submission to arbitration (dated June 23, 1898) of differences between the Government and Messrs. Baker, McGregor and Jeeves, arising out of the contract with Frederick Adams. The situation was complicated owing to the fact that the contractor died before completing his contract. The commission was fact-finding as all claims were settled.

1899

26. Record of proceedings under the "Public Inquiries Act" to investigate certain charges made against A. R. Green by James J. Currie, respecting the conduct of the said A. R. Green while in the employment of the Inspector of Dykes.

44 pp.
Original MS. report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: W. Myers Gray, barrister, of New Westminster.
Appointed September 11, 1899; report dated September 20, 1899.

Currie, employed on the dyke at Pitt Meadows, charged Green with drunkenness, neglect, incompetency, waste of government funds, and falsifying returns to hide carelessness and mistakes. Certain evidence was brought out to support the charges, especially that of drunkenness, but most of the evidence was conflicting. The commissioner reported the evidence, but arrived at no specific conclusion.

27. Commission of enquiry "into the management of the Fire and Water departments of the Corporation of the City of New Westminster more especially with reference to the fire which occurred on the night of the 10th and the morning of the 11th of September 1898."

15 pp.
Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Eli Harrison the Younger, Judge of the County Court of Nanaimo.
Appointed October 26, 1898; report dated January 31, 1899.

The commissioner investigated the condition of the waterworks and reservoir, and the water supply to the city of New Westminster. He found that the reservoir was not kept completely filled, and that lack of
funds, efforts to economize, and the "desire not to lessen the supply of water to the consumer" induced the council to experiment with the water works system, contrary to the advice of the construction engineer, without finding out from some competent [sic] source whether he was right or not." As a consequence the city found itself without adequate fire protection.

28. Return under sub-section (2) of section 10 of the "Public Inquiries Act."

2 pp.

In Sessional Papers . . . Session 1900. pp. 495-496.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice Paulus Emilius Irving, of the Supreme Court. Oscar C. Bass, Secretary.

Appointed June 7, 1899; report dated December 30, 1899.

This commission was appointed under the provisions of the "Bennett-Atlin Commission Act, 1899," to deal with certain disputes and difficulties with regard to matters arising under 'Mineral Act' and 'Placer Mining Act,' in connection with the Lake Bennett and Lake Atlin Mining Divisions." These difficulties were overlapping and conflicting boundaries, claim-jumping, and the like. The commissioner had full power to act, and his report showed that he exercised this authority and settled the disputes.

1900


Cover-title, 13 pp.


The file book, maps, and photographs are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice Archer Martin of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Appointed August 23, 1900; report dated December 31, 1900.

The commissioner was appointed under the "Public Inquiries Act" and the "Porcupine District Commission Act, 1900," to settle disputes and difficulties with regard to matters arising under the "Mineral Act" and the "Placer Mining Act" and amending acts, in the Porcupine District of the Lake Bennett Mining Division. He was given the necessary powers to settle these difficulties. The Appendix to the commissioner's report gives an interesting account of the Porcupine District, including its history, fauna, native races, the story of the Dalton trail, and a short list of books relating to that part of the country.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

1901

30. Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the grievances of the Settlers within the tract of lands granted to the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company.

32 pp.


Original evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Eli Harrison, Junior, Judge of the County Court of Nanaimo.

Appointed October 12, 1900; report dated January 4, 1901.

This commission inquired into the grievances of certain settlers in the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway belt regarding the titles and grants of their lands and the mineral rights in those lands. The question was a very involved one. The commissioner ruled that the settlers held surface rights only.

Reference should also be made to the Petition [of settlers in the E. & N. Railway Belt] in Journals of the Legislative Assembly 1900, pp. lxi.-lxii.

31. Report of C. K. Clarke, M.D., Superintendent of the Rockwood Asylum for the Insane, Kingston, Ontario, appointed a Commissioner to inquire into and concerning all matters connected with the general administration of the Hospital for the Insane at New Westminster.

7 pp.


Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.


Appointed January 16, 1901; report dated January 23, 1901.

The commissioner in his report called attention to certain administrative defects as to cost of maintenance, which he considered was too heavy, and offered recommendations to remedy this condition. He paid tribute to the advances which had been made since the previous inquiry of 1894, but advocated changes in the treatment of patients.

32. Commission to enquire into the conduct of affairs at the Provincial Gaol at New Westminster.

29 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Eli Harrison, Junior, Judge of the County Court of Nanaimo.

Appointed July 24, 1901; report dated September 4, 1901.
Charges had been made against the warden of the gaol of immorality, neglect of duty, violation of the rules and regulations of the prison, and of ill-treatment of prisoners. One gaoler and three trusties were also charged with the same offences. The commissioner found that the warden was lax in his duties, that he made no effort to remedy abuses, and that he disregarded the rules and regulations, but that the evidence did not show that the charge of immorality was sustained.

33. [Commission . . . to hold an enquiry into the conduct of the offices of the Gold Commissioner and Mining Recorder of the Bennett Lake and Atlin Lake Mining Divisions . . .]

No report found.


Appointed July 10, 1901.

Chief Justice McColl died in January, 1902, and therefore it is possible that he did not complete his report, as no trace of it has been found.

1902

34. [Report of the Royal Commission under the "Public Inquiries Act" to inquire into certain charges against the Hon. James Dunsmuir and certain members of his cabinet in connection with matters set forth in the Resolution in the Legislative Assembly on March 19th, 1902.]

No report found.

Original typewritten evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice George Anthony Walkem, of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Appointed March 25, 1902.

Smith Curtis, M.L.A. for Rossland, charged the Hon. James Dunsmuir and his cabinet with negotiating to give an excessive subsidy of Provincial money and lands to the Canadian Northern Railway without "proper safeguards." The railway was planning to build a line from Bute Inlet to the Yellowhead Pass "with a view . . . to the sale at a greater price than could otherwise be got, of the E. & N. Railway and Comox and Cape Scott Railway Companies' railways and rights" whereby James Dunsmuir, as a heavy shareholder in the companies, would reap the benefit. The evidence was dramatic. Curtis attempted to obtain a copy of a secret code which had been used, and also at one time walked out of the trial chamber. The evidence on file shows that the commission was adjourned "until after the sitting of the Full Court at Vancouver." Mr. Justice Walkem's report fully exonerated the Government and appears in full in the issue of May 25, 1903, of the Daily Colonist.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

35. Return under Sub-section (2) of Section 10 of the “Public Inquiries Act” [re administration of the “Liquor Licence Act,” Fort Steele Licence District].

1 p.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: William H. Bullock-Webster, barrister, of Nelson.
Appointed April 8, 1902; report dated August 6, 1902.

The commissioner investigated the methods employed by the Chief Licence Inspector in issuing liquor licences. While considering that the methods employed by the Inspector were careless, the commissioner did not think that his actions were in any way irregular, nor that the charges made against him were justified.

1903


8 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: John Bryden, of Victoria; Tully Boyce, of Nanaimo; Peter S. Lampman, of Victoria.
Appointed August 7, 1902; report dated February 18, 1903.

This was a fact-finding commission which made full inquiries into the known causes of explosions in coal mines. The commissioners visited the various mines in Fernie, Nanaimo, Cumberland, and Ladysmith, took evidence of mining engineers, miners, and others, and made recommendations for safety measures in mines, with a view to subsequent legislation.

1904

37. Return under Sub-section (2) of Section 10 of the “Public Inquiries Act.” [Provincial Home, Kamloops, inquiry.]

3 pp.

Original MS. report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: S. A. Fletcher, of New Westminster.
Appointed December 2, 1903; report dated January 22, 1904.

Certain inmates and others at the Provincial Home, Kamloops, made charges of cruelty, and neglect of duty generally, against the Superintendent. The commissioner, after hearing evidence, found that the complaints were not proven and that “the institution might well be considered a credit to the Province.”
38. In the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act" and in the matter of the conduct of Archibald Dick as Inspector of Mines.

1 p.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: William Ward Spinks, Judge of the County Court, Yale.

Appointed October 24, 1904; report dated December 31, 1904.

Archibald Dick was accused of receiving money, either directly or indirectly, from the Crows Nest Pass Coal Company. The commissioner found that the accusations were unfounded.

39. [Commission issued to Hugh Archibald Maclean . . . as Special Commissioner under the "Public Inquiries Act" to inquire into the administration of justice in the City of Phoenix, the discharge of duties devolving on the Police Magistrate, and the Police and Licence Commissioners of that City.]

13 pp.

The original typewritten report and evidence are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Hugh Archibald Maclean, Deputy Attorney-General, of Victoria.

Appointed May 26, 1904; report dated June 10, 1904.

The inquiry "largely resolved itself into a consideration of the conduct of the Chief of Police, Police Magistrate, Police Commissioners, Mayor and Municipal Council of Phoenix relative to a charge of assault laid by a woman of the town, called Alice Chase, against Charles H. Flood, Chief of Police." The case developed into an important factor in municipal politics, gave rise to disagreements between the municipal officers, and caused several resignations and new appointments. This outcome rendered unnecessary any comment on the performance of the duties of Police and Licence Commissioners by the Special Commissioner. With respect to the Police Magistrate, no valid reason for his dismissal was uncovered. Flood, the Chief of Police, was held not entirely blameless in the assault case, but the commissioner took the view that in spite of this, Flood was a good officer. It is interesting to note that, despite the furore, his services as Chief of Police were retained.

1905


4 pp.


The original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Hon. F. Carter-Cotton, President of the Executive Council; Hon. R. G. Tatlow, Minister of Finance; David R. Ker, of Victoria, and J. Buntzen, of Victoria.

Appointed December 29, 1904; report dated February 16, 1905.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

The commission was appointed to investigate the "Assessment Act, 1903," "with respect to its practical bearings on the financial requirements of the province." After investigation, the commissioners made certain recommendations, many of which were implemented in the amendment to the "Assessment Act," passed in 1906.

41. Report of R. F. Tolmie, Commissioner on the inquiry into the conduct of Hugh Hunter in his capacity as an officer of the Provincial Government.

2 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Roderick F. Tolmie, Deputy Minister of Mines.

Appointed April 18, 1905; report dated June 29, 1905.

Hugh Hunter, of Princeton, was charged with being neglectful of his official duties, but the commissioner did not find that the charges were sustained by the evidence brought out at the inquiry.

42. [In the matter of a Commission under the "Public Inquiries Act" dated August 13, 1905 . . . in the matter of the Union Club, the Elks Club, Eureka Club, Chess Club, Playgoers Club and the Railway Porters Club.]

11 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Hugh Archibald Maclean, Deputy Attorney-General, of Victoria.

Appointed August 31, 1905; report dated September 29, 1905.

The clubs above mentioned, incorporated under the "Benevolent Societies Act," were accused of carrying on in "a manner adverse to intention of the said statutes." They were charged with gambling, etc., and police court convictions were produced in support of the charge. The conduct of the clubs was an open scandal, which was freely ventilated in the newspapers at the time. The commissioner found that the charges were well-founded, except in the case of the Union Club. He recommended that the charters of all clubs, except that of the Union Club, be cancelled, and that the societies or associations be dissolved.

1906


33 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Peter S. Lampman, Judge of the County Court of Victoria.

The commissioner investigated matters pertaining to the action of the Board of Examiners, the Department of Education, and Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, principal of South Park School, Victoria, in connection with drawing books submitted by pupils of the school at the high school entrance examinations held in June, 1905. Exercises in the drawing books completed during the term had been submitted for examination. David Blair, examiner in drawing, called the attention of the Education Department to the fact, that, in the examination of December, 1903, lines which should have been “freehand” had been ruled, and that measurements contrary to the regulations had been made. Teachers had been circularized, and their attention had been drawn to the rules of the examination. The commissioner carefully scrutinized drawing books submitted for examination in June, 1905, and questioned each pupil. Evidence of “ruling” was found in twenty-nine books, each of which had been certified by Miss Cameron. The commissioner found that the action of the Department of Education was fully justified, and as a result of the findings Miss Cameron’s teaching certificate was suspended for a period of three years.

44. In the matter of the “Public Inquiries Act” ... to inquire into and report ... concerning the action of the Department of Lands and Works in connection with the notice dated September 22nd, 1905, inviting tenders for the purchase of government property, situated at Laurel Point, Victoria Harbour, known as Lot 570B, Victoria City.
11 pp.
Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Frederick Peters, K.C., of Victoria.
This is commonly known as the “Pendray commission.” W. J. Pendray was anxious to purchase the lot next to that on which his business was situated. As was usual, the lot was submitted by the Department of Lands and Works for public tender. Pendray’s tender was for $2,000. It was charged that the amount of Pendray’s tender had been permitted to “leak out,” and that as a result a higher one for $2,100 was submitted by a Mrs. Logie, which the Department intended to accept. However, the Board of Trade sent a deputation to interview the Government, submitting that the lot in question should not be allowed to fall into private hands. Further, it was charged that some one in the Department talked about the amount of the Pendray tender, and that the official in charge of the Department, R. F. Green, had agreed to lease the lot to Pendray at a nominal rent on Pendray’s threat to expose the transaction. The commissioner found that the charges were not substantiated.

45. [Commission issued to Alexander Middleton of Coleridge, Alta., James William Scallion of Virden, Man., Gordon Wright Quick of Maple Creek, Sask., and Frederick Miles Logan of Victoria to enquire into all matters relating to the purchase and sale of cattle, sheep and meat in the province of British Columbia]
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

... and into the facts tending to the ascertaining of whether there exists ... any combination in restraint of or affecting trade in cattle, sheep or meat ... such as would infringe upon the provisions of the Criminal Code ... ]

No report found.

Commissioners: Alexander Middleton, of Coleridge, Alta.; James William Scallion, of Virden, Man.; Gordon Wright Quick, of Maple Creek, Sask.; Frederick Miles Logan, of Victoria.

Appointed October 11, 1906.

1907

46. Commission to make enquiry into the standing of the Liquor License granted to [James] Hill, one of the proprietors of the Cecil Hotel in the City of Ladysmith, and into the conduct of the License Commissioners for the City of Ladysmith ... in connection with said License.

5 pp.

The original typewritten report and exhibits are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: William Charles Moresby, barrister, of Victoria.

Appointed October 17, 1907; report dated November 1, 1907.

The commission was appointed following a letter of complaint from Parker Williams, M.L.A. for the district, contending that Hill's licence had been wrongly revoked. The license in question had been issued to James Hill, of Messrs. Hill & Haslett, Cecil Hotel, Ladysmith, by the Licensing Commissioners. Later it was revoked by that body, following an informal meeting with the chief of police of Ladysmith. On investigating, Commissioner Moresby found that no misconduct on the part of the Licensing Board or of any member thereof had taken place, but he recommended that the resolution of September 30, 1907, revoking the licence be rescinded by a special meeting called for that purpose.

1908

47. Report submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor by Professor Louis G. Carpenter, of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the Honourable Frederick J. Fulton, who were appointed Commissioners to inquire into the Irrigation of Land in the Province of British Columbia.

13 pp.


Commissioners: Professor Louis G. Carpenter, of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Hon. Frederick James Fulton, Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Appointed August 19, 1907; report dated February 10, 1908.

The commissioners inspected the districts near Ashcroft, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton, Osoyoos, and Keremeos, with a view to sizing up irrigation problems. Later, the commissioners visited Colo-
rado and consulted with authorities on irrigation there. Separate reports were submitted by each commissioner; that of Professor Carpenter making recommendations regarding the tightening-up of the water laws of the Province and recommending the formation of a body to administer water affairs. He compared the situation and legal aspects of the Province in this respect with Colorado somewhat fully, as the situation seemed to him to be similar. Fulton's report consists merely of a "diary" of the places visited and things seen. He states, however, that he fully concurs in the report of his co-commissioner.

48. [Commission . . . to investigate the charges brought by Miss [Agnes] Gertrude Donovan of Victoria against the Department of Education.]

No report found.

Original evidence on file in the Department of Education, Victoria.
Commissioner: Harold Bruce Robertson, barrister, of Victoria.
Appointed January 8, 1908; report dated February 11, 1908.*

The inquiry was the culmination of a long dispute between a school teacher, Gertrude Donovan, the school boards of Kaslo and Vancouver, and the Department of Education. In 1906 Miss Donovan had been summarily dismissed by the Kaslo school board, with consequent loss of salary. On appeal to the Council of Public Instruction, and investigation by the Inspector of Schools, David Wilson, the salary decision was reversed, with the Kaslo board protesting. Subsequently Miss Donovan taught in the Vancouver schools. This engagement also terminated suddenly after charges which she made against the city superintendent were found, by a trustees' investigation, to be unfounded. The commissioner under the "Public Inquiries Act" was appointed on the request of the Lieutenant-Governor, personally, in order to investigate the state of affairs which had been steadily growing since 1906 between Miss Donovan and the Superintendent of Education, Dr. Alexander Robinson.

49. Report of Commissioner appointed to make an inquiry into the claims of certain persons who had entered upon the Crown Lands in the District of Kootenay under reserve for reclamation purposes, with a view to effecting an adjustment of such claim.

4 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: William Franklin Teetzel, of Victoria.
Appointed March 31, 1908; report dated June 4, 1908.

The commissioner divided the claimants into two classes, those who "for any lengthy period had been in actual occupation of Crown lands and who during such occupancy had made substantial improvements on the lands so occupied," and those "who within a recent period had gone upon the lands in the belief . . . that your government would

* See Correspondence on file in the Department of Education.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

shortly open these lands for settlement." He expressed the opinion that only the first class of person should be entitled to avail himself of the privilege of purchasing 40 acres of land, and suggested a price to be paid. The second class of settler should be allowed to purchase only 10 acres of land at the suggested price. The commissioner also investigated certain claims to Crown lands in the Creston area, consisting of meadow lands, inundated for several months in the year, which had been used for hay. He recommended that claimants be allowed to purchase 40 acres of these lands, and suggested the price to be paid.

50. [Commission under the "Public Inquiries Act" to ascertain the truth as to matters in re Gaoler W. J. Norfolk's suspension from the Provincial Gaol at Kamloops.]

No report found.
Commissioner: Albert Edward Beck, barrister, of Vancouver.
Appointed September 10, 1908.

1909

51. [Commission . . . to investigate the affairs of the Fruit and Produce Exchange of British Columbia Ltd., the mode in which the said Company has transacted its business, the application that the Company has made of the money advanced to it by the Government, and generally, the present financial condition of the Company.]

No report found.
Typewritten supplementary report (2 pp.), evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Albert Francis Griffiths, of Victoria.
Appointed April 7, 1909; report dated June 29, 1909; supplementary report dated October 16, 1909.
The affairs of the company in question had gone from bad to worse, and in order to bolster up its finances certain money had been advanced to it by the Government. The head office of the company was situated in Revelstoke; shareholders were the various fruit and vegetable growers' associations throughout the Province, who were interested in marketing their crops in the various provinces in Canada by a co-operative method. The commissioner held that the group who undertook to carry on the business in liquidation were not authorized by the company to do so in a proper legal manner, and had therefore rendered themselves liable to legal proceedings.

52. Royal Commission of Inquiry on Timber and Forestry. Interim report.

2 pp.
Original report and partial evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.


Appointed July 9, 1909; report not dated.*

In this report the commissioners made certain suggestions as to the tenure of special timber licences.

1910


Cover-title, 52 pp.


Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: R. S. Lennie, barrister, of Nelson; Day Hort MacDowell, of Victoria; A. B. Erskine, of Vancouver.

Appointed February 4, 1910; report not dated.

The commission was appointed to investigate matters connected with fire insurance, including the placing of insurance by residents of British Columbia with “outside companies, and the best methods of Government supervision of fire insurance.” A digest of the evidence which was taken is included in the report. The commissioners made certain recommendations stressing the need for the Government to create an insurance department and to issue proper regulations.

54. Commission . . . under the “Public Inquiries Act” . . . to enquire into all actions of the Commissioners of Police for the City of Victoria for the year 1910, in connection with their public duties . . .

13 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Peter Secord Lampman, Judge of the County Court of Victoria.

Appointed March 24, 1910; report dated April 20, 1910.

The commissioners whose actions were questioned were the Mayor of Victoria (A. J. Morley), Alderman H. F. Bishop, and Leonard Tait. No definite complaint had been laid, but constant assertions had been made on the streets that money was being collected from professional

* Covering letter to the Provincial Secretary is dated December 28, 1909.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

31

gamblers, both white and Chinese, and from keepers of houses of prostitution, in return for "protection," and inferences had been drawn that the police commissioners were getting all or part of the money. References to the rumours had been made in the two Victoria newspapers, the Times of March 12, 1910, and the Week of March 19. The commissioner investigated the rumours and found that while the police commissioners and the police force had knowingly allowed bawdy-houses to operate freely in the "restricted" district of Victoria, yet there was no evidence to show that any of the commissioners had ever received bribes from gamblers, either Chinese or white, or from the keepers of those houses.

55. Papers relating to the Selection of a Site for a University in British Columbia. University Site commission report.*

4 pp.


Commissioners: Dean R. C. Weldon, of Dalhousie University; Canon G. Dauth, Vice-Rector of Laval University, Montreal; C. C. Jones, Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick; Professor O. D. Skelton, of Queen's University; Walter C. Murray, President of the University of Saskatchewan.


The commissioners, in accordance with the "University Site Commission Act, 1910," visited and made a careful examination of certain cities and rural districts of the Province, which had been suggested as suitable sites for a university. They recommended as the most suitable location "the vicinity of the City of Vancouver." The report is composed of three parts: the report, a supplementary report, and the minutes of the commission.


Cover-title, 116 pp., 8 plates, 1 map.


Appointed July 9, 1909; report dated November 15, 1910.

The commissioners were appointed to "cause inquiry to be made into and concerning the timber resources of the province, the preservation of the forests, the prevention of forest fires, the utilization of timber areas, afforestation, and the diversification of tree-growing, and

* Although appointed by Statute, this commission is included here on account of its importance.
generally all matters connected with timber resources of the province."
The report of this commission is a valuable one, inasmuch as it con­
tains information concerning the early history of forestry and timber
legislation in the Province, as well as some early statistics of forest
revenue and production. The recommendations made were the founda­
tion of forestry legislation as we now know it in British Columbia, and
formed the basis of the organization of the British Columbia Forest
Branch of the Department of Lands in 1912. The Interim report
of the commission is included in the Appendix of the Final report.

57. [Commission . . . appointed to hear the claims of all persons who
consider they are entitled to compensation in respect to the
re-survey and plan of District Lot 264A in the City of Van­
couver; . . .]
No report found.
Commissioner: John Louis Graham Abbott, barrister, of Vancouver.
Appointed August 19, 1910.

1911

58. [Commission to hold an enquiry into all matters relating to the
application in the name of Charles William Corby to purchase
lands embraced in Lot 10012, Group 1, Kootenay District.]
No report found.
Commissioner: Albert Edward Bull, barrister, of Vancouver.
Appointed March 14, 1911.

59. [Commission . . . to inquire into the conduct of, and fully investi­
gate charges and complaints against Nigel B. Ewart, whilst
Provincial Constable at Princeton, with the view of ascertaining
whether the said Nigel B. Ewart acted improperly whilst
on duty.]
No report found.
Commissioner: William Howard Bullock-Webster, barrister, of Nel­
son.
Appointed June 27, 1911.

1912

60. Synopsis of report and full report of Royal Commission on Taxa­
tion, 1911. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly
of British Columbia. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by William H.
Cullin, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1912.
Cover-title, 38 pp.
The proceedings are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office,
Victoria.
Commissioners: Hon. Price Ellison, Minister of Finance; Hon. A. E.
McPhillips, K.C., President of the Council; C. H. Lugrin, of Victoria;
W. H. Malkin, of Vancouver.
Appointed September 14, 1911; report dated January 19, 1912.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

This commission was appointed to inquire "into the operation of the Assessment Act with regard to its practical bearings on the financial requirements of the Province." Nineteen cities of the Province were visited, and evidence heard by the commission. Recommendations were made, the principal ones being the abolition of the poll tax, personal property tax, and tax on improvements on land, and the substitution of income tax for the last named.


10 pp.

Commissioners: Charles Wilson, barrister, of Victoria; A. P. Luxton, barrister, of Victoria.
Appointed January 11, 1910; report dated January 16, 1912.

This report sets out the plan followed by the commissioners in revising the Statutes, with explanations for the inclusion of new sections in Acts where interpretation was not clear.

62. Public Inquiries Act re Vancouver General Hospital; Commissioner's report.

92 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Robert Wetmore Hannington, barrister, of Vancouver.
Appointed April 26, 1912; report dated September 13, 1912.

The commission was appointed to investigate conditions at the General Hospital. This was a fact-finding commission, inquiring into the running of the hospital, both financial and otherwise. No specific complaint of medical inefficiency was submitted, and other complaints against the management of the institution were held to be trivial. The commissioner called attention to the lack of adequate staff.

63. [Public Inquiries Act: Record of proceedings . . . to ascertain to what extent registration has been effected of subdivisions of lands granted by the Crown since the passing of the Land Act Amendment Act, 1896, and what lots and blocks of land comprising such subdivisions have been conveyed to the Crown in accordance with the requirements of said act . . .]

No report found.

The original typewritten proceedings are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Appointed January 26, 1912.

The commissioner investigated fully the titles to the land under consideration.
64. *Report of the Commissioner appointed . . . under the Public Inquiries Act for the purpose of inquiring into all questions relating to the proposed incorporation into a City Municipality under the name of the City of Alberni of certain parcels of land situate in the Alberni District, Vancouver Island.*

8 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and maps on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Thornton Fell, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Victoria.

Appointed July 4, 1912; report dated August 13, 1912.

The commissioner reported that he endorsed the proposed incorporation.


Cover-title, 66 pp.


Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: William Blakemore, journalist, of Victoria.

Appointed August 15, 1912; report dated December 21, 1912.

The commissioner investigated the "organization, habits, customs and practices of the Doukhobor Community at Grand Forks, Brilliant and elsewhere in the Province, including in the inquiry an investigation into the nature, source and scope of the authority held or exercised by the leader or leaders of the Community over other members thereof; the tenure and ownership of property, real and personal; the solemnization of marriages; the registration of births, deaths and marriages, and domestic relations generally; naturalization; the observance of law; and generally all matters appertaining or relating to the Community and its social, intellectual, moral and religious life." The commissioner made the recommendation that patience should be exercised in dealing with the Doukhobors, that the clause granting exemption from military service be cancelled, and that no more Doukhobors be admitted to the Province.

The report is an interesting one. A synopsis of the salient facts connected with the Doukhobor immigration is given, the history of the sect, which explains the tenets of their creed and beliefs, and the effect of their social conditions upon their mode of living in Canada. Up to the date of the report, it is the best history of the Doukhobors in British Columbia.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.


Cover-title, 18 pp.


Appointed August 7, 1912; report dated December 30, 1912.

The commissioners investigated the system of municipal government of seven cities in Canada, and of twelve large and several smaller cities in the United States, where commission government was in force. The commission was fact-finding, for the purpose of drafting a new Municipal Act for British Columbia, which was to be submitted for approval. The report digested the forms of government in the places investigated, and the application of such forms of municipal government in British Columbia. The report includes a six-page analysis of the evidence obtained in British Columbia.

1913


Cover-title, 29 pp.

Commissioners: A. P. Procter, M.D., of Vancouver; F. J. Coulthard, of New Westminster; Anson Knight, chief veterinary inspector for British Columbia, of Sardis. Freeman Bunting, Secretary.

Appointed December 9, 1911, naming Dr. Fagan, Director of the Provincial Board of Health as chairman, but as he was unable to act, a new commission was issued June 24, 1912, naming Dr. Procter (as above) chairman; report dated January 25, 1913.

The commission was appointed to investigate “the sale of milk and the management of dairies, cow-sheds and milk-shops in the province.” Investigation was made of conditions in the larger towns of the Province, existing legislation, and that of other Provinces. The report recommended that a good, workable Act should be passed to regulate milk distribution and supply; urged that milk should be classified, and that an educational campaign on the subject of a pure milk-supply should be undertaken.

68. Re Board of School Trustees of the City of Nelson: Commissioner’s report.

14 pp.
The commissioner was appointed to inquire into affairs of the board of school trustees, both past and present, of the city of Nelson, and also to investigate complaints made by members of the staff of the Nelson public school regarding the actions of Robert Thompson, principal of the school. Financial transactions of the board were criticized, and the commissioner found that the board had paid for materials not received. However, the school board had made satisfactory explanations, and since then all funds had been handled by the city of Nelson. In the second matter, the principal, Robert Thompson, was found by the commissioner to be at fault, in that he was unable to control his temper. The school board had previously held an inquiry, as nine teachers had resigned and affairs were very unsatisfactory at the school. The board passed a resolution of dismissal. Owing to local politics and the election of a new school board, Robert Thompson had been reinstated. Judge Lampman thought that the board had made a great mistake in the reappointment, as Thompson had deliberately falsified his age in applying for the position, thereby committing a fraud for which he should suffer some penalty. He also advised all those teachers who had signed the complaint to leave Nelson, as continuance in their positions would only lead to constant bickerings and allusions to past troubles.

69. *Royal Commission under the “Public Inquiries Act” to inquire into the administration of affairs of South Vancouver Municipality.*

19 pp.

The commissioner examined the administration of school affairs, the purchase of school sites, the awarding of contracts, and the purchase of school supplies. He commented on the fact that the duties of school trustee were not clearly defined, and that the trustees evidently did not understand the “School Act.” He investigated also the administration of municipal departments, and made recommendations regarding the financial affairs of the municipality.

70. *Report of the Commissioners for revising the Statutes, 1911.*

2 pp.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

Typewritten copy of final report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Charles Wilson, barrister, of Victoria; A. P. Luxton, barrister, of Victoria.


This is the final report of the commissioners appointed to revise the statutes, following their report of two years previously. (See No. 61, supra.) In this report the commissioners explain their reasons for including in the Revised Statutes of British Columbia a number of Imperial Acts which "are yet of importance and may be in full force in this Province."


Cover-title, 30 pp.

Also in Sessional Papers ..., Session 1914, I., pp. I 1–I 30.

The exhibits are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: William Ernest Burns, barrister, of Vancouver.

Appointed February 7, 1913; report dated January 21, 1914.

The commissioner was appointed to inquire into the cost of coal production, profits, transportation, and shortages for consumption in all phases of the coal business. Evidence was taken in the large towns and coal-mining districts of the Province. It was recommended that the various classes and grades of coal known to commerce be made applicable to all the different coalfields of the Province; that supervision or inspection be enforced in both mine weighing and grading; and that a reduction in rates be made on coal from the mines of the interior, and also a reduction in cost of bulk delivery to customers.

72. In the matter of the Public Inquiries Act and in the matter of a Commission issued to the undersigned Herbert W. R. Moore, to enquire into all matters in connection with the proposed severance of Shaughnessy Heights from the Municipality of Point Grey and its incorporation as a separate municipality and any other matter that may be included in or relevant to the Bill intituled "An Act to Incorporate Shaughnessy Municipality" now before the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

29 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Herbert W. R. Moore, barrister, of Victoria.

Appointed January 22, 1914; report dated February 16, 1914.

The report gives the history of the subdivision, and investigates the argument for secession from the municipality of Point Grey. The commissioner, however, recommended that the proposed legislation be dropped.
73. [Commission . . . under the Public Inquiries Act] into the matters connected with the occupants of land comprised in the timber leases held by The North Pacific Lumber Company Limited on the Chilliwack River in the Province of British Columbia.
7 pp.
Typewritten copy of report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Frederic W. Howay, Judge of the County Court of New Westminster.
Appointed July 2, 1913; report dated February 23, 1914.
Settlers had entered upon portions of the land embraced by the lease, which comprised some 4,000 acres north of the Chilliwack River. An arrangement had been made with the lessee under which Crown grants would be issued to the settlers for the land occupied by them, on the understanding that no timber land would be embraced in such grants, and that all rights and privileges of the timber lessee would be protected. However, on six Crown grants no reservation of timber had been made. The commissioner recommended that the company be reimbursed by the Government for failure to reserve the timber, up to a stated amount.

74. (a.) Province of British Columbia: Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture appointed on the 4th day of December 1912, under the “Public Inquiries Act.” Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by William H. Cullin, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1914.
Cover-title, ix; 42 pp.
Also in Sessional Papers . . . Session 1914, II., pp. L 1-L 42.
Original report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: W. H. Hayward, M.L.A., of Duncan; Alexander Lucas, M.L.A., of Vancouver; S. Shannon, of Cloverdale; William Duncan, of Comox; J. J. Campbell, of Belson; Thomas Kidd, of Steveston (who resigned owing to ill-health); J. Kidston, of Vernon. C. B. Christiansen, Secretary.
Appointed December 4, 1912; report not dated.
(b.) Full report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture appointed on the 4th day of December 1912, under the “Public Inquiries Act.” Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by William H. Cullin, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1914.
Cover-title, ix; 398 pp. 1 map.
Commissioners: as above.
The commission was appointed to inquire into all conditions affecting agriculture in all branches, and hearings were held in all parts of the Province. The report was issued in two parts; Part I. dealing
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briefly with the findings and recommendations presented to the Legislative Assembly; Part II. issued with the Full Report later, and not included in the Sessional Papers.

The Full Report, with Part II. and Appendices, included extensive recommendations. The principal ones concerned the administration of the Department of Agriculture, the institution of systems of agricultural credit and agricultural education in the Province, and the promotion of co-operation among producers. The report included a lengthy account of agricultural conditions in British Columbia and discussed co-operative farming and agricultural credit in other countries. A list of references on these subjects is found on pp. 381-386.


Cover-title, v; 28 pp.


The proceedings are on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.


Appointed December 4, 1912; report dated March 3, 1914.

The commission was appointed to inquire into conditions of labour generally, the wages paid in mines, in the woods, on railways and tramways, the methods of safety employed, the preservation of health, and the prevention of unsanitary conditions. Each of these subjects was reported on separately and recommendations made. The commissioners also made a short report on mothers' pensions, free school texts, electoral privileges, and daylight saving in regard to industry. The "Workmen's Compensation Act" passed by the Legislature the following year was based on this report.

76. [Commission . . . for the purposes of inquiring fully into all matters affecting the values of lands forming part of the former Songhees Reserve and apportioned to the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company and the Canadian Northern Railway Company for the purpose of the said railways . . .]

6 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Frederic W. Howay, Judge of the County Court of New Westminster.

Appointed January 6, 1914; report dated March 18, 1914.

The commissioner inquired into all matters affecting the values of two portions of the former Songhees Indian Reserve, containing 29.59 and 33.93 acres respectively, apportioned to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo
Railway and the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway for railway purposes. The Canadian Northern Pacific Railway was not represented at any sitting of the commission, but the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway did place some evidence before the commissioner, who therefore based his conclusions on that evidence. The land apportioned to this railway, on which it was hoped that a new terminal would be built, was claimed by the city of Victoria, to be worth $34,000 an acre; if used for future business and residential purposes, but inasmuch as a considerable amount of excavating would have to be done before the land could be used for railway purposes, the railway claimed the amount was too much. The commissioner found that the land value was $12,000 an acre, taking into consideration the expense in developing it, making a total of $355,080, if used for railway purposes, or if used for future business and residential purposes the net value would be $24,000 an acre, or $710,160 in all. In reference to the 33.93 acres which had been allotted to the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway, on the same basis, for railway purposes, the land value was $12,000 an acre or a total of $407,160, and on the basis of future business and residential purposes the net value would amount to $24,000 an acre or a total of $814,320.

77. In the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act" and in the matter of an inquiry into the affairs of the present Board and past Boards of School Trustees of the City of Vancouver.

15 pp.


Commissioner: H. O. Alexander, barrister, of Vancouver.

Appointed February 10, 1913; report not dated. [May 1914.]

The commissioner inquired into contracts for school buildings and their construction, which he found to be faulty. The financial affairs of the school board were in a state of chaos, and the accounting system so lax that funds had been overdrawn approximately $50,000 without the board being aware of the state of affairs. Two trustees were found to have acted improperly in borrowing money from the contractors. Nothing was found by the commissioner against the personal characters of the trustees, but his report uncovered many instances of petty incompetence and ignorance on the part of the school board. In calling attention to these facts, the commissioner advocated that some system of auditing be adopted by the Department of Education, and that a standard set of books be instituted for the use of school boards throughout the Province.

78. [In the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act" to inquire into all matters in connection with the application for the Incorporation under the "Municipalities Incorporation Act" of certain lands situated in Comox District, in the County of Nanaimo, to be known as Courtenay, B.C.]

3 pp.
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Original typewritten report, petitions, and correspondence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria. 
Commissioner: Herbert E. A. Robertson, barrister, of Vancouver. 
Appointed May 9, 1914; report dated July 6, 1914. 

After taking evidence, the commissioner recommended that incorporation should be granted for a portion only of the land in question, since in his opinion the original area was too large. In view of the fact that a proper system of water supply and distribution had become a vital necessity for the population of the district, he recommended that the Waterworks Company be allowed to proceed with the works which it had already commenced, and that the municipality should be allowed to purchase the works afterwards, in accordance with the provisions of the "Municipalities Incorporation Act." 

1915

79. In the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act"; reports of the Honourable Mr. Justice Morrison and the Honourable Mr. Justice Macdonald, Electoral Redistribution Commissioners, appointed by Royal Commission 18th July, 1914. 
Two reports, 6 pp., 5 pp. 
Original typewritten reports, correspondence, and map on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria. 
Commissioners: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison and Mr. Justice William Alexander Macdonald, of the Supreme Court. 
The commissioners differed slightly on some points in connection with the boundaries of the proposed electoral districts in the Kootenay, and for this reason two reports were submitted. However, they were entirely in agreement regarding the theoretical methods of redistributing the electoral districts of the province. 

9 pp. 
Typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria. 
Commissioner: John Stewart, J.P., of Ladysmith. 
Appointed March 13, 1915; report dated April 24, 1915. 
The commissioner was appointed to inquire into the causes of an explosion in B. North Mine, Coal Creek, on January 2, 1915. Thomas Graham, chief inspector of mines, represented the Department of Mines, and S. Herchmer, barrister, of Fernie, the Crow's Nest Pass Company, who were the operators of the mine. The inquiry opened at Fernie on March 29, 1915. The cause of the explosion was found to be the ignition of a body of gas which had accumulated with the stoppage of a fan during the New Year's holiday, and the failure to re-establish ventilation previous to the arrival of the workmen. This resulted in the death of one man and injury to several others. Thomas Graham gave a synopsis of the evidence in his annual report to the Department
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of Mines for 1915 (Sessional Papers . . . Session 1916, p. K 327). The commissioner commented on the lamentable lack of discipline on the part of mine officials, and severely criticized the indifference of the mine superintendent.

81. In the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act" and in the matter of the inquiry into the cause of and responsibility for the accident which occurred on the 9th February, 1915, in the No. 1 slope of the South Wellington Coal Mines.

48 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice Denis Murphy, of the Supreme Court. Appointed May 29, 1915; report dated July 27, 1915.

The commission was appointed to inquire into the cause of, and responsibility for, the accident in the South Wellington coal mine which occasioned the death of nineteen miners, and to inquire into the plans and workings of the mine. The report gives a history of the South Wellington mine. The commissioner held that one man was negligent, but did not consider him mainly responsible for the accident.

Thomas Graham, inspector of mines, summarizes this report also in his annual report to the Department for 1915 (Sessional Papers . . . Session 1916, pp. K329-K334).

82. [Commission . . . to inquire into all matters pertaining to the proposed adjustment of the boundaries of the Municipalities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.]

No report found.
Commissioner: Harold Claude Nelson McKim, barrister, of Vancouver.
Appointed December 4, 1915.

1916


Cover-title, 15 pp.

Commissioners: Dr. H. E. Young, LL.D., M.L.A., chairman; A. Stewart, mayor of Victoria; A. Wells Gray, mayor of New Westminster; A. E. Planta, of Nanaimo; R. H. Gale, of Vancouver; A. C. Burdick, of Victoria; and E. W. Hamber, of Vancouver. James H. Hill, Secretary.

The commission was appointed to make provision regarding the immediate employment of discharged soldiers, to provide technical
training necessary to assist disabled soldiers to obtain work, and to devise a practical way of placing returned soldiers on the land. The report includes also the findings of a sub-committee on training in agriculture, by G. H. Deane and J. W. Gibson.


Cover-title, 956 pp.

Commissioners: N. W. White, chairman; J. A. J. McKenna; S. Carmichael; J. P. Shaw; D. H. Macdowall. C. H. Gibbons, Secretary.

Appointed April 23, 1913; report dated June 30, 1916.

This was a joint commission appointed by the Dominion Government and the Government of the Province of British Columbia to try to settle the vexed question of Indian reserves in British Columbia. Two commissioners were appointed by the Dominion Government, and two by the Provincial Government. These four commissioners selected a fifth who was appointed to act as chairman. The report is extensive and includes descriptions of the boundaries of all Indian reserves within the Province, accompanied by maps. The recommendations were not wholly adopted by the Government, and therefore the interest of the report is chiefly historical.

(b.) *Confidential report of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the province of British Columbia under Order in Council dated the 10th day of June, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen.* Printed by Order, Victoria, British Columbia. Printed by the Acme Press, Limited, 1916.

28 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: as above.

Appointed as above.

This report is a confidential report made by the Indian commissioners to the Governor-General of Canada bearing on the social and physical condition of the Indians in British Columbia.

85. [Commission . . . to enquire into certain claims respecting lands situated within the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway land belt, and the present status of all lands excepted out of the said belt.]

No report found.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice F. B. Gregory, of the Supreme Court.

Appointed August 3, 1916.

The commission was appointed to inquire into the claims to Crown grants of any or all persons who, prior to December 19, 1883, occupied or improved lands situated in the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway belt,
and the status of lands excepted out of that tract as not passing with the grant to the Dominion Government, or held as school reserves.

86. [Commission to inquire into the sale by public auction in November 1909 of the lands specified in the Minute . . . and to investigate all matters relating thereto.]

57 pp.

Original typewritten report and appendices on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Robert Wilson Harris, K.C., of Vancouver.


The lots in question were Lots 139, 140, 186, 538, 540, 206, 217, and 2027, New Westminster District, and also lands surveyed as Lot 2, Block 13; Lot 1, Block 19; Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, Block 20; Lots 2 and 3, Block 21; Lot 5, Block 44. The commissioner was to inquire into all transfers and assignments regarding these lands, and the disposal of money so made. The history of each piece of land was inquired into thoroughly. The commissioner made recommendations in each case, including certain concessions on the part of the Government in the matter of financial arrangements.


15 pp.


Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice F. B. Gregory, of the Supreme Court.


The commissioner was appointed to inquire into "all claims for compensation or injury, either to person or property, arising out of and in the course of the riots or disorders which occurred during the coal-miners' strike on Vancouver Island in the years 1913 and 1914." The commissioner was not required by the terms of the commission to inquire into the cause of the riots of August 12 to 16, 1913, during which considerable damage was done by the miners to person and property at Extension, South Wellington, and Ladysmith, and in suppression of which the militia was called out, but to report on the claims for compensation, numbering 380. Schedule A of the report lists the names of the claimants, the amounts claimed, and the amounts allowed by the commissioner. Certain specific claims with particulars and recommendations are set out in Schedule B.

1917

88. [In the matter of a commission . . . to enquire into the charge made by the sixth member for the City of Vancouver in the Legislative Assembly on the 17th day of April, 1917, John Sedgwick Couper did charge " that the sum of $25,000 was placed in the safe of the Hotel Vancouver by, or on behalf of
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the Canadian Northern Railway on the night of the 13th of September last, and that the same money was received or taken away the next morning by a person who was a Liberal candidate at the by-election of February 26, 1916, and also at the General Election of September 14, 1916.”] 5 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice F. B. Gregory, of the Supreme Court. Appointed April 24, 1917; report dated May 12, 1917.

This is commonly known as the “Cowper commission.” The commissioner investigated charges made on the floor of the Legislature by J. S. Cowper, that the sum of $25,000 was placed in the safe of the Hotel Vancouver on behalf of the Canadian Northern Railway, and that the money was taken away by a “Liberal candidate.” At the commencement of the inquiry the charge was revised to read $15,000 instead of $25,000. The evidence did not prove that the money had anything to do with the Canadian Northern Railway, but it was brought out that it had been received by the Attorney-General (Hon. M. A. Macdonald), and paid into campaign funds.

89. In the matter of the Fort George election inquiry act and in the matter of an investigation and inquiry under the said act; report of the commissioner.

43 pp.

Original typewritten report, proceedings and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Frederick McBain Young, Judge of the County Court of Atlin. Appointed May 19, 1917; report dated August 18, 1917.

The commission was appointed by statute (1917, chapter 20), to inquire into alleged irregularities in connection with the election of a member of the Legislative Assembly for Fort George electoral district held September 14, 1916. The commissioner found that the charges were not substantiated.


Cover-title, 50 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

The commission was appointed to make an investigation of the economic conditions and operations of the British Columbia Electric Railway, to make such recommendations as might be suggested as the result of such inquiry, and "to investigate the question of transportation in the city of Vancouver and surrounding districts and to decide definitely as to the possibility of the street car service being maintained in competition with jitneys." The first part of the report gives a synopsis of the agreements between the British Columbia Electric Railway and various municipalities in regard to transportation, the second part deals with the situation in Victoria and Vancouver Island. The commissioner, as a result of his inquiries, found that transportation deficits should not be chargeable to the light and power business; that urban and interurban street railway business cannot be conducted on the basis of free competition, but as a public utility should be regarded as a natural monopoly.

91. In the matter of a public Inquiry under an Act of the Legislature for the purpose of making certain inquiries regarding the By-Election held in the City of Vancouver, B.C. on the 26th of February 1916.

No original report found. Victoria Daily Times, August 18, 1917, page 14, prints full text.

Typewritten proceedings and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Mr. Justice W. A. Galliher, of the Court of Appeal, chairman; Mr. Justice Denis Murphy, and Mr. Justice William Alexander Macdonald, of the Supreme Court.

Appointed May 19, 1917; report dated August 9, 1917.

This commission is commonly known as the "Plugging case." The commissioners were appointed by statute (1917, chapter 21) to investigate all circumstances in connection with the by-election held in Vancouver on February 26, 1917. The report found that "an elaborate and expensive scheme of personation was adopted on behalf of M. A. Macdonald, the Liberal candidate . . . but there was no evidence adduced other than the so-called confession of Scott (hereinafter further referred to and rejected except as evidence against Scott) showing that Mr. Macdonald had any knowledge of or connection with such illegal practices. This scheme was engineered by one John T. Scott." The report reviewed the connection of Scott with the Liberal party at some length, and also reviewed the methods employed in the personation of voters. The report completely exonerated M. A. Macdonald from complicity in the affair.

92. Report of Commissioners appointed to investigate the Overseas Vote in connection with the British Columbia Prohibition Act.

7 pp.

Original report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: David Whiteside, F. A. Pauline, and C. F. Nelson, Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Appointed May 19, 1917; report [1917].
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The commissioners were appointed by the provisions of the "Prohibition Overseas Vote Investigation Act" (1917, chapter 50), to inquire into charges that "frauds, irregularities, and improper proceedings" had occurred in taking the votes of the soldiers overseas in the United Kingdom or elsewhere on the continent of Europe on the referendum regarding prohibition. The commissioners proceeded overseas in the course of their investigation, to take evidence of Ernest Alfred Helmore, chartered accountant of Chancery Lane, London, who had been appointed by Sir Richard McBride, Agent-General, acting under instructions, "to compare poll-books and military records available in England; ascertain if names in poll-books represent men from British Columbia entitled to vote, who were actually at the polling points on the day of polling; also numbers of repeaters (if any), including final count.” The commissioners reported that "grave frauds and irregularities were committed, and that the regulations laid down for the taking of the vote were in many instances not observed.”

1918

93. Commission . . . to inquire into the unlawful importation of liquor into the Province of British Columbia since 24th December 1917, names of firms and disposition of liquor.

No report issued.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice William Henry Pope Clement, of the Supreme Court.

Appointed December 23, 1918.

The commission was held to be ultra vires. One witness, former commissioner W. Findlay, refused to testify, and a lawsuit resulted when another witness, Alex L. Gartshore, also refused. Chief Justice Hunter issued a writ on January 22, 1919, restraining Mr. Justice Clement from proceeding with the inquiry. Although this decision was reversed on appeal (See 27 B.C.R. 121), the commissioner did not proceed further.

1920

94. In the matter of the "Public Inquiries Act" and in the matter of a commission to enquire into the question of compensation in respect of losses alleged to have been sustained by persons, firms and corporations by reason of the operation of the British Columbia prohibition act.

2 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison, of the Supreme Court.


Mr. Justice Clement was first appointed to be commissioner of this inquiry on October 28, 1919, but on account of illness he resigned after taking a portion of the evidence. Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison was
appointed in his place in January of the following year. A partial judgment of the commissioner appears in the Daily Colonist, Victoria, January 20, 1920, in which it is stated that Mr. Justice Morrison refused to proceed further with the inquiry since it was conceded by the counsel for the claimants, Sir Charles Tupper and A. Dunbar Taylor, "that there was no legal right to compensation" though they proceeded to argue on "moral grounds." The commissioner in his report states: "I find there are no classes of persons, firms or corporations who are entitled to be compensated by the Province of British Columbia in respect to such loss, if any."


Cover-title, 16 pp.


Commissioners: E. S. H. Winn, chairman of the Workmen’s Compensation Board; Mrs. Cecilia Spofford, of Victoria; T. Bennett Green and D. McCallum, of the Department of Labour.


The commission investigated the general principles involved in mothers’ pensions, and made a study of legislation which had already been passed in other parts of the world, with a view to making recommendations to be embodied in future legislation for British Columbia.

96. In the matter of the Public Inquiries Act; a commission to consider, investigate and inquire into the matter set out in Section 58 of the Local Improvement Act.

No report found.

Typewritten proceedings are on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: George E. Hancox, of Vancouver.

Appointed August 9, 1920.

The commission was appointed to investigate inequalities in the taxation of property owners in connection with the paving of Kingsway, Vancouver. From correspondence on file in the Public Works Department, it would appear that the Government decided not to take any action on the report of Mr. Hancox.

1921

97. Commission on Health Insurance, etc. (appointed under the “Public Inquiries Act,” November 19th, 1919): report on Maternity insurance.

20 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: E. S. H. Winn, Chairman of the Workmen’s Compensation Board, and T. Bennett Green, of New Westminster.

Appointed November 19, 1919; report dated March 18, 1921.
The commissioners were instructed to gather information on maternity insurance legislation in other parts of the world, and to inquire if public interest warranted the introduction of such legislation in the Province. Some valuable suggestions as to the administration and value of public health nursing were made in the report, including the recommendation that the Province be divided into public health districts supervised by public health nurses.

98. Report of the Health Insurance commission submitted by E. S. H. Winn, Chairman; Dr. T. B. Green; Mrs. C. Spofford; D. McCallum.

108 pp.

Original typewritten report and proceedings on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: As above.

Appointed November 19, 1919; report dated March 18, 1921.

The report was signed by E. S. H. Winn; Dr. T. B. Green expressing himself as being unable to agree with the recommendations.

The commission confined its efforts to a study of literature from other countries, with a view to investigating British Columbia's needs, and the extent to which legislation in other countries was applicable to British Columbia. Mr. Winn's report recommended that Province-wide compulsory health insurance should be brought into force, but before such legislation was enacted, a tentative bill should be drawn up and circulated widely among those interested, to test public reaction.

99. In the matter of the Public Inquiries Act and in the matter re coal commission, etc. (before Alex. Henderson, Esq., K.C., commissioner); report of commissioner.

20 pp.

Original typewritten report and proceedings on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.


Appointed March 2, 1921; report dated April 25, 1921.

The commissioner investigated the cost of coal production, transportation to dealers, cost to consumers, profits of coal-mine operators, and the profits to dealers. He recommended that the short ton be used as a measure in all Government compilations; that dealers be licensed and required to furnish monthly returns to the Government; that stocks of coal be accumulated during the summer; that standard grades be adopted; that combines be dissolved; and that an effort should be made to reduce freight charges.

100. [Commission . . . to inquire into the question as to whether the purchase by the Vancouver and District Joint Sewerage and Drainage Board of a portion of District Lot 386, New Westminster Land District, for the sum of $75,000 was a justifiable one; and into the disposition of the purchase moneys by the said Board for the said land.]

No report found.
Commissioner: Robert Wark, of Victoria.
Appointed April 13, 1921; report dated [June, 1921].

The commissioner's report is quoted extensively in the Victoria Daily Times, June 30, 1921, and the Daily Colonist, July 1, 1921. Charges had been made that members of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage Board had profited in the purchase by the board of a gravel-pit at Coquitlam. The commissioner found that the board was justified in buying the gravel-pit, but could have bought it for less, if it had not been deliberately misled and lied to by the auditor for South Vancouver, H. J. Perrin. The report stated that Perrin had benefited by $29,350 by the purchase.

1922


5 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Henry Curtis Shaw, police magistrate of Vancouver.
Appointed November 21, 1921; report dated February 16, 1922.

The commissioner investigated charges of malpractice in office against Albert Richard Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, which had been made in the Legislature by Robert Henry Pooley, member for Esquimalt. Mr. Pooley made eighteen specific charges against Dr. Baker as well as the allegations of malpractice. The commissioner dismissed ten of the charges, but investigated the remaining eight. Evidence of bad feeling between the Police and Game Departments was uncovered, and certain evidence of loose dealing in furs was found, but in the latter matter no evidence was brought out to show any personal gain for Dr. Baker.

1924

102. Report re the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by Hon. Mr. Justice W. A. Galliher of Court of Appeal of British Columbia . . . Commissioner. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Bantfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1924.

Cover-title, 21 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice W. A. Galliher, of the Court of Appeal.
Appointed February 20, 1924; report dated April 22, 1924.

The commission was appointed in response to a petition made by members of the Provincial Party to investigate charges that the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company had made certain payments to the Conservative and Liberal party funds to secure the good-will of those
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parties in the Legislature; that the Company had made gifts of money to William J. Bowser, Leader of the Opposition, and William Sloan, Minister of Mines; and that there had been gross wastage of public money in the building of the railway. Sixteen specific charges were set out in the terms of the commission, but the commissioner found that there was nothing in the evidence to warrant the imputation of anything dishonest in the carrying-out of the work by the Government.

1927

103. Commission under the United Church of Canada Act.

11 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.


Appointed December 30, 1925; report dated February 14, 1927.

This commission, having the force of a public inquiry, was appointed under the "United Church of Canada Act," to advise upon the settlement of certain properties to be awarded to the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in British Columbia.

James G. Robson did not sign the report.


Cover-title, 54 pp.


Commissioners: As above.

Appointed December 30, 1925; report dated February 28, 1927.

This commission was originally appointed as a special committee of the Legislature,* but the members asked to be permitted to continue their researches, and report at the next session of the Legislature. Accordingly, on December 30, 1925, the commissioners were appointed under the "Public Inquiries Act" to pursue their investigations. The commissioners recommended the establishment of a psychopathic hospital, sterilization of certain classes of mental patients, and some administrative changes in the hospitals. This report also includes a study on

* See Journals of the Legislative Assembly, November 18, 1925.
"The heredity and place of origin of the patients admitted to the Provincial Mental Hospitals of British Columbia," by Helen P. Davidson. See also No. 108, infra.

105. Royal Commission held pursuant to "Public Inquiries Act," Chapter 114, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1924 (re "Campaign funds"); findings.

14 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison, of the Supreme Court; Rev. James S. Henderson, D.D., and W. H. Malkin, both of Vancouver.
Appointed February 23, 1927; report dated April 6, 1927.

This commission was appointed as the outcome of a Dominion royal commission investigating matters connected with the Customs Department, which revealed that the liquor interests had made large contributions for campaign funds to both political parties in the Province. A Select Committee of the Legislature had already investigated and reported four specific charges: (1) increase in the price of beer; (2) lobbying by brewery interests; (3) higher prices for whisky paid by the Liquor Control Board; (4) use of secret service funds for political purposes. The commission was appointed to investigate these charges. The commissioners found that any money paid by the brewers had had no effect on the enactment of legislation to bring about beer-by-the-glass, and that no undue prices had been paid by the Liquor Control Board.

106. Re "Public Inquiries Act"; a Commission issued to the Hon. Mr. Justice Morrison re allegations of Frank Carlow.

15 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison, of the Supreme Court.
Appointed April 14, 1927; report dated June 2, 1927.

The commission investigated the charges made by one Frank Carlow, that public business had been improperly transacted, and that members of the Legislature or Government officials had resorted to improper methods to obtain campaign funds, but found no evidence to support the claim.

107. Final report under the commission issued on 14th April, 1927, to the Hon. Mr. Justice Morrison; re Gauthier charges.

20 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison, of the Supreme Court.
Appointed April 14, 1927; report dated June, 1927.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

The commission is properly part of the preceding one, but is mentioned separately here as a separate report was submitted. There is no record of an interim report to which the commissioner refers in his report. The commissioner found that there was no evidence to support the charges of "improper conduct of public business" made by J. A. Gauthier.


Cover-title, 107 pp.
Commissioner: William George Swan, of Vancouver.
Appointed July 26, 1927; report dated December 16, 1927.

The commissioner was appointed to investigate the economic and financial condition of certain irrigation districts, and to make recommendations to better the condition prevailing in those districts. The main recommendations made by Mr. Swan were the lowering of the rate of interest payable, and the increasing of the repayment time from thirty to fifty years.

1928


Cover-title, 20 pp.
Original evidence and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: As above.
Appointed December 30, 1925; report dated March 9, 1928.

This is the second and final report of the Mental Hygiene commission. (For the earlier report see No. 104, supra.) The work of the second year was concentrated largely on the problem of mental deficiency. Data were gathered on existing legislation and the best methods of tackling the problem. The commissioners recommended the appointment of a provincial psychiatrist and the establishment of a psychopathic hospital, special classes for mentally deficient children, and the establishment of vocational schools for mental defectives.
110. *Commission . . . to inquire into the economic conditions throughout the Province with respect to immigration, land settlement, and colonization, and especially with reference to the several areas coming under the Sumas Drainage, Dyking and Development Board, the Oliver District, and areas administered by the Land Settlement Board.*

No report found.
Commissioner: William Henry Gaddes, of Kelowna.
Appointed November 21, 1928.

1929

111. *Final report Sumas Relief Commission, 1928.*
6 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Bruce Dixon, Inspector of Dykes, chairman; David Whiteside, of New Westminster, and William Lyle Macken, of Chilliwack.

Appointed March 21, 1928; report dated January 17, 1929.

The chairman of this commission was appointed by Statute (1928 chapter 42), the other two commissioners by Order in Council March 21, 1928. The commission was appointed to investigate specific cases in regard to the adjustment of assessments in the Sumas area covered by the "Sumas Dyking District Relief Act, 1928," and to determine damages in certain areas occasioned by the Sumas reclamation project. The commissioners were impressed by the possibilities of the entire Sumas area, and recommended that if any further relief was contemplated, or any adjustment to be made, that it be done without delay.


Cover-title, 112 pp.


Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Frederick Moore Clement, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of British Columbia; Hibbert Winslow Hill, M.D., Director of Laboratories, University of British Columbia; George Ernest Hancox, barrister, of Vancouver.

Appointed May 19, 1928; report dated January 17, 1929.

The commissioners were appointed to investigate the whole question of milk-supply to the city of Vancouver and the adjacent and neighbouring municipalities. The commissioners made recommendations regarding the marketing and supervision of dairies, prices of fluid milk, and also recommended changes in the Acts regulating the marketing and sale of milk.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

113. Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Order in Council No. 1352, approved on the 5th day of December, 1928, under the authority of the “Public Inquiries Act” re Saanich Secession.

15 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Peter Secord Lampman, Judge of the County Court, Victoria.

Appointed December 5, 1928; report dated May 31, 1929.

The commissioner was to investigate any matters of administration in Saanich municipality, the valuation of agricultural holdings, the question of a separate municipality for Wards 3 and 4, the division of the municipality into wards, domestic water-supply, sewer system, and the cost of local and other improvements. After investigating, the commissioner gave it as his opinion that Wards 3 and 4 would be too small a municipality for economical administration, and that land was assessed and taxed for more than it could stand. He thought that the ideal situation would be for the more thickly populated portions to amalgamate with the city of Victoria, and the country districts to form a separate municipality.

114. Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Order in Council No. 748, approved on the 16th day of May, 1929, under the authority of the “Public Inquiries Act” to inquire into certain allegations against John L. Barge, of Queen Charlotte City, Province of British Columbia.

1 p.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: W. E. Fisher, barrister, of Prince Rupert.

Appointed May 16, 1929; report dated August 23, 1929.

Barge was charged with retaining Government property, which charge was found to be proved.


pp. 11, xxviii.

Original typewritten report, appendix, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Lindley Crease, K.C., of Victoria.

Appointed April 16, 1929; report dated September, 1929.

Charges had been made by Provincial Constable P. Corrigan, of Kelowna, that members of the city police force were lax in the performance of their duty, and of maladministration of the force. The Kelowna police made counter-charges against Provincial Constable Corrigan. The terms of the commission enabled the commissioner to investigate
56 MARJORIE C. HOLMES.

police administration generally, in the city of Kelowna. He found that the Chief of Police of Kelowna, Robert William Thomas, had not faithfully served the citizens of the town, that the city police were lacking in the performance of their duty, and that they had failed to co-operate with the Provincial Police Constable.

116. [Commission . . . authorizing an inquiry into the grading, mixing, handling, and marketing of grain . . . ]

157 pp.

Commissioners: Hon. James Thomas Brown, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, Saskatchewan; John August Stoneman, of Saskatoon; William John Rutherford, Dean and Professor of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan.

Appointed (British Columbia) March 15, 1929; report dated September 5, 1929.

This was a commission granted by the Government of British Columbia to give the royal commissioners of the Saskatchewan grain inquiry authority to pursue their investigations in British Columbia. As far as British Columbia was concerned the evidence related to the facilities for grain handling at Pacific coast ports.

1930

117. Progress report of the Royal Commission on State Health Insurance and Maternity Benefits; Presented to the Legislature February 11th, 1930. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1930.

Cover-title, 30 pp.

Typewritten evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: C. F. Davie; William Farris Kennedy; Lorris E. Borden, M.D.; George S. Pearson; John Joseph Gillis, M.D.; all members of the Legislative Assembly. Charles H. Gibbons, Secretary.

Appointed April 16, 1929; report dated January 15, 1930.

The commission investigated existing legislation on health insurance in other countries of the world, having in mind the application of such legislation to British Columbia.

For a later report see No. 122, infra.


Part I. Dealing with the subjects set forth in the terms of the Commission under Classifications A, B, and C. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.

by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty. 1930.

Cover-title, 23 pp.


Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: W. Sanford Evans, economist, of Winnipeg.

Appointed August 26, 1929; report dated February 8, 1930.

The commissioner was appointed to investigate the value of land, irrigation, water-supply, farming, and fruit-growing, varieties of produce, packing, distribution, marketing, manufacture of by-products, storage and transportation, and relations between the producer and vendor in the districts of the Province named in the commission. The report mentioned above deals only with the first three subjects of the commission. After investigating, the commissioner came to the general conclusion that the agricultural industry in the territory was worth maintaining and developing. In spite of the expense involved, in view of the fact that the Province had already made extensive loans to irrigation districts and had one large irrigation project, he felt that the financial position, while difficult, was not necessarily incapable of betterment. He recommended that a complete soil and topographical survey be systematically proceeded with; that the Government accept the principle of payment according to ability to pay, and abandon the existing plan of payment by regular fractions of the debt; that the amount a district be required to pay in any one year on account of construction costs should be proportionate to the value of its products, and that the question of ensuring an ample water-supply should be a primary duty.

By Order in Council dated October 31, 1929, the area in which the inquiry was to be held was extended to include the Kettle River and Kootenay districts of the Province.

For a later report see No. 120, infra.

119. [Commission . . . to hold a full inquiry, investigation and examination into the administration of the Board operating under the Government Liquor Act.]

No report found.

Commissioner: Albert F. Griffiths, chartered accountant, of Victoria.

Appointed October 22, 1930.

1931

120. Report of the Royal Commission Investigating the Fruit Industry (and inter-related conditions) of the Districts Territorially known as the Okanagan, Kootenay, and Kettle River of the Province of British Columbia, by W. Sanford Evans. Appointed a Commissioner under the “Public Inquiries Act.”
Part II. Dealing with the Subjects of Production and Marketing under the Terms of the Commission. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1931.

Cover-title, 29 pp.


Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: W. Sanford Evans, economist, of Winnipeg.

Appointed August 26, 1929; report dated January 15, 1931.

The commissioner, in this report, considered problems of production and marketing. He investigated marketing during the previous ten years, taking apples as the main example, and going fully into the facts regarding supply, export, cost of production and yield, cold storage, and markets. He criticized the existing "Produce Marketing Act," calling it "an extraordinary statute" and pointing out its defects. He recommended that immediate steps be taken to institute a method of dealing with prices by means of an association of shippers; that all trade matters needing common action be handled by this Shippers' Council; and that the growers be organized so that matters of common interest could be discussed by them.

For the earlier report see No. 118, supra.

121. Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Order in Council No. 1373 appointed on the 19th day of November, 1930, under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" re Mount Douglas Park.

7 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Oscar C. Bass, Deputy Attorney-General.

Appointed November 19, 1930; report dated March 16, 1931.

The commissioner investigated the management, regulation, protection, and control of Mount Douglas park, near Victoria. Charges had been made by F. A. Grahame, of Victoria, that the Victoria-Saanich Beaches Association, administrators of the park, had neglected it, and had despoiled its natural beauty by selling gravel and cutting a new road. The commissioner found that the charges were substantiated by the evidence brought forward.

1932


Cover-title, 63 pp.
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY.


Commissioners: C. F. Davie, chairman; George S. Pearson; Dr. L. E. Borden; Dr. J. J. Gillis; W. F. Kennedy; all members of the Legislative Assembly.

Appointed April 16, 1929; report dated January 30, 1932.

The commissioners had already presented a Progress Report to the Legislature on February 11, 1930 (see No. 116, supra). This Final Report consists of a digest of the evidence received on world laws, and discussion of the need for health insurance in British Columbia, the class of persons to be served, the mode of levying the contribution, and other administrative details. The commissioners strongly recommended that a compulsory scheme of health insurance and maternity benefits be set up in the Province at an early date.


Cover-title, 11 pp.


Commissioner: Mr. Justice Denis Murphy, of the Supreme Court.

Appointed September 10, 1931; report dated February 17, 1932.

The chiropractors and drugless healers of the Province had applied for an Act regulating their practice, and the commissioner was charged to investigate in order to ascertain which of the chiropractors and drugless healers now practising should be so registered. The commissioner made a full inquiry, and in the first case recommended that an examining board, composed exclusively of duly qualified chiropractors, be set up and should be authorized to grant recognition of graduates of colleges, which, in their opinion, gave a proper course in chiropractic of not less than six months. The commissioner stated that the Act should prohibit the prescribing or administration of drugs or medical preparatives by chiropractors, and the practice by them of midwifery or surgery. In the second case the commissioner recommended that no change be made in the "Medical Act" in respect to examination of drugless healers, but saw no reason why an Act should not be passed regarding the "protection of persons skilled in the use of what may be termed the mechanics of such drugless healing."

1934


Cover-title, 90 pp. mimeographed.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: His Honour Andrew M. Harper, Judge of the County Court of Vancouver, chairman; A. D. Paterson, of Ladner.

Appointed May 22, 1933; report dated February 3, 1934.

The commission was appointed to inquire into and review the financial and administrative condition of the various municipalities of the Province, as constituted under the "Municipal Act," and also the financial relationship between the Provincial Government and the municipalities. The commissioners made forty-two recommendations after taking evidence in all parts of the Province. The principal recommendations were: (1) that mothers' pensions be a wholly Provincial obligation; (2) that the thickly-populated parts of Saanich be annexed to the city of Victoria; (3) that social services should not be a charge upon the land; (4) that municipal grants should be a fixed amount for a certain term of years; (5) that certain institutions and certain social services should be wholly a charge upon the Province, and (6) that hospital grants should be increased.

1936

125. [Commission issued to His Honour Algernon Ernest Doak . . . to inquire into matters (relief camp strikers) in so far as they took place in the Province of British Columbia.]

Commissioner: Judge Algernon Ernest Doak, of the District Court of Saskatchewan.

Appointed February 13, 1936.

This is a commission issued by the Province of British Columbia to facilitate the work of Judge Doak, appointed by the Saskatchewan Government to inquire into matters connected with the riot of relief camp strikers at Regina on July 1, 1935. The report was made public in Saskatchewan on May 16, 1936.

1937


24 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: H. Irvine Bird, barrister, of Vancouver.


Complaints regarding the administration and conduct of the Home for the Friendless, in Burnaby, and the similar institution in West Summerland, were the cause of this investigation. In the main, charges made were found to be proved, in that the aged were likely to become public charges, that fire protection was not adequate, and that discipline was harsh. The commissioner urged that some legislation be enacted by the Legislature to regulate the operation of such homes.
127. Report of the Royal Commission approved by Order in Council No. 24, approved on the 6th day of January, 1937, as amended by Order in Council No. 552, approved on the 5th day of May, 1937, under authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" re projectionists and kinematographs.

20 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: James M. Coady, barrister, of Vancouver.

Appointed January 6, 1937; report dated August 9, 1937.

The commissioner investigated motion-picture theatre projection-rooms, and described the methods employed in various types of theatres rather fully. The question of whether it be in the public interest to allow fewer than two licensed projectionists to operate a kinematograph in a projection-room containing more than one kinematograph, and whether a machine should be operated in a theatre which has no rewind-room was also inquired into. In neither case did the commissioner find that such things were necessary.

128. Report of the Royal Commission approved by Order in Council No. 944 appointed on the 25th day of August, 1937, under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" re Beban mine disaster.

6 pp., 2 maps.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Ridgway R. Wilson, mining engineer, of Vancouver.


The commissioner investigated circumstances leading up to and surrounding the flooding of Beban mine at Extension, which led to the death of three miners. No evidence of negligence was brought out at the inquiry, but the commissioner found that an error of judgment in allowing an insufficient factor of safety in connection with the distance the old No. 1 Extension mine-workings extended beyond the point shown by the old mine plan, had occurred. The error was not attributable to any one person. The direct cause of the disaster was the failure to file with the Department of Mines an accurate mine plan of the old No. 1 mine. Recommendations were made by the commissioner to prevent such circumstances happening in the future.


9 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: His Honour Judge J. C. McIntosh, Junior Judge of the County Court of Nanaimo.

Appointed February 19, 1937; report not dated.
The dispute concerned not wages, nor hours of labour, but the activities of the newly-formed labour union, and the retaliatory action of the Burns company manager. As no agreement had been arrived at, the commissioner submitted a plan for settlement of the dispute.

1937–38


Volume II. Report of the Commissioner The Honourable Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald relating to The Coal Industry (Being Paragraph 1 and part of Paragraph 3 of the Terms of the Commission) September 27th, 1937. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty. 1937.

Volume III. Report of the Commissioner The Honourable Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald relating to Paragraph 3 of the Terms of the Commission December 5th, 1938. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty. 1938.


Original report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald, of the Court of Appeal.

Appointed November 28, 1934; reports dated October 21, 1936; September 27, 1937; December 5, 1938.

The commissioner was appointed to inquire into matters connected with the coal and petroleum industries—the cost of production, manner and cost of preparation (both for wholesalers and retailers), transportation, cost to dealers and consumers, profits (both to owners and sellers), and “generally, all matters tending to show the comparative value of coal and petroleum products for economic use as aforesaid in British Columbia, and the value to the economic welfare of British Columbia of the development of industry based upon the production of the fuels enumerated, or tending to show whether or not the prices charged for coal and petroleum products respectively are unjust or unreasonable . . .” The commissioner divided his report as shown above, and reported on each part separately. The principal findings of each part are summarized in the introduction. The report is very
exhaustive in its treatment of the subjects discussed, and the findings are too detailed to enable them to be quoted or even summarized in this checklist.

1942

131. *Report of the Commissioner appointed pursuant to Section 492 of the "Municipal Act" and the provisions of the "Public Inquiries Act" to inquire into the Police Administration of the Corporation of the City of New Westminster.*

19 pp.

Original typewritten report, proceedings, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: His Honour Frederic W. Howay, Judge of the County Court of New Westminster.

Appointed April 14, 1942; report dated May 22, 1942.

On complaint of E. C. Mills, alderman of New Westminster, of dereliction of duty, inefficiency of administration, and laxity of law enforcement on the part of the police department of New Westminster, the commissioner was appointed to investigate the charges. However, he did not find that the evidence supported the complaints.

132. "*Public Inquiries Act*" "*Natural Products Marketing (British Columbia) Act.*" *Report of His Honour Judge A. M. Harper, Commissioner appointed by an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, dated the 30th day of September, A.D. 1941.* Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1942.

Cover-title, 72 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: His Honour Andrew M. Harper, Judge of the County Court of Vancouver.

Appointed September 30, 1941; report dated September 14, 1942.

The commissioner was appointed to investigate the operations generally of marketing boards and of the agencies set up by them; the rules, regulations, and transactions of these marketing boards and agencies; complaints of administration; and any other relevant facts. After investigating, the commissioner recommended sweeping changes in the set-up and operations of the British Columbia Marketing Board and the B.C. Coast Vegetable Marketing Board, advocating changes in personnel and enlargement of the jurisdiction of the Board. He also advocated changes in the constitution of the B.C. Coast Vegetable Board to provide for election of members by delegates from local units, and he advised further that the Board be given power to exempt small growers of vegetables from operation of the Marketing Act, and that fruit-growers be given a better accounting of all deductions and overages.

Cover-title, 245 pp.


Original typewritten report and proceedings on file in the Provincial Secretary’s Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice Gordon McG. Sloan, of the Court of Appeal.

Appointed July 1, 1941; report dated September, 1942.

This commission was fact-finding, and investigation was made into any complaints which had been made concerning the administrative policy of the Workmen’s Compensation Board. The commissioner was also to investigate and examine relevant facts and reasons therefor, relating to proposed amendments to the existing Act which might be brought to his attention, and any other facts pertaining to the general scope of the inquiry. In his report the commissioner recommended that certain allowances under the Act be increased; that the Act be broadened to permit the Board to order and pay for chiropractic treatment to compensation cases; that a per diem allowance be permitted to men brought to Vancouver for medical examination, etc., from other localities, in addition to travelling expenses and time-loss compensation. The commissioner discussed the question of certain occupational diseases, notably hernia and silicosis, very fully, and made certain suggestions in this connection. In the early pages of the report the history of workmen’s compensation in British Columbia was reviewed.
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