

wit: respect any representation made to him by the Legislature of this Colony, but at the same time I would observe, that in proposing to place the Crown Lands under the control of the Legislature, the Duke of Newcastle in a despatch, which has been laid before the Legislature, reserves as far as I remember, an arbitrary right of dealing with questions concerning lands with the Hudson Bay Company.

Do you consider that this Committee has any power to disturb the settlement referred to in the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle, dated 8th May, or to facilitate, or to take any action in the settlement of the matters still in dispute between the Crown and Hudson Bay Company?—I should think that would depend on the nature of the evidence that they might be able to lay before Her Majesty's Government.

By Mr. Duncan.

Do you consider that any act of fraud discovered by this Committee would invalidate the whole agreement?—I most assuredly believe that it would.

By Mr. De Cosmos.

Are the sections and lots of land, named in section 3 of the letter addressed by Dugald McTavish to yourself, the whole of the land in Beckley Farm reverting to the Crown under the Indenture of Arbitration?—I believe so.

How many acres are there in the section of land referred to in the previous question?—About 48½ acres.

What is the value of that land per acre?—On an average, I should think \$150 per acre.

What would be the total value of the 48½ acres at that rate?—About \$7,275.

How many lots are there in Beckley Farm, reverting to the Crown?—I believe 78 lots.

What is the value of each, and the total value of the whole?—I should judge each of those lots to be worth \$150, say \$11,700 for the whole.

Are those sections and lots in possession of the Crown or Hudson Bay Company at present?—In that of the Hudson Bay Company: they have not been conveyed to the Crown.

Are there any other claimants at present to those sections and lots, or any portion of them?—A document came under my notice a short time since, demanding from the Surveyor General, a certificate of improvement, under the Pre-emption Proclamation, the applicant stating that he had taken up the land, and had placed improvements on it under that Proclamation.

Who was the applicant?—To the best of my recollection the application was signed James Trimble.

Do you know any other person who has pre-empted, or who claims a portion of it?—I have no knowledge of any other.

What answer was given to the applicant for a certificate of improvement?—That the Surveyor General had no power to issue a certificate of improvement, in as much as the power with which he was invested under the Pre-emption Proclamation, did not apply to the land as described.

Do you think that among the lands, the Crown proposes to convey to the Legislature of this Colony, it will be able to convey the land involved in the application for the said certificate of improvement? None of said land has yet been conveyed to the Crown, consequently the Hudson Bay Company, in the fulfilment of their agreement, will have to place the Crown in possession of that land, and I presume the Crown, from the tenor of the Duke of Newcastle's despatches, will hand it over to the Legislature of the Colony.

Are you aware, Mr. Young, whether any attempts have been made to sell land that ought to revert to the Crown under the Indenture of Arbitration?—I myself mentioned to Governor Douglas that I saw surveyors employed in placing boundary posts on portions of Beckley Farm, subsequent to March 1862. I am not aware of any attempts at sale.

Has any other person brought to the notice of Government any such attempts?—The Attorney General, in a letter dated 24th March 1863, expresses a suspicion to that effect. I am not aware of any other person.

In respect to what land?—Land to the South of James Bay, either forming Beckley Farm or in the immediate neighbourhood of Beckley Farm.

By the Chairman.

How long is it since you built your residence on this side of James Bay?—February 1860.

Did you observe the landmarks in the neighbourhood of your intended residence at that time?—Not any particularly, excepting my own.

Could there have been any landmarks without your knowledge?—Certainly.

The Committee then adjourned.

(Signed), JAMES TRIMBLE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM, Nov. 19, 1863.—Present, Dr. Trimble, (in the chair), Messrs. De Cosmos, Ridge, Dr. Tolmie. Absent, Col. Foster, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Burnaby, (on leave). No quorum.

COMMITTEE ROOM, Nov. 20, 1863.—Absent, Col. Foster, Mr. Burnaby, (on leave). Present, Dr. Trimble, (in the chair), Messrs. Duncan, De Cosmos, Ridge, Dr. Tolmie. The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Herman Tiedeman was called and examined:

By the Chairman.

How long have you resided on Vancouver Island?—Since 1853.

What is your profession?—Civil Engineer and Surveyor.

Have you been employed in the Land and Survey office of Vancouver Island?—Yes.

At what day did you first go to the Land and Survey Works Department?—In June 1858.

How long did you remain in that department?—Till March 1861.

How were you employed in the Land and Works office?—In making maps and sometimes surveys.

Did you copy any maps?—Yes.

Do you recollect the dates of those maps?—No.