

7-8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

ever within the Dominion of Canada, have remised, released and forever discharged, and by these presents do for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, remise, release and forever discharge the said governments, the said municipal corporations, and all other bodies corporate and persons whomsoever and their legal representatives, of and from all and all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, claims and demands whatsoever at law or in equity, which I have had, or now have, or which I or my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns might or could have against the said governments, municipal corporations, bodies corporate or persons, or any of them, by reason or on account of, or in connection with, my said claims for damages above mentioned.

‘IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal
this day of A.D. 1908.’

‘Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of’

The evidence taken before the Commission will illustrate in a sufficiently comprehensive manner the bases on which the amounts allotted to the several claimants were estimated. It is not necessary, therefore, to more than indicate in this report, the nature of the investigation, and the points to which it was necessary to direct special attention. Most of the claims presented appear to have been fair and reasonable. The fact that there is a difference of some \$4,500 between the total amount claimed and the total amount awarded, is to be accounted for by somewhat exorbitant claims made by one or two merchants for alleged losses in business, and more or less excessive claims made by some of the Japanese boarding-house keepers, who claimed indemnity for a time exceeding that for which it appeared reasonable to make an allowance, or who, in hiring guards for the protection of their property during the time of the riot and the days immediately succeeding, failed to exercise reasonable judgment in the amounts they expended on this score. It would appear, however, that the more responsible persons of the Japanese community in Vancouver, and, in particular, the merchant class, fixed with moderation the amount of the loss for which compensation was requested. In individual cases the amounts would indicate that the claimants had in mind an ‘*amende honorable*,’ in the nature of some recognition rather than full compensation of actual losses or damages sustained.

At the time of the riot the Japanese consulate in Vancouver took immediate steps to ascertain the extent of the damage done to the several properties of the Japanese residents in the city. The services of a competent architect were retained to ascertain the actual damage and estimate the consequent loss. The consulate also retained a solicitor to assist in the preparation and declaring of the several claims, and the information thus collected was duly placed before the Commission. The civic authorities of Vancouver did not take any steps to ascertain the amount of the damage occasioned by the riot. With the exception, therefore, of the statement prepared at the instance of the Japanese consulate, there was no guide to the actual losses other than the sworn statement of the several claimants, and the receipts produced by them for expenditures incurred in making good the damage to their property. As receipts were produced in all cases save those in which repairs had not been made at the time