

5 GEORGE V., A. 1915

From the evidence it appears a number of binocular glasses were of poor quality, low range and inferior efficiency, but passed inspection and were paid for at an excessive price; and this was due to misrepresentation and inadequate inspection. Your Committee therefore recommend to the House that the said evidence and all documents connected therewith be referred to the Department of Justice, with instructions to enforce restitution and to take such further proceedings as the law will permit.

Mr. Morphy, for Mr. Middlebro, from the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the Fifth Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:—

Sessional Papers numbered 122 of the present Session of Parliament, and all other papers in relation thereto, being copies of correspondence between the Auditor General and the Department of Militia and Defence and other Departments of Government, in respect to Expenditures under the War Appropriations Act, having been referred by the House to the Public Accounts Committee, and said Committee having had same under consideration, they ask leave to report the same back to the House, accompanied by all evidence taken in connection therewith.

Furthermore, the Committee recommend that the said Sessional Papers, and all other papers in relation thereto, together with the evidence, be printed as an appendix to the Journals, and also forthwith in Blue Book form to the number of one thousand (1,000) copies, and that Rule 74, relating thereto, be suspended.

On motion of Mr. Morphy, the Fifth Report of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts was concurred in.

THURSDAY, April 15, 1915.

Mr. Morphy, for Mr. Middlebro, from the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the Sixth Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:—

Your Committee have had under consideration the purchase of horses for the Militia Department in the Province of Nova Scotia, and beg to report to the House the evidence and documents in connection therewith.

Your Committee are of the opinion that the evidence respecting the purchase of horses in Nova Scotia discloses circumstances of such an unsatisfactory character that further investigation and action are necessary, and they recommend that the said evidence and all documents connected with the matters aforesaid be referred to the Department of Justice with instructions to make such investigation, and to institute such prosecutions, and to take such proceedings as may be found necessary to protect the public interest.

And your Committee further recommend that a further investigation should be made by the Government in regard to any irregularities which may have taken place in any other province of Canada, where such steps will be authorized and warranted by evidence or information of credible persons.

Mr. Morphy, for Mr. Middlebro, from the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the Seventh Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:—

In view of the evidence adduced during the course of their inquiry into the matters referred by the House to them, your Committee desire to draw the attention of the House to the requirement for the inauguration of a system of purchase, inspection and audit that will adequately protect the country from irregularities and frauds.

Mr. Morphy moved, That the Third, Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Reports of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, be now concurred in.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to.

The said Reports were accordingly concurred in.