

COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 2nd April, 1880.

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The Committee of Council have had before them an Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Honourable the Treasury Board, held on the 15th day of March, 1879, stating that it had come under the notice of the Board that, notwithstanding the prohibition contained in the Orders in Council of the 23rd October, 1868, and 30th November, 1875, certain employees in the Public Departments have continued to absent themselves from duty for a greater or lesser time during office hours whether for lunch or for other purposes.

That apart from the fact that this is done in direct violation of an Order in Council governing the hours of attendance, it has been found to interfere seriously with the prompt and efficient discharge of public business.

Under these circumstances the Committee of Council recommend that peremptory instructions be given that, with the exception of Deputy-Heads who are responsible for the proper performance of the duties of their respective Departments, no employee be permitted on any pretence to absent himself from duty during office hours without the special permission in each case of the Deputy Head, and that it be the duty of the Deputy Head promptly to report to the Minister any infraction of this rule.