

- 7th—Beacon Hill Park encroachments, embracing about 10 acres.
 8th—Lands claimed by the Hudson Bay Company, Beckley, Uplands, and North Dairy Farms, containing about 3084 acres.
 9th—Lands claimed by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, consisting of 4 farms amounting to — acres.
 10th—The Clergy Reserve consisting of 640 acres.
 11th—1,000 acres laid out for Governor Blanchard, as Government Reserve.
 12th—Proportion of rocks and swamps allowed to purchasers of Crown Lands.
 13th—Receipts from the sale of Crown Lands, how and when such moneys were expended.

After a long and careful enquiry into the subjects already mentioned, your Committee have come to the conclusion that the lands claimed by the Hudson Bay Company, virtually belong to the Crown; and that the lands claimed by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, ought to be fully and carefully enquired into; but from inadequate powers vested in your Committee, they are unable to arrive at as definite a conclusion as the importance of the subject demands. Your Committee would therefore earnestly and respectfully request that your Honorable House would recommend to His Excellency the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry, empowered to administer oaths, and to make the most searching investigation into these and all matters connected with the Crown Lands of the Colony, thus leading, in the only manner possible, in your Committee's opinion, to a final settlement of this vexed question, which has so long troubled the public mind, and retarded the prosperity of the Colony.

(Appended to Proceedings of Committee, 13th May, 1864.)

Protest by Mr. DeCosmos:

I, Amor DeCosmos, member of the Committee on Crown Lands, protest against the adoption of the amendment of Mr. Dennes, relative to a Commission, not on the ground of the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into the Crown Lands, for that I shall vote for; but on the ground that it ignores details of many questions which in my opinion ought to be embodied in the report. Among which questions are:

- 1—The water frontage of Victoria Harbor.
- 2—Public Springs.
- 3—James Bay Reserve.
- 4—Johnson street Reserve.
- 5—Land coming to Crown under indenture of February 3rd, 1862.
- 6—The pre-emption of Nias and Trimble on Beckley Farm.
- 7—Church Reserve.
- 8—Crown Lands arrears.
- 9—And several other matters.

(Signed)

A. DeCosmos.

Victoria, V. I., May 13th, 1864.

COMMITTEE ROOM, House of Assembly, 17th May, 1864.—The Committee on Crown Lands met this day at 11 a. m., pursuant to adjournment. Present: Dr. Trimble, Chairman, Messrs. Dennes, Duncan, DeCosmos, Dr. Powell, Dr. Tolmie, Col. Foster.

The last minutes having been read and confirmed, Dr. Tolmie moved that the resolution be brought forward at the first reading of section 4 (resolution read to the Committee) be adopted.

Mr. DeCosmos moved an amendment that at the end of clause 4, the following words be inserted: "It may, however, be stated that the disputed territory, including Vancouver Island, was declared free and open to all British subjects, in the convention of 1818, between Great Britain and the United States."—Adopted.

Text of original clause or section carried nem. con.

Text of original section (9) carried nem. con.

Col. Foster and Dr. Powell here took their seats at the table of the Committee.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the resolutions laid before the Committee by Mr. Dennes, on the 13th instant, be rescinded, as also the motion of Mr. Dennes, striking out a large portion of the report.

The Chairman said that the question had been already settled, and could not be re-opened.

Mr. Duncan moved an amendment that the report be adopted.

Dr. Tolmie moved an amendment that the report be re-committed from section 20.

The Chairman stated that his decision was that the question could not be re-opened.

Colonel Foster then moved that the Committee do now adjourn till to-morrow, to enable Dr. Powell, who from illness has been unable to attend the deliberations of the Committee upon the report, to read the said report.—Carried.

The Committee then adjourned till to-morrow at 11 a. m.

(Signed)

JAMES TRIMBLE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM, House of Assembly, May 18, 1864.—The Committee met this day at 11 15, A. M. Present, Dr. Trimble, Chairman, Messrs. DeCosmos, Duncan, Dennes.

The last minutes having been read and confirmed, Mr. Duncan moved that the Committee do adjourn till Saturday, at 11, A. M. (21st).

Mr. Dennes seconded.

Mr. DeCosmos moved an amendment, that the Committee do adjourn till to-morrow at 11 A. M.

For Mr. Duncan's motion—Ayes, Messrs. Dennes, and Duncan, 2. Against Mr. Duncan's motion, Noes, Mr. DeCosmos, 1.

The Committee then adjourned till Saturday next.

(Signed)

JAMES TRIMBLE, Chairman.