PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Twelfth Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission

January 1st, 1954, to December 31st, 1954

VICTORIA, B.C.
Printed by DON MCDIARMID, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty
1955

VICTORIA, B.C., January 7th, 1955.

To His Honour CLARENCE WALLACE, C.B.E.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

Herewith I beg respectfully to submit the Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission of the Department of Finance for the period January 1st, 1954, to December 31st, 1954.

W. A. C. BENNETT,
Minister of Finance.

The Honourable W. A. C. Bennett,
Minister of Finance, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—We have the honour to submit the Twelfth Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission, covering the period January 1st, 1954, to December 31st, 1954.

R. H. SPECK,
Chairman.

C. D. CAMPBELL,
Member.

C. F. SWANNELL,
Member.

C. F. SWANNELL.

C. D. GARNHART.

K. H. SPECK.

Twelfth Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission

For the Year Ended December 31st, 1954

During the past year, prices have shown very little change; however, more and more firms are quoting on government tenders. Competition has increased steadily throughout the year, which has enabled the Commission to obtain the best possible price. This has greatly increased the work of the staff in general.

Substantial savings have resulted in purchases of road equipment, trucks, and cars through quantity buying—less frequent but larger orders. Prices of trade-ins and used equipment have decreased. However, improvement can be reported concerning the perpetual inventory for office furniture and equipment. The revised system has eliminated weaknesses previously existing, and the necessary corrective action is being taken. Improved co-operation by most of the departments has contributed largely toward the successful operation of this section.

Periodical visits have been maintained to the major institutions for the purpose of checking stores control. On the occasions when recommendations for improvement have been made, there is evidence that these are being incorporated.

The use of specifications is being extended, and this year items such as uniforms, clothing, and boots have been purchased to a given standard. Testing procedures have been followed, and excellent co-operation has been given by various departmental laboratories in following them out.

In other institutions the facilities offered by the British Columbia Research Council, Vancouver, and the National Research Council, Ottawa, have been employed.

Langford warehouse has operated throughout the year on a similar basis as in the past. In 1953–54 the operating profit was $2,000 on a turnover of $165,000. The turnover is less than the amount recorded in the previous Annual Report, but this is considered satisfactory and has been brought about by reduced demands throughout the fire season. The necessity of having sufficient stocks available for immediate supply is, however, not reduced.

Due to the change in operation of the Hospital Insurance Service, there was a large surplus of furniture and equipment. This equipment has been placed in other departments.

Considerable time has been spent this year equipping the following new Government institutions: Poliomyelitis Pavilion at Pearson Hospital, Vancouver; Boys' Industrial School at Brannan Lake; North Lawn Building at Essondale; and the Health Building, Vancouver.

Under the Dominion-Provincial Health Grant, a large amount of equipment has been purchased for laboratories throughout the Province, other than Government operated.

It was necessary for our Vancouver office to take up larger quarters during the year and move from the Court-house to its present location at 636 Burrard Street.

Mr. R. M. Burns, who was Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance and a member of the Purchasing Commission, left the service in June to take a position with the Department of Finance in Ottawa. Mr. C. F. Swannell, Deputy Comptroller-General, was appointed as member to replace Mr. Burns.

STATISTICAL RECORDS

Statistical records have been maintained in the present year, as follows:—

A. *Competitive*.—Purchases from manufacturers and wholesalers which are placed on a basis of competitive quotes on prices, including those purchases made on the basis of information obtained from unit price cards.

B. *Restricted*.—Purchases from manufacturers or wholesalers for which unit prices are fixed, or where for some special conditions of source of supply the buyer is limited to one supplier.

C. *Retail*.—All purchases from retail establishments, including retail emergency purchases.

D. *Wholesale Emergency*.—Orders placed with a wholesaler or manufacturer by means of emergency purchase order.

Comparative figures for the fiscal years 1952–53 and 1953–54 with figures for the first nine months of the 1954–55 fiscal year are set forth hereunder:—

	1952–53		1953–54		Apr. 1, 1954, to Dec. 31, 1954	
	Value	Per Cent	Value	Per Cent	Value	Per Cent
A. Competitive	$13,614,034	82.9	$13,691,979	83.6	$9,366,353	82.6
B. Restricted	1,572,102	9.6	1,467,181	8.8	1,066,469	9.4
C. Retail	481,037	3.0	529,813	3.2	377,911	3.2
D. Wholesale Emergency	755,173	4.5	753,451	4.4	546,274	4.8
Totals	$16,422,346	------	$16,442,424	------	$11,357,007	----
Number of orders issued	40,601	------	43,213	------	31,409	-----

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