

(No. 85.)



1863.

[SECOND SESSION.]

T A S M A N I A.

M R. S A M S.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Adye Douglas, and ordered by the House to be printed,
28 August, 1863.



RÉPORT of the Select Committee appointed on the 20th August, 1863, to consider the case of MR. SAMS.

THURSDAY, 20 AUGUST, 1863.

Ordered, that the Papers laid on the Table on the 12th August instant, having reference to the dismissal of Mr. Sams from office as Immigration Agent, be referred to a Select Committee.

Committee chosen by ballot:—

MR. DOUGLAS.
MR. CHAPMAN.
MR. DODERY,
MR. LETTE.

MR. ABBOTT.
MR. KNIGHT.
MR. MURRAY,

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

No. 1. 26 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Abbott, Mr. Knight, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Murray, Mr. Dodery, and Mr. Lette.

No. 2. 27 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Douglas, Mr. Lette, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Dodery.

No. 3. 28 August, 1863. *Present*—Mr. Douglas, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Knight, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Lette.

WITNESSES examined.

Honorable F. M. Innes, Esquire, M.L.C. No expenses.

F. C. Tribe, Esquire, Colonial Secretary's Office, Secretary to Board of Immigration. No expenses.

R E P O R T.

Your Committee have unanimously arrived at the following Resolution:—

“That, in the opinion of this Committee, there are not sufficient grounds shown in the Papers laid before the House, and referred to this Committee, or in the evidence taken by the Committee, for the dismissal of Mr. Sams from the office of Immigration Agent.”

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 28 August, 1863.

EVIDENCE.

27 August, 1863.

F. C. TRIBE, *Esq.*, *Secretary to the Board of Immigration.*

(Produces the evidence taken by Mr. Innes, Colonial Treasurer, on 11th January, 1860.)

The Treasurer brought down the evidence he had taken. He was a Member of the Board, and made a personal report. I was present. This was on 2nd February, 1860. The evidence, and that of Farmer, were read to the Board.

This Memorandum is in my handwriting. I drew it up for the Board at Mr. Henty's request. The record of the meeting of the Board is also here. The whole of the papers produced were before the Board. No witnesses were examined before the Board, except Mr. Sams; and he having come to Town, was examined before the Board on 10th February, 1860.

The whole of the materials for the dismissal of Mr. Sams are comprised in the documents now shown to me as being before the Committee.

It was not known by the Board that there were complaints till after the *Broomielaw* left. These matters did not turn up till after Mr. Corbett's letter of 26th December, 1859. I suppose it was when Mr. Sams' letter, on 31st December, sent down the list of gratuities; and on the 3rd January, 1860, he was called upon to explain certain circumstances which had reached the Commissioners. No other specific charges were at that time brought against Mr. Sams. There were, I heard, complaints before 1856, when the Board was established.

By Mr. Lette.—All the applications in writing for the vacant appointment are here. I am not aware of Mr. Gunn having made an application. I heard of Mr. A. M. Milligan having made a verbal application.

When Mr. Sams was dismissed, there were no applications for the vacancy. Mr. Henty wrote to Mr. Corbett, who declined, and then Mr. Sherwin was suggested, and was written to by the Colonial Secretary, asking him to take the office.

On Mr. Sherwin's resignation the applications were sent in. The Board came to the conclusion that the Immigration Agent should be a married man. This settled the case of one applicant; another was too old; and another considered not competent.

28 August, 1863.

The Honourable F. M. INNES, Esq., M.L.C.

In reply to Questions from Chairman,—

Certain evidence was received in regard to irregularities on board the *Broomielaw*, both in my office and in that of the Colonial Secretary, but on the occasion in question no other evidence was brought before the Board.

I may say that, on the occasion on which I was required to make enquiry into the complaints respecting the *Broomielaw*, I was telegraphed to; and Mr. Sams and Mr. Corbett were communicated with.

Mr. Corbett brought witnesses forward, and the results were laid before the Board by myself, with the expression of my opinion that the evidence called for a censure on Mr. Sams; but the other Members of the Board, who had been longer on the Board than myself, thought that, considering the antecedent matters, there were sufficient grounds for dismissing him.

The cause of delay in making the complaints rested entirely with the complainants. I had no documents before me to suggest such a question. I was just leaving Launceston, and some of the witnesses were going out of the Colony; my enquiry was, therefore, conducted in haste.

I cannot recollect whether the Doctor explained why he had not called the witnesses before the vessel sailed.

Mr. Sams, when before the Board, was not required to explain anything beyond the *Broomielaw* case.

I may say, unquestionably, his dismissal was on antecedent matters as well as on the *Broomielaw* case.