

APPENDIX No. 5

been laid before the House, also all maps, plans, profile, progress and other estimates, specifications, memoranda or other information regarding the classification of materials in cuttings and fillings and any alterations made therein, and also regarding any changes made in the location of the line within Districts 'B' and 'F' of the railway subsequent to the final location thereof.

Your committee met on the 12th day of May, 1908, and on that day there was submitted to them in writing a statement of such of the charges made by Major Hodgins as he proposed to substantiate, reproduced and made by him more specific at the request of the committee.

On the 13th day of May, 1908, your committee resolved:—

'That the Transcontinental Railway Commissioners be required to produce to this committee all papers and records in the custody or control of the said commissioners relating to or affecting the matters referred to this committee.

'That the First Minister, the Minister of Railways and Canals and the Minister of Finance and any other ministers of departments, including the Auditor General, having papers or records in their custody or control relating to, or affecting the matters referred to this committee be requested to produce the same before this committee.'

Thereupon the taking of evidence was proceeded with, and was continued from time to time until the 18th day of June, 1908, and papers, records and documents relating to and affecting the subject matters under investigation were produced and submitted to the consideration of the committee; which proceedings, evidence, papers, records and documents are set forth in the printed minutes and proceedings of the committee up to and inclusive of the said 18th day of June herewith reported and submitted.

As shown by the papers and documents produced by the said commissioners to your committee and set forth in the printed minutes of the proceedings of your committee now reported, many charges of over-classification, of excessive allowances, and undue payments by the said commissioners to the contractors, of a like description to those charged by Major Hodgins, have formally been made by and on behalf of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, which charges involve and are examples of enormous over payments out of the public funds, and are of serious concern to this Dominion. They cover and include not only the charges made by Major Hodgins, but other specific and more serious complaints of the like nature and description; and not merely for the period dealt with by Major Hodgins but are continuous up to the time of the order of reference to your committee.

Such complaints and charges are within the scope of the order under which your committee have been conducting this inquiry and should be investigated by them.

On the 16th day of June, 1908, certain statements and opinions having been elicited from Major Hodgins as to the attitude he then assumed and his wishes in the premises as appears of record in the said printed evidence, a majority of your committee, despite the protest of the minority, ruled and thereafter maintained that the matters and charges referred to your committee for investigation should not be further proceeded with by your committee.

Your committee, therefore, humbly make this interim report and recommend that the subject-matter of the investigation be remitted to the committee with instructions to proceed therein until completion.

And the question being put on the amendment, the committee divided, as follows:—

Yeas, Messrs Barker and Lennox, 2; nays, Messrs. Carvell and Macdonald, 2. The voices being equal, the chairman, Mr. Geoffrion, declared the amendment passed in the negative.