

EVIDENCE OF MR. W. A. G. YOUNG, COLONIAL SECRETARY.

COMMITTEE ROOM, November 10, 1863.—Absent, Col. Foster, Messrs. Ridge, Burnaby, (on leave), Dr. Tolmie, Dr. Trimble. Present, Messrs. De Cosmos, Duncan. No quorum.

COMMITTEE ROOM, November 11, 1863.—Absent, Dr. Tolmie, Mr. Burnaby, (on leave). Present, Dr. Trimble, (in the chair), Col. Foster, Messrs. De Cosmos, Duncan, Ridge.

Moved by Mr. Duncan, seconded by Mr. De Cosmos, and carried :

That the Clerk do take his seat at the table, and act as Secretary.

The Clerk accordingly took his seat.

Mr. W. A. G. YOUNG, Colonial Secretary, examined.

How long have you been Colonial Secretary?—For the last five years nearly, I have performed the duties.

When you were first inducted into the office of Colonial Secretary, were you aware that there were any lands in dispute between the Crown and holders? I was not.

Did you learn since that time that there were lands in dispute between the Crown and holders?—I did.

When did you first learn it?—I think about the autumn of 1859. I believe the question was first raised by Mr. Dallas claiming the proceeds as the property of the Hudson Bay Company, of a portion of land, between the South corner of Government and Yates Streets.

By Chairman.

Do you know the extent of that land?—I do not.

Does the Government still claim that land?—The Colonial Government claim the unsold residue of the land.

Are the unsold portions of those lots still under dispute, or has the Home Government adjudicated upon them?—I am not aware.

By Mr. De Cosmos.

By whose authority were said portions sold?—As I have always understood by the authority of the Governor in the first instance, but I do not know of my own knowledge.

Could you point out on the map the exact land in dispute at that time?—Nearly so.

What are the present boundaries of the land, about which the dispute was raised?—To the best of my belief, the South corner of Yates Street at its intersection of Government Street, to the North corner of Bastion Street, down Bastion Street to the East of the police barracks, along the present limits of the police barracks, and back again into Yates Street by Langley's store.

By Mr. Ridge.

What has become of the proceeds of the parts sold?—I am not aware.

By Mr. De Cosmos.

Do you know the gross amount?—I have heard about 27,000 dollars, but the whole amount was received by the Hudson Bay Company.

How came the Hudson Bay Company to receive the amount?—They advanced about \$27,000 to the Government, for the erection of the new Government buildings.

By Mr. Ridge.

Was this money a repayment for the advance made to the Government for the erection of the New Government buildings?—It was so considered by the Government but not by the Hudson Bay Company.

By Mr. De Cosmos.

What is the value of the three unsold lots?—I should judge about \$6000 per lot.

Do you know of any other property in that neighbourhood in dispute between the Hudson Bay Company and the Government at present?—There is a lot of 50 feet frontage on the water claimed by Government, at the foot of Fort Street; the Hudson Bay Company declare the lot to be at the foot of Broughton Street.

What is the value of that lot at the foot of Fort Street?—I should think about \$15,000.

What is the value of the lot at the foot of Broughton Street?—About \$10,000.

How long have the Government claimed the lot at the foot of Fort Street?—I think from about the early part of 1861, when the Hudson Bay Company advertised certain lots for sale. The Government claimed 200 feet frontage; the claim was rejected by the Hudson Bay Company and the matter was submitted to Her Majesty's Government, and in the Deed of Settlement, a lot at the foot of Fort Street was so settled as to revert to the Government with 50 feet frontage.

By Mr. Duncan.

Whether to your personal knowledge, the land in dispute at the foot of Fort Street was not acknowledged and used as a public landing in years 1857, 1858, 1859 and 1860?—I have seen boats and persons landing there, and have never heard of the exercise of any private rights. Mr. Young withdrew.

Mr. Ridge moved that the Crown Lands Committee do sit from day to day, except Saturdays, from the hours of 11 A. M. to 1 P. M.

Seconded by Mr. Duncan, and carried.

Mr. Duncan moved that a short-hand writer be employed to take the minutes of the Committee.

Seconded by Mr. Ridge, and carried.

The Committee then adjourned to to-morrow at 11 A. M.

(Signed),

JAMES TRIMBLE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM, November 12th, 1863.—Absent, Col. Foster, Mr. Burnaby. Present, Dr. Trimble, (in the chair), Messrs. De Cosmos, Duncan, Ridge, Dr. Tolmie.