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## RETURN

To an Order of the House for the following:—

1. A Return of all the correspondence between the Minister of Finance, or any official of the Treasury Department, and the manager of the Vancouver World newspaper, relative to the advertising of the Provincial tax sale in the District of New Westminster.

2. A Return showing the space occupied in the World by the said tax sale in inches and lines ; the number of insertions given thereto and the rate per line for the space occupied, charged and paid therefor by the Government, as well as other services rendered in connection with the aforesaid sale in the Vancouver World newspaper and the British Columbia Gazette, as well as any correspondence which may have passed between any member of the Government, the Queen's Printer, and the manager or proprietors of the Vancouver World, in connection with the printing and publication of the tax sale referred to ; also all correspondence between the officials of the Treasury and any other person in relation to the cost of advertising in the World in connection with the sale.

J. H. TURNER,  
*Minister of Finance.*

*Treasury Department,  
11th March, 1897.*

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VANCOUVER, B. C., April 23rd, 1896.

*E. L. Kirkland, Esq.,  
Assessor and Collector,  
New Westminster, B. C.*

DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request to submit to you a definite proposition for the publishing by us of the proposed Provincial delinquent tax sale for the District of New Westminster, I do so.

As you are aware, with yourself, I have made careful calculations as to the space each name and particulars relating to each parcel will occupy in our columns, as well as in the Gazette.

Your statement, which is an approximate one, is that the list will be in the neighbourhood of 2,700 names, and knowing that each name, followed by all the particulars will average two and one-third lines of the World's space (that is from left to right), which is slightly wider than the printed pages of the B. C. Gazette ; this, with the heading, &c., will require at least five pages of the Semi-Weekly World, which is a 7 column 8 page paper, the largest by great odds in the Province. I calculate there will be 220 names in each column, and three complete lists of names will occupy the full space of 7 columns in width. But as there has to be an introduction to the list, or sale, and box headings at top of the columns on each page the full space occupied on each page will be 240 lines to the column, equal to 20 inches of 12 lines to the inch, making a total of 1,680 lines to each page, or a total of 8,400 lines for the five pages.

The rate allowed us and paid by the Government for all advertising is fifty (50) cent per line per month. We will undertake the setting up, printing and publishing of the list as now prepared by you, at and for the sum of thirty-five (35) cents per line, which is less by fifteen (15) cents per line than we should get for a job of this magnitude. We will undertake to rush it through with all possible haste so as to give ample time for the sale to be held prior to the end of the current fiscal year ; but the copy will have to be left with us at once to do this.

Five pages of the Semi-Weekly will require to be published as a supplement to accompany the regular edition of the issue, to be selected as the day of the week in which the list is to

appear. This will involve the publishing on our part of an additional 5,000 copies per week for the full period of one month.

I have given you such full information as will enable you to lay the whole matter before the Minister of Finance in as concise a manner as possible.

Respectfully yours,  
(Signed.) J. C. McLAGAN.

P. S.—If you will refer to section 79, page 20, of the “Assessment and Revenue Tax Act,” you will see that the publication of the sale in a newspaper published in the district is made imperative.

I have arranged with Mr. Wolfenden, the Queen’s Printer, to let him have the use of the tables, set all ready for publishing, at a very low rate.

(Signed.) J. C. McLAGAN.

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 24th, 1896.

*Hon. J. H. Turner, Victoria.*

MY DEAR MR. TURNER,—In reply to yours, I have to state that Mr. Kirkland and myself have gone fully into the delinquent tax sale list. He approximates the number as at 2,700 names; each name, with all the particulars relating to the property to be sold, will make two and one-third lines of our space, equal to one full line across the printed page of the Gazette. With introduction (particulars as to sale) and box headings over each column, I calculate that close upon five whole pages of the Semi-Weekly World will be taken up with the publication of the list. We can so arrange it that three names and full particulars will occupy a space of 7 columns, or across one full page of the World. Each of these names, and what follows them relative to each parcel of property, will also occupy a space of one full line across a full printed page of the Gazette, and as there will be 115 lines or names on each page of the Gazette, some 25 pages will be required for the publication of the list therein.

As to the cost to the Government for this extensive job, and for the execution of which I have made ample preparation by way of importing a ton of properly prepared type-metal, brass rules, &c., we are prepared to quote a very low rate.

Assuming that there will be at least the number of 2,700 names on the list, and as I have already stated, each name, &c., will consume a space of two and one-third lines (this being the very closest) space into which the list can be condensed, it can be made to accommodate the Gazette measure. The regular price allowed us by the Government for advertising straight matter is fifty (50) cents per line for one month.

Notwithstanding the fact that this is what printers term as double price matter, and always charged as such, we will undertake the composition, proof-reading, publishing and circulating the issues of the Semi-Weekly World containing the list at and for the sum of thirty-five (35) cents per line of the space occupied. This is a reduction to the Government of fifteen (15) cents per line from the regular rates allowed and paid us by the Government.

We can start the job at once after the copy is left with us.

I have arranged with Mr. Wolfenden to send him the list, set in type and ready to be made up into pages for the Gazette, for the sum of 25 per cent. of the cost of regular composition which will be about \$1.50 per page, thus making a great saving to the Government printing office and the Government itself.

It would be treating us rather unfairly to ask us to circulate through the mails matter which did not form part of our own paper, and I am certain that the post office officials would object to allow such to go through the mails unless it could be shown that the sheets contained matter set here and forming part of that issue of the World. Besides, as a matter of economy I feel the saving would not be a very material one to the Government. There would be a considerable charge made by us for handling such sheets, and extra postage to be paid; besides I do not think the Government printing office has paper to suit our size sheet, either in colour or weight.

Then the “Assessment and Revenue Tax Act, Consolidated, 1895,” in section 79, page 20, provides for the publication of the tax sale and list of property in a newspaper published in the district. You are now in possession of all the facts relating to the undertaking. Our offer is thirty-five cents per line, equal to a reduction of thirty per cent. on a job for which we are entitled to be paid the full rate of fifty cents. The extra work occasioned will demand the

issuing by us of a supplement, or section of an 8 page 7 column paper of our semi-weekly edition, equal to 20,000 regular copies.

Then there is the further fact, that according to all political customs and practice, we are entitled to receive your order for this work, and having been led to believe we are going to get it I have made preparations accordingly.

Mr. Kirkland has the MSS. all ready, and a wire from you to proceed is all that is now required on our part to make a start.

Faithfully yours,  
(Signed) J. C. McLAGAN.

[TELEGRAM.]

J. C. McLagan, Vancouver.

On terms proposed your letter twenty-fourth, proceed to print tax sale.

(Signed) J. H. TURNER.

Hon. J. H. Turner,  
Minister of Finance, Victoria, B. C.

NANAIMO, B. C., 16th June, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—One of my constituents has had a bill sent to him for arrears of taxes in N. W. District. These taxes were paid on the property in question up to the last of 1894. The lots assessed are Lots 34 and 37, Block 80, Hastings.

Arrears to 31st December, 1895.....	\$ 80
Costs of advertising .....	2 00
Lots 43 and 44, Block 80, arrears to 31st December, 1895.....	40
Costs of advertising .....	2 00

Total.....\$5 20

You can see from the above statement the exact position of the account. What I wish to know is whether the charge of \$2.00 for advertising for each of the two lots is correct or not. It strikes me that if a charge of \$2.00 is going to be made on each notice some person is going to rake in a perfect fortune. My friend thinks it pretty hard if he is put to the expense of advertising his property for sale because it happens to be only one year in arrear. I can get no information in this office. Would you kindly let me know what is correct in this matter?

I am yours, etc.,  
(Signed) W. WYMOND WALKEM.

W. Wymond Walkem, Esq., M.D., M.P.P.,  
Nanaimo, B. C.

19TH JUNE, 1896.

SIR,—In the absence of the Hon. the Minister of Finance, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., *re* Mr. Thos. Campbell's notice of taxes and costs of advertising same on his property in New Westminster District, and in reply to inform you that in accordance with the "Assessment Act" lands upon which taxes are in arrears, although but for one year, may be advertised and sold. Regarding the costs of advertising, the Government has made as close an arrangement with the World Publishing Co. as it was possible to do for their charges. To meet this it was necessary to make a charge of \$1 per line against the lands advertised.

The Gazette charges, in addition, are 25 cents per line. I have written to Mr. Kirkland for details of the balance of the charges, on receipt of which you will be informed.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed) ALFRED FLETT,  
Deputy Minister of Finance.

19TH JUNE, 1896.

E. A. Kirkland, Esq., Assessor, New Westminster.

SIR,—Dr. Walkem, of Nanaimo, has written to the Minister on behalf of Mr. Thomas Campbell of that place regarding the costs for advertising his property for sale. In the notice he received these costs were placed at \$2.00 per line. As the charges of the "World" were

fixed at \$1.00 and those of the Gazette at 25 cents per line, I would ask you to state how the total is made up, so that Dr. Walkem or Mr. Campbell may be replied to.

Yours, etc.,  
(Signed) ALFRED FLETT,  
*Deputy Minister of Finance.*

NEW WESTMINSTER, July 7th, 1896.

*Alfred Flett, Esq.,  
Deputy Minister of Finance, Victoria.*

SIR,—With reference to your favour of the 19th June, *re* charge of \$2.00 per line advertising in "Gazette" and "World" for tax sale, he (Mr. Campbell) was quite correct. It happened during the compilation of the Roll, and as the "World" told me the charge by them would be approximately \$1.00 per line, I naturally thought the same amount would be charged by the Gazette. I have just received a letter from Mr. Campbell, enclosing amount of taxes and costs, and when I send him receipts will refund him the difference between \$2.00 per line and \$1.25. Mr. J. McB. Smith and myself talked it over, and figured it out that the following scale would be about right:—

1 line to 5, inclusive, at \$1.00 and .75.

6 lines to 10, inclusive, at \$1.00 and .50.

11 lines and over at \$1.00 and .25.

Although, even at those figures I do not think the Government will come near paying expenses, I consider it a reasonable figure. Parties in arrears do not seem to take into consideration that in addition to costs of advertising there has been the expenses of stationery year after year, extra clerk hire, travelling expenses, searching Land Registry Office, Vancouver, etc.

In fact, more people that have paid their taxes under a good deal of hardship complain that the sale should have been held before and compelled delinquents to pay up, as they claim that they had to borrow money to pay theirs, whereas no additional interest and costs were added to delinquents until the tax sale. If it were not for the division of Vancouver and Westminster Counties at the end of 1895, and the necessity of closing up all arrears, 1895 taxes might have been left over; but it never would have done to sell to 1894, then in another year have another tax sale in Westminster District for 1895 taxes on the lands which have passed into Vancouver County.

Mr. Campbell may think it a hardship, but, I trust, upon receiving the foregoing explanation he will agree with me.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed) E. L. KIRKLAND,  
*Collector.*

TREASURY, VICTORIA, 4th July, 1896.

*W. W. Walkem, Esq., M. D., Nanaimo.*

SIR,—I do not know whether Mr. Kirkland has notified Mr. Campbell further in the matter of expenses in advertising the tax sales; in case he has not, I beg to inform you that the full expenses attached to each line in the advertisement amounts to \$1.75, made up as follows:—

The "World's" charges	\$1.25
The "Gazette" " "	50

It has been found necessary to charge the 50 cents for Gazette charges otherwise the Government would be losing considerably, even at that figure the expenses will not be fully met.

Yours, &c.,  
(Signed) ALFRED FLETT,  
*Dep. Min. of Finance.*

VICTORIA, B. C. :

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.  
1897.