

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 74f

made for his appearance, but only one citizen volunteered any statement. The examination of the witnesses was conducted by myself as Commissioner, Mr. McEvoy also examining wherever in his opinion it was desirable. Several of the Chinese claimants spoke English fairly well, and it was not necessary to have an interpreter to assist in their examination. Mr. David C. Lew, a recognized interpreter in the courts of Vancouver, acted as interpreter when an interpreter's services were necessary. Mr. F. W. Giddens, of the Department of Labour, acted as secretary, and Mr. F. Evans and Miss Ferguson as stenographers of the Commission.

The evidence taken before a previous Commission appointed to inquire into the losses sustained in the same riot by the Japanese residents was filed as an exhibit, and the same, in so far as it had a bearing upon the existence and extent of the riot and the relative losses of the Chinese and Japanese, was taken into account in assessing the losses of the Chinese residents. The subject in this particular having been exhaustively dealt with in the previous inquiry, there was a considerable saving in the amount of time necessarily devoted to this phase of the investigation. A further economy in time was effected by the statements which accompanied the several declarations, and which set forth in detail the basis on which the amounts claimed had been estimated. These statements had been prepared with care by Mr. Owyang King and Mr. McEvoy at the time the several claims were drawn up in September and October of last year. After a careful examination into each of the several claims, I found that the losses amounted in all to \$25,990, of which amount \$3,185 was on account of damage to property, \$2,569 on account of losses incurred by the Chinese Board of Trade, and \$20,236 on account of losses consequent upon the suspension of business and in other ways.

It can serve no useful purpose to set forth in detail the bases on which the several amounts allowed to the respective claimants were arrived at, other than to say that while a strict regard was had for the fact that all payments would be defrayed from public moneys, the trust nature of which cannot be too constantly kept in mind, each claim was considered in the light of the material facts and circumstances, with a view to seeing that full justice was accorded to every claimant.

With the exception of the estimates prepared immediately after the riot by one of the leading hardware companies of the city of Vancouver at the instance of the Chinese Board of Trade, on which estimate the several claims for actual damages were based, there did not appear to be any estimate of actual losses. The civic authorities took no steps to ascertain the amount of damage done; nevertheless the actual damages were easily assessed. They were almost exclusively incurred on account of broken windows, signs and glass, a good portion of the glass being plate. The accuracy of the estimates prepared was vouched for by members of the firm by which they had been made, and was further verified by the production of receipts by the several claimants for amounts expended. In the case of damages to property, the claimant, if a tenant, was allowed the actual loss only where it was shown that it had fallen upon him, and not upon the owner. As with but one or two exceptions, the claimants in the case of damaged property were the owners and Chinese residents, there was not, as in the case of the settlement of the claims of the Japanese tenants for damage done to property owned by white people, the cost of the damage was properly chargeable. In the case of broken plate glass, the several claimants were