

Local News.

After a form... can be by... Doctor to... let every... BITE Prash...

The city council... no new public... employees have... within the past...

Grand Master... F. O. O. F... on the 21st... a joint meeting...

Rev. W. L. Clay... conducted the... of the infant... of Capt. John...

William Sutherland... aged 73 years... died at his... Monday, deceased...

As announced... the columns... Grand Master... McKenzie, I. O. F. E. will...

The recently... formed branch... of Rathbone... Sisters is making...

Miss Lily Skudeene... met with a... painful accident... on Government street...

The B. C. Pioneer... Society held... a well attended... meeting in the society's...

The Ladies' Aid... of the Centennial... Methodist church... will give a social...

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MAJORITY REPORT ON KAEN ISLAND

The government is highly commended. Conservative members of the investigating committee over-did their work and spoiled effect.

The report of the majority on the Kaen Island investigation presented as the views of the conservative members of the committee is now available.

The members of the commission who endorsed this majority report have, it is conceded, subscribed to something which went too far in its praise of the bargain made.

The report is as follows: To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia:

Sir,—We, your special committee appointed to inquire into all matters pertaining to the acquisition or attempted acquisition, by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, or by any other person or persons, or bodies corporate, of crown lands in the vicinity of Kaen Island, or other islands, and on the mainland in the vicinity of Kaen Island, with power to summon witnesses, call for papers, documents, letters, telegrams and records, and to take evidence under oath, and to procure the printing of said evidence from day to day, and report said evidence from time to time to the House, together with our findings on the same, have the honor to report as follows:

On the 21st day of January, 1906, on the motion of Mr. J. A. Macdonald, seconded by Dr. King, it was resolved, "That a select committee, consisting of five members of this House, namely: Messrs. Garden, Young, Ross, Munro and the mover, be appointed to inquire into all matters pertaining to the acquisition, or attempted acquisition, by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, or by any other person or persons, or bodies corporate, of crown lands in the vicinity of Tuck's Inlet, Kaen Island, or other islands, and on the mainland in the vicinity of Kaen Island, with power to summon witnesses, call for papers, documents, letters, telegrams and records, and to take evidence under oath, and to procure the printing of said evidence from time to time to the House, together with their findings on the same."

Pursuant to said order, a meeting of the select committee was held on the 22nd of February, 1906, and since that date fifteen meetings were held and eight witnesses examined. All witnesses requested to be called appeared and gave evidence, with the exception of Peter Larsen of Helena, Montana, who excused himself on account of illness, and F. W. Morse, of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, Montreal, who excused himself on account of pressure of business.

No subpoenas were issued for these witnesses, as your committee were advised by the deputy attorney-general that we possessed no powers over extrajurisdictional witnesses.

All evidence given was taken in shorthand and a copy of the transcribed notes is transmitted herewith, along with the exhibits produced or copies thereof, as well as the telegrams and copies, etc., dispatched and received by the committee.

Although no restriction was placed on the scope of the inquiry, the only lands in the vicinity of Kaen Island about which questions were asked were the following: Lots 448, 444, 251, 507, in range V, Coast District.

Your committee find that lots 443, 444 and 251, comprising approximately 10,000 acres, were acquired by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company under the provisions of an order in council dated 29th April, 1904, and approved by His Honor on May 4th, 1904, passed under the authority of section 39 of the Land Act, which latter date is hereinafter referred to as the date of acquisition.

The lands in question were originally attempted to be acquired by one Peter Larsen, with whom was associated as a partner or employee one James Anderson, appearing with the object of ultimately transferring the same to the said Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. The terms of the proposed acquisition are outlined in a letter from E. V. Bodwell, dated January 19th, 1904.

Your committee find that, after receipt of the letter in question, the executive council refused to deal with any intermediaries, and that the language of the order in council was so understood and interpreted by the officials of the department.

The whole of Kaen Island was subsequently, by order in council dated 2nd August, 1906, reserved from pre-emption or sale. This action was taken in the public interest.

During the investigation a petition was received from one George T. Kane, setting out that he located a pre-emption under the provisions of the Land Act, as well as several applications for lands under provisions of the "South African War Land Grant Act, 1891," and amendments.

Your committee find that the pre-emption claimed by Mr. Kane was located under the "South African War Land Grant Act, 1891," and that his application, therefore, was properly refused.

With regard to the applications under the "South African War Land Grant Act, 1891," and amendments, your committee find that, under the provisions of section 2 of the said act, the consent of the chief commissioner of lands and works is an essential element of such a holding.

In the case under review your committee find that this pre-requisite was not obtained, the applications were properly refused, and such refusal was in the public interest.

Your committee find that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, through its officials and agents, were, at all times from the inception of the railway company, very shortly thereafter, fully aware of the negotiations being carried on by Messrs. Larsen and Anderson, ostensibly on behalf of said company. From the evidence given, your committee find that the said railway company have confirmed the transaction in every respect, and have not signified any dissatisfaction with the matter, although afforded ample opportunity to do so.

Your committee find that the crown grants for Lots 443, 444 and 251, Range V, issued in pursuance thereof, and were properly so issued and delivered to the company.

Your committee find that the railway company paid to the province a sum of \$10,000, the purchase money agreed upon by the terms of the order in council, and in addition thereto received to Peter Larsen a portion of the moneys paid out by him for surveys, said to be about \$8,000.

Your committee find that the two payments referred to in the preceding paragraph were all the moneys actually paid by the railway company in connection with the acquisition of said lots 443, 444 and 251, R. V., and further that there is no obligation, either directly or indirectly, upon the said railway company to pay any further amount or grant any further consideration to any person or persons in respect of said lands.

Your committee find that Peter Larsen, above referred to, knowing that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company would sooner or later require a Pacific Coast terminal, conceived the idea of securing such a terminal for the company, and for the purpose of such idea, the negotiations herein referred to were undertaken.

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