

7-8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

The same day I sent a special communication to Mr. George Cowan, K.C., solicitor for the city of Vancouver, drawing his attention to the public notice concerning the investigation of the claims of the Chinese residents. I also had interviews with Mr. Tung Cheng-Ling, Mr. Owyang King, and Mr. Arthur McEvoy, who had been retained as counsel by the several claimants, and informed these gentlemen of the intended method of procedure at the inquiry which was to open on the following day. At the time of the occurrence of the riot in September last, the Vancouver Chinese Board of Trade, a body composed of the leading Chinese merchants, retained the services of Mr. McEvoy to assist in protecting the interests of the Chinese residents, and undertook all the work necessary in estimating the losses and preparing in detail statements of the several claims. Mr. Owyang King was deputed by the embassy at Washington to proceed to Vancouver and act as a special representative of the Chinese Government. While in Vancouver, Mr. Owyang King, with the assistance of the members of the Chinese Board and their solicitor, made a careful estimate of the actual and resultant damages sustained by the Chinese residents, and the amounts of the losses were set forth in individual declarations, notarial copies of which were forwarded to the Chinese Ambassador at London, and were by him transmitted, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, by whom they were forwarded to the Canadian Government.

When the inquiry opened, Mr. McEvoy appeared on behalf of the Chinese Board of Trade and the several claimants. His Worship, Mayor Bethune, and Mr. Cowan, city solicitor, were present, but took no part in the proceedings. Notarial copies of the several claims, as presented through official channels, were put in by the solicitor on behalf of the several claimants. In presenting these claims Mr. McEvoy pointed out that although the number was considerable, several had been omitted, and asked if any such might be added. As my commission directed me to inquire into all losses, irrespective of whether claims for the same had been made or not, I intimated, as stated in the public notice, that I would be prepared to consider any claim which might be presented within three days of the opening of the Commission. Mr. McEvoy thereupon put in a few additional claims, and a day or two subsequently these were supplemented by another claim put in by Mr. J. K. Macrae, barrister, of Vancouver, on behalf of clients, Chinese residents of Vancouver.

The claims as presented through England amounted in all to \$25,774.61, of which amount \$2,568.98 was on account of expenses incurred by the Chinese Board of Trade, \$3,277.63 for actual damages, and \$19,928 for resultant damages. As amended by the addition of new claims and the alteration of amounts in certain of the original claims during the course of the inquiry, the revised total amounted to \$26,217.12, of which \$3,190.14 was on account of actual damages, and \$20,458 for resultant damages. In all there were 227 claims presented, 125 being for actual and 102 for resultant damages.

The sittings of the Commission were held at Pender Hall, Pender street, and the Commission sat continuously from the morning of Tuesday, May 26, to Friday, June 5, inclusive, with the exception of Sunday, May 31. In all 118 witnesses were examined, this number including most of the claimants, the Chief of Police, the Chief Inspector of Police, and one or two other persons. An opportunity was given to anyone who wished to do so, to appear before the Commission and make representations in regard to the subject-matter of the inquiry, irrespective of whether or not a request had been