

Extract from Report on Petition of Dr. REES, 1851.

SELECT COMMITTEE IN SESSION OF 1851: Dr. Wolfred Nelson, *Chairman*; Sir Allan N. McNab, Messrs. John Prince, J. Bouthillier, Dunbar Ross.

Your Committee beg leave most respectfully to Report, That they have given the most careful consideration to the matter referred to them. They find that the circumstances connected with the case are already before Your Honorable House, in connection with a previous application; and it is therefore unnecessary to do more than refer to them. It appears that on the establishment of a Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Toronto, in September, 1840, and opened, January, 1841, Dr. Rees, who had been mainly instrumental in procuring its establishment, was appointed Medical Superintendent to the Institution, an office which he continued to hold until the month of October, 1845, and with a degree of success, as regards the treatment of the patients, contrasting favorably with some of the best conducted Asylums in Europe. This is satisfactorily shown in the able Report of Dr. Spear, member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, London, to the Commissioners of the Toronto Asylum, in 1843, which is appended hereto (No. 1). (*See Journals.*)

In the autumn of 1844, Dr. Rees was, on different occasions, attacked by two of the unfortunate beings under his charge, and received such severe injuries in the head and other parts of the body, as to compel a temporary retirement from the active duties of his situation. Various papers connected with *this* are appended (No. 2). They (the Committee) have no hesitation in believing his case to be one of a very painful character; and they most respectfully recommend him to the Government, for such provision as they may deem fit to award to him, under the peculiar circumstances of his case:

All which is respectfully submitted.

Resolution of Chairman—Dr. W. NELSON.

Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor General, informing His Excellency that this House has agreed to a Report of a Select Committee in favor of William Rees, Esquire, late Medical Superintendent of the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, recommending such suitable allowance to be made for injuries received by him while in the discharge of his duties, from the period of their occurrence, as His Excellency may deem the case under the circumstances to warrant, and to request His Excellency's favorable consideration thereof, and that a copy of the Report be also transmitted to His Excellency.

WOL. NELSON.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

Dr. ABNOLDI to the Honorable JOHN ROSE, Commissioner of Public Works.

SIR,—The attention of Government having been drawn during the present Session of the Legislature to the case of Dr. Rees, of Toronto, late medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, and having in common with his numerous medical friends felt deep interest that he should be adequately requited for his past and valuable services, may I beg your serious and immediate attention to his prayer—now fully before the Government. Dr. Rees has devoted a very large portion of his professional life to the establishment of Lunatic Asylums in Canada. He visited the Continent of Europe to obtain the most recent and approved modes of conducting such Institutions, altogether at his own expense, and on his return, after many applications to the Legislature, succeeded in getting the present Toronto Asylum founded, and was appointed the first Medical Superintendent, the duties of which he discharged from 1840 to 1845 with great success and universal satisfaction. The status which this Institution immediately acquired needs no eulogy from me.

Dr. Rees had many of the very worst cases to manage, and in the last year of his servitude he received a very severe blow on the head, inflicted by a powerful maniac, and was otherwise severely injured by blows and kicks about the person. After this mishap, Dr. R. was rendered incapable of discharging his duties for a considerable length of time; the Board of Trustees or Commissioners, ordered a medical enquiry to be made on his