

There has been much difference of opinion among those who appeared before your Committee, as to the mode of payment of cullers which should prevail; the representatives of the office being in favor of a fixed salary, and the members of the trade supporting the present mode of payment by fees.

Your Committee cannot see that any gain would be made by altering the present fee system.

It is the opinion of the Committee that the average earnings of the cullers, in all the branches, should be five hundred and fifty dollars (\$550), and that the office should be self-sustaining, and not produce a revenue.

If these points were agreed upon, a considerable reduction might at once be made in the charges for measuring, when we bear in mind that the number of cullers will be lessened, and that at the present charges the office has in two years produced a surplus of \$18,000.

The several charges should be proportionately reduced.

Your Committee has carefully considered the views of the advocates of the constituting of an independent Board of Survey, and has reason to believe that, with the confining to efficient men the duty of culling and measuring, there would not be the same necessity for such a Board. The employment of men capable of properly performing the duty of revising the culling of other men, and examining applicants for licenses to cull, would necessarily be attended with considerable expense, which it is well if possible to avoid.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Committee Room, No. 11.
May 8th, 1874.

J. L. McDougall,
Chairman.

[MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.]

Mr. William Quinn gave the following evidence:—

Do you consider the number of cullers now on the Supervisor's staff sufficient or more than sufficient for the efficient performance of the duties pertaining to your office?—I consider more than sufficient to perform the duties of the office.

What reduction (if any) would you advise in the number of cullers in the department of square timber and masts, deals and staves, respectively?—There are at present forty-five cullers in the department of square timber, masts, spars, bow-sprits, oars and hand-spikes, and I consider that twenty would be sufficient to perform all the duties of the department. In the department of deal, plank, boards, &c., there are now twenty, which are barely sufficient to perform the duties of this department. In the department of staves there are eleven, which number are no more than sufficient for this department. The surplus number is made up from the square timber department.

In what manner would you suggest that the number of cullers should be reduced?—It is the general feeling among the cullers and merchants, that those who are not required should be pensioned off. There are from seven to ten ready to go. Some of the cullers have farms and are competent men.

What suggestions would you make with reference to the staff inside of the office?—I am deficient of one clerk. There is a sufficient number of specification clerks.

Do you think it would be advantageous for the cullers to make out their own specifications?—If the cullers were engaged by the season, in slack times, those who are competent could help make out specifications. There are a number competent.

Is it not a fact that the clerks are able to make out the specifications much more quickly than the cullers?—Yes; on account of their continued practice of the one branch. In a general way they are more competent.

How many specification clerks are there, and are any of them permanent?—There are twelve. Eight by the season and four by the year.