

7-8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

Your committee, therefore, decided that as the charges made by Major Hodgins had been withdrawn, the question as to whether the engineers on Districts 'B' and 'F' were classifying according to the interpretation of the specifications as laid down by the chief engineer was a technical one which Major Hodgins did not wish to present to the committee claiming on page 387 of the evidence that the board of arbitration was the proper tribunal to determine whether or not there was an issue in this matter, and inasmuch as differences of opinion had been anticipated at the inception of the enterprise, and their disposition provided for by the statute and agreement which provided for the settlement of such differences by the arbitration and decision of the chief engineer of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, and the chief engineer of the commission, and in case of their disagreement, by a third engineer to be appointed by the Chief Justice of Canada, the inquiry could not profitably or in the public interest be continued, and the same was brought to a close.

Your committee, therefore, find that Major Hodgins has not only failed to prove the charges as contained in the *Colonist*, both in the letter and interviews, but has specifically withdrawn the same, and has unqualifiedly exonerated the commissioners and their engineers from any improper conduct or undue influence over officials under them, or of collusion with the contractors, and that if questions as to classification arise they should be decided by the tribunal previously provided therefor by the statute.

Your committee also beg to submit herewith, for the information of the House, the minutes of their proceedings, their discussions and the evidence taken by them during the inquiry.

Mr. Barker moved in amendment, that the following Draft Report, marked 'B,' be adopted as the report of the committee in lieu of the foregoing:—

## DRAFT REPORT 'B.'

### REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE MAJOR HODGINS' CHARGES.

The special committee to whom was referred the memorandum of the chairman of the Transcontinental Railway Commission of date 23rd April, 1908, and laid on the Table of the House on the 24th day of April, 1908, and the papers accompanying the same, together with the letter of Major Hodgins to the public press therein referred to, with instructions to your committee to investigate the matters and charges therein mentioned, and with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine persons on oath or affirmation and to report from time to time, beg leave to report as follows:—

Your committee met for organization on the 29th day of April, 1908, when Mr. Geoffrion was appointed chairman; it was resolved that Major Hodgins be notified to appear before the committee on the 8th May, 1908, for the purpose of preferring his charges and to bring with him all papers, correspondence and memoranda in his possession relative to the matters mentioned in the order or reference; and that the Board of Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway be notified that the committee would meet on the said 8th day of May for the purpose of beginning the investigation; and that the said commissioners be requested to submit any papers or information which they desired to lay before the committee for their consideration; and that the said commissioners be notified to produce for the information of the committee all papers and correspondence (if any) relevant to the subject of inquiry, which may be in their possession or under their control, and which have not already