

REPORT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

COMMITTEE ROOM,

Friday, 18th May, 1855.

The Select Committee appointed to examine and report upon the present system of management of the Public Lands, and the various dues arising therefrom, together with the present mode of selling, leasing, and otherwise disposing of the same,—

BEG LEAVE TO REPORT :

That owing to the varied and extensive character of the subject referred to your Committee and the very important interests liable to be affected by such changes as might be recommended, it has not been possible to obtain sufficient evidence to warrant your Committee in arriving at a definite conclusion and general report on the matters referred to them. They are therefore obliged to report the evidence obtained to your Honorable House, accompanied by the unanimous expression of their opinion, that important modifications of the present system are imperatively required; and they therefore recommend that the subject, with the evidence herewith submitted, be again referred to a Select Committee of your Honorable House at the next meeting of Parliament.

With reference to the disposal of Timber on the Public Domain, your Committee strongly recommend, that no change whatever be made in the terms upon which present limits are held, pending the final decision of your Honorable House in reference to this most important question, as it is their unanimous opinion that, until the system be determined upon and regulated by Act of Parliament, a change of the present regulations would be detrimental to the public interests.

Your Committee further beg leave to report, that an immediate inspection of the accounts of all the Local Agents, by an Officer of the new Audit Board, should be at once ordered, as it appears in evidence, that no check whatever now exists, whereby their accuracy can be established, and they recommend that all moneys received by such agents be paid direct to the Receiver General, on account of the Crown Lands Department.

Your Committee further report, that in their opinion, all public moneys expended under the Crown Lands Department, should be provided for by vote of your Honorable House, in the same manner as other supplies are voted. The present system is conducted on entirely erroneous principles.

Your Committee further report, that all sales of public property,—except ordinary Farm Lots,—should be made by Auction, after advertisement in the local papers where the property is situate; and that no private sale of such property should hereafter be permitted.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. T. GALT,
Chairman.