
REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF THE

PETITION OF G. T. DENISON,

OF THE CITY OF TORONTO, ESQUIRE,

PRAYING FOR AN INVESTIGATION ATTENDANT UPON THE SEIZURE
AND DETENTION, BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATE PROVINCE OF CANADA,
OF THE PROPELLER "GEORGIAN," DURING THE YEAR 1865.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
18th May, 1868.

Your Committee, having examined into the allegations contained in the Petition, find the facts to be as follows:—

1. On the 18th day of January, 1865, the Petitioner, in good faith, purchased from one John Bates, the propeller *Georgian*, then lying at the Port of Collingwood, in the County of Simcoe, for the sum of thirteen thousand dollars.

2. The Petitioner afterwards registered the transfer of the said vessel in the Customs Office at the Port of Toronto, and commenced certain alterations necessary to make the vessel more suitable for the merchant service, and hired a captain, purser, fireman and crew, to take charge and sail the vessel so soon as the navigation commenced.

3. On the 7th of April, 1865, the Hon. Robert Spence, Collector of Customs for the Port of Toronto, under instructions from the Government of the late Province of Canada, visited Collingwood, and then and there, without any notice to the Petitioner, did seize and take forcible possession of the said vessel in Her Majesty's name, and at the same time ejected the Petitioner, his carpenter, engineer, fireman and cook therefrom, and removed a portion of the machinery belonging to the said vessel.

4. The Hon. Robert Spence, Collector as aforesaid, under instructions from the late Solicitor General for Canada West, with the view of continuing the said seizure, obtained an affidavit from one Godfrey Joseph Hyams, who swore that in his opinion, from what he was told by others, there was probable cause to believe that the said vessel was intended