

Special Agencies for the Sentinel.
 Mr. JAMES A. GRANT, St. Andrew.
 Messrs. DAWSON & SONS, St. Stephen.
 Messrs. DAWSON & SONS, St. John.

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1860.

LEGISLATIVE EPITOME.

We publish elsewhere a record in full of the most important matter, up to Saturday last, discussed in the House. Under this head we shall afford a brief epitome of the nature and disposal of such matters as do not seem to demand a republication of the full debates had upon them.

On Saturday, the 11th, the time of the House while in session was mostly occupied discussing the advisability of having a number of the debates published in French. Of course we would not wish to regard the eloquent speeches made by honorable members, substantiating the claims of the French population, and expatiating upon the superior intelligence, morality, &c., as *unbecomingly*, but the simple truth, as we can glean from the evidence of those members, and from the evidence of common sense, is that it is an unnecessary expenditure of money, and one unproductive of good, any provision for furnishing the debates in French. The absurdity of encouraging the perpetuation of a language foreign to our own seems evident, and we do think it were much more patriotic and sensible to expend a given amount in increasing intelligent aids to the education of the French people in English.

The following are the speeches of Messrs. Waters and Tibbitts on the question:

Hon. Solicitor General said he was not in his place yesterday when the laudable and generous provision was made for furnishing the English population of the Province with the debates of the House. He highly approved of the action of the House, and he felt assured that hon. members would not hesitate to accede to the motion which he was about to make, to extend the same liberality which they had on a former occasion to that numerous class, the French portion of the inhabitants of the Province. It was true the debates printed in French in '58 were not of a satisfactory character, still they were received by the people for whose benefit they were intended, in a spirit which showed their appreciation of the fact that they were a part of the doing of the House. The French constituencies of the Province were known and noted for their intelligence, and, passing by himself, he could point to the various gentlemen in the House who represented such, as a proof of that intelligence. These gentlemen possessed abilities which would do honor to any legislative body, or to any constituency, and there could be no good reason shown why people who made so intelligent a selection of representatives should be deprived of the privilege of reading, for themselves in their mother tongue, the sayings and acts of their representatives. On behalf of the constituencies of Westmorland, of Northumberland, of Victoria, of Kent, whose representatives were in the House, he would deliver himself with a beauty and fluency of style which attracted all hearers; of Gloucester, overflowing with people, who could appreciate the true eloquence, so largely abounding in the House; on behalf of these he asked the passage of the resolution he was about to submit, with the understanding that if the debates could not be printed in a manner to give satisfaction to the most fastidious, then the contract should be null and void. He (Solicitor General) then moved.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to make arrangements for the publication of the debates of this House in French, provided the expense of the same does not exceed £200.

Mr. Tibbitts thought the matter had better be allowed to drop. His French constituents would be much better satisfied, if the money were applied to educational purposes—given, for instance, to the Madawaska Academy. The whole sum asked for might be divided among the French constituencies of the Province, for similar purposes. The last French reports were a mere burlesque.

On Monday the first discussion arose upon a motion, first, to modify, and then to rescind, a rule of the House making the payment of £7 10s., necessary to the admission of private bills. The principal arguments for the rule are, it discourages private legislation, and lessens the expenses of the Legislature; and the chief argument urged against it is that much of the so-called private bills are for corporate bodies, whose operations are a public benefit, calling out the resources of the country, and giving employment to its people, and deserves encouragement at the hands of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Smith endeavored to introduce a petition which set forth sundry advantages to be derived from building a bridge over a river in Westmorland, and with all his admitted powers of eloquence, he could not convince the House that it did not involve the expenditure of money, and might therefore be received. But it was insisted upon that the initiative rule applied to it. In the course of the debate Hon. Mr. Connell reminded the House that he was prevented last year from bringing in a petition of a similar nature for a bridge over the St. John at Woodstock, and stated that some of his constituents found much fault with him for what appeared, until the circumstances were explained, neglect on his part.

The address in reply to his Excellency's speech was next taken up and passed without any motion for amendment. To some taunting remarks made by Mr. Wilmot, to the effect that there was nothing in the speech, the Provincial Secretary said it might be found that there were more measures in it than honorable members could discover,—some to which Mr. W. would not assent.

Considerable discussion arose out of the 8th section, referring to settlement of wild lands, during which some very encouraging information was given, calculated to inspire the belief that the work of settlement was in a state of gratifying progress. It was stated that during the year last, to the extent of 20,000 acres had been taken up for labor, and 54,000 acres had been sold. It was likewise stated that government had decided to lay out a good road through each block of land and open up the same as soon as the land was applied for for actual settlement. This seemed to meet the views of honorable members generally, although some seemed to think that Government should open up the roads at once. The allowance of speculation in wild lands was specially denounced.

Mr. Lawrence again brought forward his resolution for a committee of investigation of railway matters, the debate on which when it was before the House last week, we publish in this paper, and part, probably, of that on the present occasion, so that we need make no further reference to it here, leaving our readers to judge for themselves as to the merits of the case; we must say, however, that Mr. Lawrence, by his unhesitating condemnation of the whole railway management exhibited an amount of prejudice which seems to unfit him for a candid investigation, as a member of the railway committee, of the railway affairs. The quarrel between him and Mr. Gray is a petty one, and sympathy generally seems to be with Mr. Gray.

The proceedings in the House to-day have been somewhat interesting. When Mr. Lawrence's resolution was brought up for discussion, Mr. Cadlip moved an amendment, that the committee should be chosen after the manner pointed out by law in cases of converted elections.

Mr. Smith considered it impracticable, and in the course of his remarks, condemned in the strongest terms the language used on a former discussion by Hon. Mr. Wilmot against the Chief Commissioner of the Railway Board.

Mr. Waters followed in language highly commendatory of the public acts of Mr. Jardine, characterizing him as a gentleman of honor, honesty and integrity, and that the course taken by the ex-Secretary was unjust, and he might say unmanly.

Mr. Steadman considered that every hon. member was justifiable in exposing the misconduct of any public officer, and that whenever he knew of any wrong doing on the part of Secretary, Postmaster General, or any other public officer, he would expose it to the country; but with private matters he would not interfere.

Mr. Wilmot rose and said that he would not retract one word to which he had given utterance, relative to Mr. Jardine, and that Mr. Jardine had some years ago, in presence of Robert Reid, stated that a report which he had previously circulated, injurious to his (Mr. Wilmot's) character, was entirely false. Mr. Wilmot would allow no man to accuse him of the pusillanimity of saying behind a man's back what he would not say to his face.

Several other hon. members made short speeches, which occupied the time till dinner.

Shortly after the House had reassembled, Mr. Lawrence delivered himself of a very long address. He endeavored to prove by copious quotations from authors, some of whom, no doubt, had been largely subsidized for their eulogiums, to raise the Messrs. Peto and Brassey to such a lofty position, that nothing in the shape of ordinary humanity could compare with them; that they were the very men, and the only men, in a financial, moral, and religious point of view, to whom the girdling of our Province with railways should have been intrusted. But the whole of the honorable gentleman's speech, when reviewed by the Provincial Secretary, was like a puff ball in his hand, one squeeze, and all was gone.

Hon. Attorney General and ex Attorney General made some fair remarks. The Attorney General, in explanation of some part of his mission to England, relative to the railway; and the ex-Attorney General, to the effect that if the original agreement had been adhered to, with Jackson & Co., like Canada, we should have had our railroad at much less cost, which was answered by Mr. Mitchell with the remark, that if Canada built her roads with her own money, they were owned and controlled by foreigners; we build and pay for our own roads, and when finished, will be owned and controlled by ourselves.

Progress was made on Gray's bill, to provide for summoning and swearing of witnesses by committees of the House. The principle of the bill was approved, but the general opinion was that it should not apply indiscriminately to all committees, but be left to the House to decide on what particular occasion it should operate.

Cadlip's amendment was lost—5 for it.

Lawrence's resolution, passed without division. There was some talk about having a member of the Government on the committee. Tilley said he was not anxious, but thought it advisable to have a member of the Government in the room during the proceedings, to note the same, as contractors would appear as witnesses, and statements might be taken down which would form a basis for claims that could not be equitably established.

Mr. McIntosh spoke condemnatory of the present railway system, and opened up a discussion which embraced the whole railway policy of the Province, from the beginning.

Connell and Mitchell urged the striking off the committee, and deprecated the unusual delay of public business, which had been by the long debate. No immediate prospect of discussion being concluded. Adjourned 5.45.

THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDANT.

The painful duty devolved upon us recently to notice the death of the late Henry Fisher, Esq., Chief Superintendent of Schools, whose zealous and well-directed labors—too soon closed—did so much in so short a time, to incite a more wholesome public opinion on the subject of Education. We now desire to say a word or two about his successor, Mr. John Bennett, late Inspector of Schools for the Northern District of the Province. Mr. Bennett, we learn, is a Scotchman, and has been in this Province some 12 or 15 years, during which time, up to his appointment as Inspector of Schools, he has been engaged as a teacher of the Grammar School of Restigouche, in which position he was very successful. In the Northern District of the Province, Mr. Bennett is well and very favorably known, and by the talent and energy displayed in the discharge of his various duties, has won the confidence of the public, secured the respect of the teachers, and gained a high place in the estimation of the late lamented head of the department. Mr. B. has a great and arduous work before him,—one that will tax his energies to the utmost. But he brings to it long practical experience, an intimate knowledge of the educational necessities of our country, an apparent tact and facility peculiarly necessary for his position, and the advantages of a liberal education. Mr. B. is in the prime of manhood; we should judge him to be about 35 years of age and possessed of a vigorous constitution. As he has been a Teacher, and an Inspector, too, his promotion will be the more acceptable to the teachers, and be regarded by them as a proof of the desire of Government to show respect to them, their profession and its claims. We wish the new Superintendent every success in the noble though onerous duties before him, and we trust, as we doubt not, his future course will be one of great usefulness, and justify the prompt action of the Government in his selection.

A MASTER KILLED AND BURNED BY HIS SLAVES. The following particulars of a horrible tragedy we copy from the Richmond (Va.) Dispatch:

"Dr. Wm. Croxton, of Essex county, had occasion to correct a servant woman for some offence, in a mild and gentle manner. This fact engaged a negro man, who vowed to have revenge.—On Wednesday last, whilst one of his servants was engaged in grinding a cutting knife, Dr. Croxton walked to where he was, and whilst looking on, another servant stepped behind him, gave him a violent blow on the back of the head, which fell him to the ground, and then dispatched him. The two then dragged him behind the barn, and kindling a fire, placed his body on it, and burned it. They next cut the skirts of the saddle upon his riding horse, and turned the horse loose, expecting to create the impression that he had been attacked on the road, and murdered. When the doctor was missing, his friends instituted a search for him, and in the pile of ashes near the barn discovered two or three of his fingers and a portion of one of his feet."

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

To His Excellency the Hon. JOHN HENRY THOMAS, M.A., M.P., Lieut. Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c., &c., &c.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

1. We, the faithful Commons of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for your Speech at the opening of the Session.

2. We are gratified to learn that during the past year Divine Providence has crowned the labors of the husbandman with an abundant harvest; that there has been an increased demand for our staple export at improved prices; that the Fisheries have been productive; and to observe the evidence of reviving Commerce and the general prosperity of the people indicated by the increase of the Revenue.

3. We thank Your Excellency for the information that the Act to establish the University of New Brunswick will receive Her Majesty's assent, and we hope that the settlement of this question will be productive of permanent good to the Province.

4. We are gratified to learn that Her Majesty's Government, in placing at Your Excellency's disposal three thousand English Bibles for the use of the Militia, the Province has enabled Your Excellency to arm without any Provincial expense, the Companies of Militia whose offers to volunteer for drill and exercise, Your Excellency has been pleased to accept.

5. We unite with your Excellency in the expression of our satisfaction that similar aid to the militia will be given by the Government, and that the Militia, evincing the spirit which animates the People, and their determination to adopt those precautionary measures for self defence, which are additional securities for the maintenance of the Peace.

6. We thank Your Excellency for informing us that there is reason to hope that the Railway in question will be surveyed in the next Summer.

7. We agree with Your Excellency in the opinion that the interest manifested by the agricultural population in the selection of the Members of the Provincial Board, augurs well for the future of the Province; and we trust that the Board will be the motive of advantage to that most important interest.

8. We agree with your Excellency in the opinion that intending Settlers on Wild Land, who are benefited by the provisions of the Act, and who are enabled to purchase land at a low price, will be the motive of advantage to that most important interest.

9. We thank Your Excellency for having directed the Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditure of the past year, and the Estimates of the current year to be laid before us, and it is a source of satisfaction to learn that the Revenue of the year is an excess over the ordinary Expenditure.

10. We will give full consideration to any measure submitted to us for the purpose of providing for the introduction into the Province of the decimal system of computation.

11. We thank Your Excellency for the assurance that the Report of the Commissioners appointed to prepare a measure to facilitate settlements between Debtors and Creditors will soon be laid before us, and we will give to the subject that attention its importance demands.

12. We will consider the propriety of making provision for taking the Census at the next Session, and we will consider the expediency of effecting that object.

13. Fully impressed with the value of the Minerals of the Province, we will consider the expediency of instituting further inquiry into the real character and extent of these resources.

14. We will cordially unite with Your Excellency in the fervent hope that our deliberations may, with the favor of Divine Providence, conduce to the honor and welfare of the Province.

On motion, it was ordered that the House will go into consideration of the address on Monday next.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 1860.

The first discussion of to-day arose upon the bill requiring the payment of a fee of £7 10s. by parties asking the passage of a private bill. A motion was made by Mr. End to rescind the rule. That gentleman and others thought that the rule presented obstacles to just legislation for the public, to the detriment of the Province, and that it was a source of vexation to the other hand it was urged by Hon. Mr. Mitchell, who had introduced the rule, and others that the rule had done good, restraining the presentation of private bills two thirds, lessening the expense of legislation thereby, and inducing the extension of self-government.

The bill was carried by a majority of 10. The resolution was lost by the following division:

Yeas—End, C. Perley, McIntosh, Chandler, Wilmot, McAdam, Macpherson, W. E. Perley, Balfour.

Nays—Mitchell, Connell, Tilley, Kerr, Gray, McLean, Lawrence, McPherson, Montgomery, Taylor, Fisher, Wilmot, McLeod, Soull, Tibbitts, Gilbert.

The next debate we give in extenso from the *authorized debates*. It is of interest, as throwing light upon questions which have occupied largely the attention of the press of St. John during the past year, and the personal will enable our readers to form correct conclusions upon the matter:

Mr. Edgar's Report.

RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

Mr. Lawrence moved that a committee be appointed to whom shall be referred all matters relating to the European and North American Railway.

The Provincial Secretary said that he did not rise to oppose the motion, but merely to refer to the course pursued last year. Then Mr. McLeod early in the session moved for a committee, which was opposed on the ground that the committee should not be appointed until the papers relating to the Railway had been laid before the House.

The hon. mover of this resolution was one of those who opposed Mr. McLeod's motion last session.

Mr. Lawrence thought that the committee would find work to do immediately. He considered that it was no need of publishing it, as it was distinctly understood from the Government that it contained nothing whatever of a public nature.

The Provincial Secretary continued: Every letter was supposed to be before the committee but that; and they were all before the committee but that; and they were all before the committee but that.

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important subject that could come before the House, for the whole revenue and the credit of the country was involved in it. It would be a standing question every year; and every man in the country would be right to say that it should be kept before the House. It would be a most dangerous position for any Government to assume to withhold any information that would give any light upon the subject. There was no doubt but that claims from contractors for extra work would come before the House; if they were neglected this year they would come again next year. The sooner they were investigated and settled the better.

Mr. Kerr thought that as by law the accounts of the Railway were to be before the House within ten days of the session, and this was a special committee on these accounts and other Railway documents, it was the proper time to appoint the committee, and the accounts were laid before the House.

Hon. Mr. Smith thought that the proper and parliamentary course. He thought that Mr. Tibbitts in proclaiming here that Railway contractors who brought claims before the House would be paid, if not this year then in some future day, had committed a great imprudence and an error. If any one had a good claim to be paid, but it was very indelicate to anticipate the payment of these claims as Mr. Tibbitts had done.

Mr. Tibbitts said that he did not wish to convey that impression. What he meant was that these claims would be brought before the House from time to time until they were investigated, and the sooner they were met the better. There was no use in shirking the fact that these claims would be here; from public report he was satisfied that they would.

Mr. Gray said the question was what would most facilitate the dispatch of the business of the committee, its appointment now or at some future time. He thought it had better be appointed now, before he got through all the preliminary business, before the arrival of witnesses. Last year the whole time of the committee was taken up in the examination of witnesses, and very little attention could be given to other important points. He had just come into the House when Mr. McAdam was speaking, and heard him make a remark that some of the witnesses were not met. He would like the hon. member to explain to what he referred.

Mr. McAdam said that certainly Mr. Gray discharged the duties of Chairman of the Committee to his satisfaction, and he believed, the satisfaction of the whole committee. What he alluded to was that the witnesses were not met, and he would like to ask questions of the witnesses.

Mr. Gray said that this allowing the asking of questions was a point which had been discussed and settled affirmatively by the committee, for the express purpose of facilitating the inquiry.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said that while he would not go so far as Mr. McAdam, he would say that the course adopted by the committee in this respect was not the best. The consequence was the sending forth to the country the statements of interested parties. He thought the same means of securing correct testimony should be adopted as is followed in the examination of witnesses, the swearing of witnesses, &c.

Mr. Lawrence seemed to wish that it should go ahead that the Government oppose investigation, whereas the Government desire the fullest enquiry and he (Mr. L.) was aware of the opinion of two members of the Government on that point.

Mr. Lawrence said that he did not say that the Government were opposing the inquiry, but that if they opposed the appointment of this committee now, they would be responsible for any delay which might occur in the investigation.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said that this was still an imputation on the Government desired to oppose the inquiry. Notwithstanding that he thought it more parliamentary to postpone the striking of the committee until after the papers were on the table, he would support the resolution. But the House should be very cautious in dealing with this matter. No evidence should be taken until after the Bill which he understood Mr. Gray had introduced, to put witnesses on.

Mr. End said that if the Government complained that they were regretted as opposing the proposed investigation, they had themselves to thank for it, inasmuch as three of the members of the Executive had, yesterday, when the resolution was brought up, proposed delay. He thought this a rather untoward course.

Hon. Messrs. Tilley, Fisher, and Smith here denied that they had opposed the resolution.

Mr. End continued, that he did not believe that the government desired to oppose the inquiry; but he would repeat that it was a rather untoward occurrence that the reply to Mr. Lawrence yesterday came from these three gentlemen. Nothing was said by having the fullest information. They had got into what he believed not a single member would now be willing to go into; and after all they had a railway which was only a patch in the middle of the province. He thought that the committee should be appointed now, as they knew that it must be raised.

The Surveyor General hoped that the resolution would be carried without opposition.

Mr. McLeod said that he was of the same opinion this year that he was last, when he moved for the committee. Such a committee would be well appointed at the commencement of the session. The Provincial Secretary said that Mr. End had called the course pursued by the three members of the Government in respect to this resolution rather untoward; but if the resolution contained anything respecting claims upon the Province, it was the duty of the Government to look narrowly into it. His only object in rising had been to show how some hon. members who voted against the appointment of the committee at an early day last session, had changed their minds this session. The railway accounts could not be gone into before they came in, before they came into the House, and he hoped that Mr. Gray would hurry through his Bill as soon as possible.

Mr. Wilmot had said that the delay in publishing the Railway Correspondence between the Chief Commissioner and Mr. Reed any portion omitted on account of referring to private matters, might as well have been admitted as some portions which did appear. He had all the papers bearing upon this matter in his hand, and would state the circumstances. When the correspondence was laid before the House last session, the Government understood that it contained all the letters, except one respecting a firm in England, which Mr. Reed wished not to be made public.

Mr. Gray said that he remembered that there was one letter which the board or the Government did not wish to publish; and he considered that it was no need of publishing it, as it was distinctly understood from the Government that it contained nothing whatever of a public nature.

The Provincial Secretary continued: Every letter was supposed to be before the committee but that; and they were all before the committee but that; and they were all before the committee but that.

Mr. Lawrence thought that the committee would find work to do immediately. He considered that it was no need of publishing it, as it was distinctly understood from the Government that it contained nothing whatever of a public nature.

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tion of Mr. Reed's correspondence, or for the publication of anything but the evidence taken before the committee. He understood at the time at which the report of the committee came before the House last session, that Mr. Lawrence's only objection to signing it was the absence of a recommendation to the House for the publication of the evidence.

Mr. Mitchell said that Mr. Lawrence distinctly stated that if that recommendation were put in he would sign the report.

Mr. Lawrence said that that was the objection which he took at the time, but that that point being yielded he would have then raised other objections, which he was not disposed to raise at a moment when the Legislature was about to be prorogued, and no time could be spared for their discussion.

Here some conversation took place between the two hon. members, each insisting that he was right; and Mr. Gray was appealed to.

Mr. Gray said that he would endeavor to explain the circumstances of the drafting and discussion of the report. He thought that it would be in the interest of the members of the committee that it did not place any of the members; that it did not go far enough in one direction to suit one side and not far enough in another direction to please the other side. They all wanted to go further in the direction of the public than they felt that it was due to the public that after the lengthy labors of the committee, an expression of opinion should be given upon all those points upon which they could agree. The committee therefore tried to find what they could agree upon, and found that on four points there were no differences of opinion.

They agreed that there had been an improvement in the mode of keeping accounts; that the road if completed in a style equal to that of the first nine miles would unquestionably be an excellent road; that there was nothing in the evidence before them to substantiate a charge of fraud; and that the discrepancies between the accounts of the Board and the accounts of the Auditor General, which they could all agree upon these four points, he held that it was their duty to announce their conclusions to the public; for he would lay down this principle that whatever might be one's personal or private feelings it was his duty to do justice to his opponent at any cost. (Here he rose.) They were all reluctant to stop short at this point, but as they could not agree further they resolved to frame a report upon this basis. Upon the question of publication of the evidence they could not agree.

Messrs. Lawrence, Balfour, Vail, and himself were in favor of the publication; all the others against it. Accordingly the paragraph in the draft of the report, which had been prepared, recommending the publication, was struck out. Mr. Lawrence then said that he would not sign the report, but he did not dissent from any other portion of the report, as it was read over paragraph by paragraph, although he assented reluctantly. He (Mr. G.) suggested that the report should be signed in favor of the publication should sign a recommendation to that effect endorsed on the report, but Mr. Lawrence refused unless it was in the body of the document. The only paragraph in the draft of the report which follows that about the publication, which was struck out, was the recommendation that one of the Railway Commissioners should hold a seat in the Executive Council in the House. It was true that Mr. Lawrence early in the session had expressed an opinion against having the Chief Commissioner there, but he had understood that he had modified his views. But Mr. Lawrence did not sign the report, and as that refusal had become public, he (Mr. G.) suggested that he was glad that he did not, and that he was at liberty to make what he could out of it; but he (Mr. G.) had no hesitation in now endorsing every word in that report, as he did then, and in taking the responsibility of that act. He made these remarks because the report had been made up on both sides; the majority being in favor of the publication, and the minority being in favor of the non-publication of the report, and he (Mr. G.) was looking upon the signing of it as an injustice to himself. He acted upon his conviction then, and if he could not sustain his position by an honest following out of his conviction, he would be content to lose it. The report was no exonerator of the railway management, and no exonerator of the Board, but merely a declaration of opinion upon those points on which all the members of the committee could agree.

The Provincial Secretary did not seem to know why the correspondence between Reed and Jardine was published, and who authorized its publication. He (Mr. G.) had authorized the publication, and he was at liberty to make what he could out of it; but he (Mr. G.) had no hesitation in now endorsing every word in that report, as he did then, and in taking the responsibility of that act. He made these remarks because the report had been made up on both sides; the majority being in favor of the publication, and the minority being in favor of the non-publication of the report, and he (Mr. G.) was looking upon the signing of it as an injustice to himself. He acted upon his conviction then, and if he could not sustain his position by an honest following out of his conviction, he would be content to lose it. The report was no exonerator of the railway management, and no exonerator of the Board, but merely a declaration of opinion upon those points on which all the members of the committee could agree.

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