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## FURTHER REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

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### CONDUCT OF VICTORIA CITY ELECTION.

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MR. SPEAKER :

Your Committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of the last general election for the City of Victoria, beg to further report, that in printing the dash lines at the back of the ballot papers used at the last Victoria election,---

Mr. Wolfenden, the Government Printer, followed in printing said ballot papers the course pursued since 1874, and under all Governments, and the innovation from the form of the Act never having been noticed until last election, it would seem that no blame attaches to the officers of this or previous Governments for the departure from the Statute which has crept in.

The last general election at Victoria is the only instance, so far as your Committee can ascertain, where the line appeared at the back of any candidate's name on the ballot paper: this is possibly due to the number of names on ballot paper. Mr. Wolfenden states that if the ballot papers for the last Esquimalt election had been backed straight the line would have come at the back of Mr. Hett's name.

The ballot papers were printed at the Government Printing Office for the Electoral Districts of Esquimalt, Victoria District, Kootenay and Cassair, as well as for the Electoral District of Victoria City, and all have the dash line referred to, although in cases not so heavy as on those printed for the Victoria City election, the reason for which Mr. Wolfenden has given in his evidence. Your Committee recommend a strict compliance with the form of the Act in future.

Your Committee append herewith the further evidence taken and exhibits produced.

J. H. TURNER, *Chairman*,  
EDWD. GAWLER PRIOR,  
THEODORE DAVIE,  
JOHN GRANT.

Victoria,  
28th March, 1887.

## MINUTES AND EVIDENCE.

Committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of the last general election for the City of Victoria, and empowered to take further evidence and to report to the House from time to time.

Present—J. H. Turner (Chairman), J. Grant, E. G. Prior, R. Beaven, T. Davie.

R. Wolfenden, examined, said—

Q. (Turner)—In your previous evidence you said that you thought that in previous years, in every instance, it has been the regular custom to have a similar line printed at the back of the ballot paper. Can you throw any further light on it?

A.—Yes; I produce a file in which I keep copies of documents printed by me, commencing on the 29th January, 1874. I find that the first ballot paper printed by me after the passage of the “Ballot Act, 1873,” was printed on the 24th February, 1874, for an election in Victoria District. I find that a dash line is printed under the words “Form of Ballot Paper,” on the front of the ballot.

Q. (Grant)—Is there any dash line on the back of the ballot paper, opposite anyone's name?

A.—There is no dash on the back of the ballot paper in question. The form of the front of the ballot under the Act of 1873 is slightly different to the form given in the Act of 1877, the form of back of ballot paper being entirely different.

Q. (Turner).—How so?

A.—I produce the forms. You will perceive that the dash line as printed by me on the 24th February, 1874, is not shown in the form laid down in the “Ballot Act, 1873.”

Q. (Turner)—Is there a dash line under the heading on the front of the ballot paper you printed in 1874?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Does the Act of 1873, in the form laid down, show that line?

A.—No.

Q.—When did you next print any ballots?

A.—In September, 1875, I printed ballots for the Cowichan and Victoria Districts and Victoria City District.

Q.—Is there a line printed on the back of any of those papers?

A.—There is no line printed on the back of these papers, but there is a dash line printed on the front of all these papers, under the words “Ballot Paper.” These papers were also printed under the Act of 1873.

Q.—When next did you print any ballots?

A.—In February, 1876, I printed ballot papers for Yale District and Victoria City District.

Q.—What is there to notice in these ballots?

A.—They are printed in precisely the same manner, showing the dash line under the words “Ballot Paper,” on the front. These papers were also printed under the Act of 1873.

Q. (Grant)—On the ballot papers in question, are there any dash lines printed on the back?

A.—There is no dash line printed on the back of these papers as, I have already explained that the form given under the Act of 1873 is different from that given under the Act of 1877.

Q. (Turner)—When did you next print ballot papers?

A.—The next ballot papers printed by me were printed in May, 1878, under the Ballot Act of 1877. Papers were printed for Districts of Esquimalt, Cowichan, Lillooet. Those are all I can find samples of, but others were also printed.

Q.—Is there a line printed on the back of those ballot papers, not in accordance with the form laid down in the Act of 1877?

A.—There is a dash line under the words “Front of Counterfoil,” “Front of Ballot Paper,” “Back of Counterfoil,” and “Back of Ballot Paper,” in the samples of those printed for the Districts of Cowichan and Esquimalt. In the sample of the papers printed for the Lillooet election I find that it is an imperfect copy, as only one side of the paper is shown. The dash line is shown under the words “Front of Counterfoil” and “Front of Ballot Paper.”

Q. (Beaven)—Is the dash line on the back of ballot papers printed in 1878 similar to the dash line printed on the ballot papers for the Victoria City election of 1886?

A.—It is not a similar line; it is an ornamental one. On the back of the counterfoil it is similar.

Q.—Is it printed at the back of any candidate's name on those ballot papers?

A.—The dash line is not printed on the back of any candidate's name, though it is very near it in some cases.

Q. (Turner)—Does it show through to the front?

A.—The impression shows slightly through in all cases.

Q.—How many names of candidates were on the paper printed in 1878,—the election you just referred to?

A.—In the samples produced by me, there are 4 names for Cowichan, 4 for Lillooet, and 3 for Esquimalt.

Q.—Had there been more names than there were, would the line probably have shown through across one of the names?

A.—It might have done so.

Q. (Beaven)—Have you any of the ballot papers that were printed for the Victoria City election of 1878?

A.—No; my file does not show the paper printed for Victoria City, although it was printed by me; but the file shows that a paper has been torn off which, I think, very probably was the form for Victoria City. I wish to state that it has been customary to take one of these ballot papers off the file as a sample for the compositor in setting up the form at subsequent elections.

Q. (Davie)—Did you print any of the ballot papers for the general election held in 1882?

A.—I did.

Q.—For what districts?

A.—Cowichan, Victoria, Victoria City, and Esquimalt districts.

Q. (Davie)—Does any dash line appear at the front or back of the ballot papers printed at that election.

A.—There is a dash line under the words "Front of Counterfoil," "Front of Ballot Paper," "Back of Counterfoil," and "Back of Ballot Paper," in every instance in this general election.

Q.—Is the kind of dash line the same in every case at that election?

A.—Under the words "Back of Counterfoil" and "Front of Counterfoil," the dash line is of the same character, *i. e.*, a straight line. The dash line under the words "Front of Ballot Paper" and "Back of Ballot Paper," is not of the same character in every instance; in some cases it is an ornamental dash, in other cases it is a straight line about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in length.

Q. (Turner)—Do these lines printed at the back show through to the front?

A.—Yes, in all cases the impression shows through.

Q. (Grant)—Is it as heavy a line in these cases as the line used at the back of the ballots used for the election of 1886?

A.—The straight dash line is of the same character, but not quite so long; but the impression is slightly heavier in the form of the ballot paper printed for Victoria City election of 1886. In my previous evidence I stated that this dash was an imperfect one. If care is not taken by the pressman the impression of that line will show slightly heavier than it ought to do.

Q. (Turner)—The lines you refer to printed on the ballot papers for the election of 1882, are they in accordance with the form laid down in the Act of 1877?

A.—There is no dash line shown in the form as given by the Act. I wish to state that it is customary for printers to place a dash under the head lines of all documents. I think it is done in nearly every case. It comes naturally to a man to do so.

Q. (Turner)—What Government was in power when the ballot papers of 1882 were printed?

A.—The Beaven Government.

Q. (Grant)—In the election of 1882 does the line at the back of the ballot paper appear under anyone's name?

A.—No; and I do not think that the dash line appears under any candidate's name in any of the papers printed by me, except in the one instance of the election of 1886 for Victoria City, and, perhaps, that of Esquimalt.

(Signed)

R. WOLFENDEN.

FRIDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1887.

Present—J. H. Turner (Chairman), R. Beaven, J. Grant, E. G. Prior, T. Davie.

R. Wolfenden, examination continued,—

A. (continued)—In continuation of my answer to last question I beg to refer the Committee to my previous evidence given on 23rd February last, in which I explained how that dash line at the back of Mr. Beaven's name escaped my notice. I now wish to hand to the Committee a fac simile of the proof of the ballot papers printed for the Victoria City election 1886, showing how it was impossible for me to observe that the line could come at the back of any candidate's name, except by actual measurement. (Exhibit A)

Q. (Davie)—In answer to the last question you say that the dash line does not appear under any candidate's name except in the one instance in the year 1886. Were there a greater or lesser number of candidates for the year 1886 than in previous years?

A.—There were a greater number of candidates standing for election at the Victoria City election of 1886 than in any previous year. There were eleven (11).

Q.—In the previous election of 1882 there were 9 candidates, were there not?

A.—Yes, there were 9.

Q.—Would the line shew at the back of a name when there were 11 candidates and not when there were 9?

A.—Not necessarily so. It just depends where the line is placed.

Q.—Is the line in exactly the same place in regard to distance from heading in the ballot papers for election of 1882 as for election of 1886?

A.—No, it is a little further off—about twice the distance below the head line in the papers of 1886 to what it was in those for 1882.

Q. (Beaven)—Is the dash line on the ballot papers of 1882 of the same character as that used on the ballot papers of 1886.

A.—No. The dash line used below "Front of Ballot Paper" and "Back of Ballot Paper" for 1882 is an ornamental dash, and that for 1886 is a plain straight dash line. I would mention that the first ballot papers printed by me in 1886 were for the Cassiar District, the spaces for the names being left blank. The same form was used for all other ballot papers printed for the general election of 1886, the name of the district and the candidates' names being altered as required. All the ballot papers printed by me for the general election of 1886 have precisely the same dash lines under "Front of Ballot Paper," "Back of Ballot Paper," "Front of Counterfoil" and "Back of Counterfoil," the spaces below the head lines slightly varying in the papers for some of the districts. The ballot papers for the Esquimalt District have the dash lines under "Back of Ballot Paper," "Front of Ballot Paper," "Front of Counterfoil" and "Back of Counterfoil," in precisely the same places as in the ballot papers for the Victoria City election.

Q. (Grant)—Is the line on the back of the Esquimalt ballot papers as heavy as that on the back of the Victoria City ballot papers?

A.—The line is formed by the same piece of brass rule, but in that of the Victoria City election the pressman has not taken as good care in making the form ready for the press, in that the impression shows a trifle heavier than in the Esquimalt papers. In backing, the ink on the side first printed has not been quite dry and has caused the form to slightly set off.

Q. (Davie)—Do you produce any of the ballot papers for Cassiar, Kootenay and Esquimalt Districts, printed for use at the last general election?

A.—I produce a sample for each district. (Exhibits B, C, D.)

Q.—Are these samples produced some of the original ballot papers left over?

A.—The one for Esquimalt District I have just taken off the file. Those for Cassiar and Kootenay Districts I found in the office on searching for same. They are all exact copies of those used in the elections, with the exception of Kootenay, for which Mr. Vowell got other ballots printed.

Q. (Grant)—On any of those ballot papers printed for Esquimalt, Cassiar or Kootenay, does the line printed on the back of the paper appear at the back of anyone's name?

A.—On the Esquimalt ballot paper the line would, if backed straight, just come at the back of Mr. Hett's name.

Q. (Prior)—Were they backed straight?

A.—The sample I have is a spoilt one and is not backed straight

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Q (Beaven)—In any of these ballot papers which you produce for the elections in 1875, 1878, 1882, and 1886, is the dash line on the back of the ballot paper so placed that if heavily stamped it would show through on the front of the ballot paper through a candidate's name?

A.—I have already stated that the dash line does not appear at the back of any candidate's name in the papers printed and used in 1875, 1878 and 1882. I have also stated that the impression of the dash line printed—not stamped—on the back of the ballot paper, does show through to the front. In those papers printed for Cassiar and Kootenay there are no candidates' names, they having been printed in blank. In that for Esquimalt I have already stated that if the form were backed correctly the line would come on the back of Mr. Hett's name.

Q. (Turner)—Were there any lines on the ballot papers printed under the Act of 1873?

A.—There was a dash line printed under the words "Ballot Paper," but none printed on the back, as the form given in the Act for the back of the ballot paper is entirely different from that under the Act of 1877. The words "Back of Ballot Paper" were not printed on these ballots at the back. I wish to express my regret that a dash line has been printed on the back of any candidate's name. I can assure the Committee that had I noticed the same I would at once have given directions for the position of the dash line to be changed. I was quite unaware, until called for by the Committee, that the dash line was not shown under the head lines in the forms laid down in the Statutes.

(Signed) R. WOLFENDEN.

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## EXHIBIT A.

*Fac simile of proof of Ballot Paper printed for Victoria City Election, 1886,  
referred to in Mr. Wolfenden's evidence, page xx.*

Front of Counterfoil.

## FRONT OF BALLOT PAPER.

Voter's Register No.

*Electoral District of  
Victoria City.*

7th July, 1886.



1	<b>BEAVEN</b> (Robert Beaven, of Victoria City, Esquire.)
2	<b>CAREY</b> (Joseph Westrop Carey, of Victoria City, Land Surveyor.)
3	<b>DAVIE</b> (Theodore Davie, of Victoria City, Barrister-at-Law.)
4	<b>DUCK</b> (Simeon Duck, of Victoria City, Carriage and Waggon Maker.)
5	<b>DUVAL</b> (John Mayfield Duval, of Victoria City, Editor and proprietor of the "Industrial News.")
6	<b>LIPSETT</b> (Robert Lipsett, of Victoria City, Real Estate Broker.)
7	<b>PRIOR</b> (Edward Gawler Prior, of Victoria City, Merchant.)
8	<b>SMITH</b> (Andrew Johnston Smith, of Victoria City, Contractor.)
9	<b>TURNER</b> (John Herbert Turner, of Victoria City, Merchant.)
10	<b>WILLIAMS</b> (Robert Taylor Williams, of Victoria City, Book Binder.)
11	<b>WRIGLESWORTH</b> (Joseph Wriglesworth, of Victoria City, Saloon keeper and Grocer.)

BACK OF BALLOT PAPER.

Back of Counterfoil.

*Election for*

*Electoral District of Victoria City.*

*July 7th, 1886.*

No.


No.



EXHIBIT B.

Front of Counterfoil.

FRONT OF BALLOT PAPER.

		1		
Voter's Register No.		2		
<i>Electoral District of</i> <i>Cassiar</i>		3		
<i>Date</i> 1886		4		
		5		



BACK OF BALLOT PAPER.

Back of Counterfoil.

*Election for*

*Electoral District of Cassiar.*

*Date*

1886.

No.

No.



EXHIBIT C.

Front of Counterfoil.

FRONT OF BALLOT PAPER.

Voter's Register No.

Electoral District of

Kootenay.

Date

1886.



1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

BACK OF BALLOT PAPER.

Back of Counterfoil.

*Election for*

*Electoral District of Kootenay.*

*Date*

1886.

No.

No.



EXHIBIT D.

Front of Counterfoil.

FRONT OF BALLOT PAPER.

Voter's Register No.

Electoral District of  
Esquimalt.

7th July, 1880.



1	<b>HETT</b> (John Roland Hett, Victoria, Barrister-at-Law.)
2	<b>HIGGINS</b> (David William Higgins, Yates Street, Victoria City, Printer.)
3	<b>HELGESEN</b> (Hans Helgesen, Metchosin, Farmer.)
4	<b>POOLEY</b> (Charles Edward Pooley, Fernhill, Esquimalt, Barrister-at Law.)

BACK OF BALLOT PAPER.

Back of Counterfoil.



Election for

Electoral District of Esquimalt.

July 7th, 1886.

No.

No.