

## Auditor General's Report.

### GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

#### Treasury Over-Rulings: Reasons for decisions needed.

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, October 2, 1897.

SIR,—With reference to the decision of Treasury Board on the Wm. Davis and Sons' claims communicated to me on the 29th ultimo, I should like to be informed of the reasons which induced the Board to decide on the respective items.

Although no direction is given in the Audit Act that this information is to be given to me, it would no doubt have been given if the point had been brought under the notice of Parliament. It is plainly advisable that I should know the reasons so that I may pass other accounts which are of the same character. Then, Parliament and the people should know what the principles are which govern the passing of applications for the payment of public money, so that they may be changed if Parliament should think it proper to do so.

I should be glad to get the information at your early convenience so that the remarks which I shall have to make in my report on the several important points involved in the decision of the Board and in the opinions of the Minister of Justice may be as accurate and full as possible.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

The Secretary, Treasury Board.

TREASURY BOARD, OTTAWA, October 4, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant asking to be informed of the reasons which induced the Board to decide on the respective items, and in answer thereto I have to say that it seems to me that the reasons are set forth in the minute of the Board sent you. I do not know of anything that can be added thereto,

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. M. COURTNEY, *Secretary*.

The Auditor General.

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, October 4, 1897.

SIR,—I have your letter of this date in reply to mine of the 2nd instant regarding the giving of reasons by the Treasury Board for its decisions in the appeal from my rulings on the Wm. Davis & Sons' claims.

In the report sent me, after reciting the opinions of the Treasury Board you say:—

“The Board had also under consideration an extract from the Treasury Board Minute of 7th July, 1896, which directed that all charges under the contract for unwatering certified by the Chief Engineer should be allowed and paid, and the Board in view of the decision of the Treasury Board Minute last above referred to, and in view of the opinions of the Attorney General of Canada in the letters, copies of which are hereto annexed, and also in view of the report of Mr. Shanly above referred to, are of opinion that with the exception of the charge for the hire of the steam hoist scow, viz.: \$266.80, all the other charges in connection with the contract for Sections 2, 3, 4 of the Cornwall Canal for the payment of which application has been made, and which have been certified to by the Chief Engineer of Government Railways should be allowed and paid and the Board accordingly so direct.”