
REPORT.

EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNALS OF THE SENATE, WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE, 1891.

THE SENATE, COMMITTEE ROOM No. 2,
WEDNESDAY, 24th June, 1891.

The Select Committee appointed, by order of your Honourable House on Thursday, the 18th of June instant, to take into consideration all letters and documents submitted to them, relating to the subject of inquiry made in the Session of 1888, by the Select Committee of the Senate appointed to inquire as to the resources of the Great Mackenzie River Basin, which have been received by the Senate, or by the then Chairman of the said Committee, the Honourable John Schultz, at present Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, or any public Department, since the date of the Third Report of the said Committee, made on the second day of May, 1888, and adopted by the Senate on the 11th May, 1888, and which are not included in the said Third Report, or in the Appendices thereto; to report, with all convenient speed, as to the value of the information, if any, given in the said letters and documents, and as to what action should be taken thereon in the public interest, in pursuance of the following recommendation, made in the said Third Report, namely:—"Your Committee desire that this Report be considered an interim one and the estimates given to be approximate, inasmuch as they are based upon evidence received up to this date, and a final report can only be made when answers shall have been received to questions sent to officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, missionaries, Arctic explorers, and others, now resident in, or who have visited parts of, the country within the scope of your Committee's enquiry;" have the honour to make their First Report, as follows:—

At pages 19 to 23 of the Third Report of the Select Committee appointed, in 1888, to enquire into the resources of the Great Mackenzie Basin, as printed in the Appendix No. 1 to "The Journals of the Senate, Vol. XXII, 1888," will be found a List of Questions sent to persons mentioned, in order to elicit information. For the better understanding of the documents which form the subject of the present inquiry, a copy of the said List is herewith submitted.

When the Committee appointed in 1888 made their said Third Report, it was known that it would not be possible to receive replies from some of the persons to whom these Questions had been addressed until after the close of the Session, on account of the great distance to, and the difficulty of communication in, the almost unknown parts of Canada which formed the subject of enquiry. That Committee, accordingly, made the recommendation above quoted, which was adopted by your Honourable House and referred to in the Order appointing the present Committee, whose work thus became simply a completion of the work commenced in 1888.

Through the exertions of His Honour Judge Schultz, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, who had been the Chairman of the Committee of 1888 and continued, after leaving the Senate, to take an active interest in the subject, a number of communications bearing thereon have been received by him and transmitted in due course to the proper authorities, by whom they have been submitted to your Committee. Among these are the following:—

1. From His Lordship Bishop Farand, dated Mission du Lac La Biche, 11th September, 1888.
2. From His Lordship Bishop Bompas, dated Mackenzie River, 18th July, 1888.
3. From His Lordship Bishop Young, dated Fort Chippewyan, Athabasca, July 20th, 1888.