

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

IN RELATION TO THE

SUPERVISOR OF CULLERS' OFFICE.

The Select Committee appointed to take into consideration the contents of the Return to an Address of the 23rd April, 1863, in relation to the Office of Supervisor of Cullers, beg leave to report :—

That they have carefully considered the several documents referred to them, and their bearing on the existing law regulating the culling and measuring of lumber.

With a view to obtaining the fullest information, and to assist your Honorable House in arriving at correct conclusions in reference to a system so material to this important branch of Canadian commerce, your Committee have taken evidence at considerable length, of persons representing the several interests affected, which is herewith submitted.

By this evidence, your Committee are irresistibly led to the conclusion that the present system of measuring and culling lumber is defective and unsatisfactory, and that the charges therefor are excessive.

The whole testimony of those interested, whether as buyers, sellers or measurers, is unanimous on the first point, and upon the latter the only divergence from a similar accord is on the part of a few of the cullers, who are interested in maintaining the present high rate of wages.

Your Committee, after a careful consideration of the changes suggested, would respectfully recommend the following amendments of the existing law as those best calculated to remedy the evils complained of, and to place the system on a footing satisfactory to those interested :—

First.—The creation of an independent Board of Examiners, who shall also form a Board of Survey, to be composed of three members, men practically acquainted with the lumber trade, of whom the Supervisor of Cullers for the time being shall be, *ex-officio*, a member and Chairman; the other two to be selected by the Boards of Trade of Quebec and Ottawa, respectively; this Board to be permanent salaried officers, holding their offices during good behaviour, and paid an annual salary from the fees chargeable for the measuring and culling of lumber. The duties of this Board, in their capacity of Examiners, would be, to examine all applicants for licenses as Cullers, and to recommend only those to obtain commissions who were in every way capable as to skill, experience, age, character and knowledge of the Act, and who were practically acquainted with each department of culling and measuring for which the license was demanded. As a Board of Survey, their duties would be to exercise a general supervision over the culling and measurement of lumber, and to settle all cases of dispute that might arise in relation thereto.

Second.—The amendment of the law, by allowing the party requiring the services of a culler to employ any licensed culler whom he might select. The law provides that cullers should be taken by rotation. The concurrent testimony of all the witnesses establishes that practically this system has been evaded. The evidence of the manufacturers is

unanimous in favor of a change that would leave the choice of a culler to the party requiring his services. A great preponderance of the evidence of the buyers favors the same view, and a report of a Committee of the Quebec Board of Trade suggesting this change in the law, was unanimously approved at a meeting of that body. Should this change be adopted, in the opinion of your Committee, the result would be that competent and reliable men only would obtain employment. The culler would find that in this, as in any other profession, success depended on the character for correctness, ability and integrity he established, and there is little doubt that it would result practically in the choice of culler being in most instances a matter of mutual agreement between buyer and seller.

Third.—The amendment of the law requiring the full cubic contents of square timber to be given, and reducing it to such definite terms as will secure its adoption more effectually than is done at present.

The Cullers' Act provides that in measuring square timber in the raft, the full cubic contents shall be given.

This just provision of the law is systematically violated; all fractional parts of a foot in the length, and of an inch in the girth, being omitted. As an illustration of this, suppose a stick of timber 75 feet long, 17 x 18 inches, the same contents would only be allowed as for one $75\frac{11}{12}$ feet long by $17\frac{11}{12}$ inches by $18\frac{11}{12}$ inches, although the actual contents of the latter would be 22 feet greater than that of the former.

This system cannot be said to be just to the seller, as in some rafts the difference would amount to not less than ten per cent. of the whole, nor is it, as pretended, uniform, as the reduction from the actual contents will depend upon the accident of the number of pieces in which these fractional differences occur.

As the calculation of the fractional parts would involve much labor, your Committee would suggest as the fairest mode of approximating to the true contents, to rate as an inch in squaring, and as a foot in length, all parts of nine-twelfths and over as an inch or foot, as the case might be.

Fourth.—The disconnecting the Supervisor's Office with the Crown Lands Department, and vesting in the new Board of Survey the power to license cullers and to employ the assistance required for the office work.

The great evils of the existing system have arisen from the connection between this office and the Department of Crown Lands. Political influence has been exercised in increasing the number of commissioned cullers and employés of the office beyond the number required, and as a natural consequence where two or three men are employed to do the work of one they must be supported, and the fees must necessarily be increased beyond what is requisite or legitimate.

Fifth.—A general reduction upon the present tariff of fees of twenty-five per cent. upon square timber and fifty per cent. upon spars and masts.

The design of the existing law is simply to render the Supervisor's Office self-sustaining. Your Committee are quite satisfied that at the reduced tariff this can be done without at all interfering with the efficiency of the system, notwithstanding the proposed Board of Survey would entail an additional charge upon the Supervisor's Fund.

The reduction of the staff of permanent clerks, and the extension of the system now partially pursued, of having the specification work done by contract, or the employment of supernumerary or temporary clerks, would effect a considerable reduction.

The present Collector of Crown Dues might with advantage be employed in discharging the office duties of the present Supervisor, whose time would be fully occupied in the out-door duties of the new Board of Survey, for which he is much better qualified, and dispensing with the necessity of the services of a Secretary.

Since the Act was passed the tariff of fees to cullers was increased, in 1854, twenty-five per cent., the power to alter it being vested in the Governor General in Council.

Whatever may have been the circumstances inducing this increase, it is certain that it has not tended to improve the standard nor to afford increased confidence in the system.

As the simplest mode of illustrating the excessive rate of charges, your Committee would beg leave to lay before your Honorable House two cases brought before them in evidence:—

The first is for the measurement of a raft of masts and spars, belonging to Messrs. McLaren & Co. The amount charged was \$215 90c., of which the culler received

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\$165 10c., and the Supervisor's Office \$50 50c. The culler received the order for the measurement of this raft at six o'clock in the evening, went to Cap Rouge, where it was lying, completed the measurement and returned to the city by ten the next morning. The specification or office work would probably occupy three hours at the most. The culler in this instance is alleged to be unable to write, although the law requires those obtaining licenses to possess moderate education at least.

The second instance was in the measurement of a raft belonging to Mr. Walton Smith, for which the sum charged was \$127 40c.; the culler, who received as his portion ninety-eight dollars, having been only occupied during two hours.

The Supervisor of Cullers states, in evidence, that the time necessary for a culler with two boys to measure off a raft of white pine, containing 1500 pieces averaging 80 feet, should be one day and a half, and that it would take an ordinary clerk two days to make the specification. The culler receives for his work \$93 75c., and the charge for the specification is \$43 75c., making the total charge \$137 50c.

It is further in evidence that the number of square timber cullers last year was forty-six, who received an average of \$791; the average number of days worked being thirty-two; the highest sum paid to any one culler was \$1727, and the lowest \$527. The season begins nominally on the first of May, but actually in the month of June, and the work may be said to end about the beginning of September. During the balance of the year the cullers are free to enter into any service, and some of them find employment in the lumbering establishments, and many of them have farms. The Supervisor states that twenty square-timber cullers would be ample to do the work, although there were forty-six of that class last year. The Supervisor has strongly recommended, in reports to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the reduction of the number of cullers of the different classes, and has suggested that fifteen per cent. of the cullers' fees should be set apart as a fund for the purpose of pensioning off those who are disqualified from various causes. Your Committee would draw attention to this fact, as shewing that even in the Supervisor's opinion the tariff of fees would admit of a reduction. How far the system of pensioning would be desirable it remains for your Honorable House to determine.

Your Committee would simply observe, that a reference to the evidence will shew that there is, perhaps, no class connected with the public service that would seem to have less claim to any exceptional legislation in this direction than the cullers. According to Mr. Quinn's statement the great majority of them are only third-class men. Few, if any, of them have passed through any apprenticeship to qualify them for their duties, and all have acquired the knowledge they possess when working for wages either as apprentices or as laborers and employés in coves and booms. Your Committee feel confident under the new and altered system infinitely greater satisfaction will be given, and they submit the minimum reduction in the fullest confidence that experience will shew the tariff to be susceptible of a still greater reduction without impairing the efficiency of the system.

In confirmation of this view, your Committee would draw attention to the fact, that in square timber alone twenty cullers, who would amply suffice to do the work, would for a summer's work, receive an average of \$1781.

The reduction proposed would relieve this important branch of Canadian commerce of a tax, unnecessarily placed upon it, varying from \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually, which does not contribute to swell the revenue, but merely goes to support a vicious system, which, while extravagant, has not even the merit of affording satisfaction to those affected by it.

Lastly.—The enactment of some amendments affecting the present law in its minor details; establishing a standard for saw-logs; making provision for the measurement and culling of "waney" timber; all of which are designed to carry out more fully the spirit and intention of the existing law.

All of which is submitted.

(Signed,)

WM. F. POWELL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
8th March, 1865.

A P P E N D I X .

COMMITTEE ROOM, 2nd February, 1865.

In Committee, on Order of Reference No. 17.

Members Present:

Mr. Powell,	Mr. Poupore,
Mr. Dunsford,	Mr. Perrault,
Mr. Huot,	Mr. Jackson,
Mr. Irvine,	Mr. Jones.

Read the Order of Reference.

Mr. Powell was called to the chair. *

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Huot, seconded by Mr. Dunsford, That the Chairman do apply to the House to reduce their quorum to three members.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Irvine, seconded by Mr. Huot, That the Chairman and Messrs. Irvine and Poupore be a Sub-Committee to prepare questions for the examination of Witnesses, such questions to be submitted to and approved by the Committee.

The Committee then adjourned to Monday next, the 6th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

WM. F. POWELL,
Chairman.

FEBRUARY 6th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

Wm. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman;	
D. F. Jones, Esq.,	A. Wright, Esq.,
G. Jackson, “	J. Perrault, “

Adjourned for want of quorum.

FEBRUARY 7th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

Wm. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman;	
Mr. D. F. Jones (South Leeds),	Mr. Jones,
Mr. G. Irvine,	Mr. Currier,
Hon. Chas. Alleyn,	Mr. Perrault.
Mr. G. Jackson,	

The Clerk was notified to summon the following persons as witnesses :—

Mr. Connolly,	Mr. Robert Hamilton,	
“ Stevenson,	“ C. R. O'Connor,	
“ P. R. Poitras,	“ Gilchen,	} Cullers.
“ John Thomson,	“ Kelly,	
“ W. W. Scott,	“ George Donaghue,	
“ T. H. Dunn,	“ Thomas Spence, Portage-du-Fort.	
“ John Gilmour,		

Samuel Huntington, Esq., was called and answered to the following questions :—

1st.—Are you engaged in the lumber trade as a manufacturer of lumber, and for how long have you been so engaged?—I have been engaged as a manufacturer of lumber, principally of square timber, red and white pine, for the last thirty years, and have been in the habit of bringing rafts of timber down to Quebec.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the system of management now in use in the office of

Supervisor of Cullers; are you satisfied with the said system used, if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—I am acquainted with the system at present in use, and I do not consider it satisfactory. It does not give satisfaction to the manufacturers generally. In the first place I think that there is an unnecessary number of officers. I consider that the work of the Supervisor of Cullers might be performed by the Collector of Crown Dues, whereby large saving would be effected. I think, also, that there should be an independent Board of Survey unconnected with the Cullers' Office. In my opinion it should be composed of three persons, one named by the Board of Trade of Quebec, one by the Board of Trade of Ottawa, and the third agreed upon by the two thus appointed. I think that this Board of Survey should also be the Board of Examiners for cullers. I also think that the system now in use of employing the cullers by rotation is a bad one. Instead of that system, I think that the party putting in a requisition should have the choice among the cullers unemployed; and I think that the office of culler should be open to every one that could pass a proper examination. I think that the Board of Survey that I recommend should have the power of making rules for the punishment of cullers, by suspension or otherwise, as occasion may require.

3rd.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I think it should not continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department. I think it would be better to be independent of political influence being brought to bear on the nomination of cullers; gentlemen being apt to bring influence to bear on the Crown Land Office to have cullers appointed when they are not required. The number on the list being thus excessive, so long as the system of rotation is continued, the high rates now charged for culling cannot be reduced.

4th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys on the measurements, and how far does your experience show the results to have been satisfactory?—On one occasion I called a survey on a raft of one hundred thousand feet of timber, and the survey gave nineteen hundred feet more than the first measurement; but one of the cullers told me that I ought to have had four thousand feet more than the first measurement. The reason of this is, that when there is a survey, there is one culler appointed by the men calling the survey, one by the first culler, and an umpire by the Supervisor; and when there is a difference in the measurement between the two cullers, the umpire divides the difference, and leans as much as possible towards the first measurement; and I always heard it said by the cullers that when a survey is called for short measurement, the result is always to make the raft less than if it had been properly measured at first.

5th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—I think it is generally evaded, in this way: the cullers generally have the copy of the list showing the rotation, and the lumberman will hold back his requisition, or put in one in advance, before his raft arrives, so as to secure a particular culler. The system recently introduced in the Supervisor's office, of drawing cullers by lot, I consider a very bad one, inasmuch as it might have the effect of forcing upon the parties an inefficient culler, for whose measurement no confidence would be felt. I have seen cullers sent to measure rafts who have been in such a state of intoxication that when they stooped to measure the timber they have fallen over it.

6th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the culling or measuring of timber by a public officer compulsory, and give your reasons for your answer?—My principal reasons for thinking that the present system should be adhered to is, that I do not see any other way of collecting the Crown Dues; but I see no reason why a man who makes timber on private lands should be subjected to compulsory measurement.

FEBRUARY 8th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman;	
Mr. Geo. Irvine,	Mr. Wright,
Mr. Geo. Jackson,	Mr. Perrault.
Mr. Carrier,	

Honorable Mr. Skead was called, and answered the following questions:—

1st.—Are you engaged in the lumber trade as a manufacturer, and how long have you been so engaged?—I am upwards of twenty-four years in the lumber trade, and have produced from three hundred thousand to one million of feet per annum.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the system of management now in use in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office, and do you consider it satisfactory: if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—Yes, and I am dissatisfied with the system as now carried out; the sending out of cullers by rotation, in my opinion, is objectionable, as many of the cullers are incompetent to measure timber correctly. I would suggest the appointment of a Board of Examiners, one to be appointed by the Government, say the Supervisor for the time being, one to be nominated by the Board of Trade of Quebec, one by the Board of Trade of Ottawa,—whose duty it should be to examine all applicants for commissions as cullers, and to constitute a Board of Survey in case of any dispute arising between buyer and seller and owner of timber. All cullers holding commissions and making application to the Supervisor of Cullers' office, on or before the first day of May, in each and every year, would be eligible to be employed by parties requiring their services; choice of cullers to be at the option of those requiring them. The Board of Examiners should have full power to make such regulations as would prevent cullers, holding commissions and attached to the office, from being employed privately, by shippers of lumber or lumber-dealers and manufacturers, during the season that they are so attached to the office, say during summer; also to have full power to suspend for the season, or a shorter period, as they may in their judgment see fit, for errors committed, wilfully or otherwise, in the measurement or culling of lumber, and to compel the performance of their duty in every respect; in fact to carry out the Cullers' Bill in its true spirit and meaning.

FEBRUARY 9th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present:

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman;

Mr. Perrault,
Mr. Dunsford,
Mr. Jackson,

Mr. Jones (North Leeds),

Mr. Huot,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Carrier.

Ordered, That the Clerk do summon the following gentlemen as witnesses:—

Mr. John Timmony and Mr. Dickson.

Mr. Morris laid before the Committee his answers to the written questions submitted to him.

Honorable Mr. Skead attended and answered the questions 3, 4 and 5, as follows:—

3rd.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—I do think that the office should be disconnected from the Crown Land Department, except so far as will be found necessary for the purpose of furnishing statistics monthly, quarterly or annually, as required. Of the many reasons which I could give to justify this recommendation, it would be only necessary now to refer to the fact that for several years after the establishment of the office the expenditure was less, and the duties more efficiently discharged.

4th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys on the culler's measurement, and with what results?—Yes, I have had several surveys. One to which I will refer, having especial reference to the question, occurred several years since. The culler—Mr. Watterson—measured a raft for me in Quebec harbor. I called a survey, which occupied about a week to accomplish. The result gave me about fifteen or sixteen hundred feet over the figures of the first official admeasurement; but even that was over fifteen or sixteen hundred feet less than the quantity contained in the raft, as ascertained by a careful unofficial measurement.

5th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—It is not. A person requiring a culler can easily ascertain the order of rotation. He will avoid employing cullers whose measurements have been made the subject

of survey, consequently the rotation system leads to unnecessary delay. If the rotation system was abolished, I have no doubt but that a large reduction may be made in the fees for culling, as not more than the necessary number of efficient men need be placed on the staff of cullers. If the selection of cullers was at the option of parties requiring their services, incompetent persons would, very properly, fail to receive employment, and necessarily abandon the Supervisor's Office.

FEBRUARY 10th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman ;

Mr. Currier,
Mr. Dunsford,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Jones (North Leeds),

Mr. Jackson,
Mr. Pope,
Mr. Perrault.

Mr. Robert Skead laid before the Committee his answers to the written questions submitted to him.

Ordered, That the Clerk do summon the following gentlemen as witnesses :—

Messrs. D. D. Young,
C. Sharples,
J. Dean,
R. H. Smith,
Benson Bennett,
D. C. Thomson,
Jos. B. Forsyth,

Messrs. T. C. Lee,
James Gillespie,
Wm. Quinn, Sup. of Cullers,
Matthew Harbeson, Dy. Sup. of Cul.,
Jacques Jobin, Inspector of Wood,
Ol. Gauvreau, do.,
Ed. Verrault, do.

Hon. Mr. Skead attended and answered the questions 6, 7, 8 and 9, as follows :—

6th.—If the right of selecting a culler, as you suggest, is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—I think not such an interest as would lead to incorrect measurement. The safeguards are several. The culler is a sworn officer, subject to the strict supervision of the independent Board of Survey, and liable to suspension and dismissal for malversation of any kind. He would therefore be careful in doing his duty. Second, the profession being open to all qualified and licensed cullers, who might enter the Supervisor's Office on the 1st of May, the culler would have a direct interest in establishing such a reputation for ability, integrity and correctness, as would obtain for him a character for reliability. This, as in any other profession, would be the best means of achieving success and obtaining employment. The purchaser would only buy where he was satisfied with the measurement, and practically the effect would, in all probability, be that buyer and seller would, as a general rule, agree upon the choice of a culler.

7th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I do. All lumber brought to market should, in my opinion, be measured under the supervision of the Supervisor's Office, by a duly commissioned culler. The specification of a lot of timber, designating its quantity and quality, measured by a culler, independent alike of buyer and seller, facilitates trade, and affords a guarantee to both of its reliability and correctness. An official specification operates as a "warehouse receipt" for the owners; whereas, the specification of an individual culler, unconnected with the Department, would be his mere personal guarantee, and unless compelled to give securities, much greater than could be expected from an officer of this class, it would be comparatively useless. That portion of the thirty-sixth clause which gives power to the Supervisor of Cullers to grant permission to any culler, licensed under this Act, unemployed by him, to engage or hire himself to merchants or others, except in the ordinary manner provided by the Act, in my opinion is objectionable and should be repealed.

8th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring excessive?—I do; and they could, in my opinion, be considerably reduced. Square timber should be reduced fully one-third of the present fees: masts and spars to be reduced one-half; and spars under twelve inches should be reduced two-thirds.

9th.—Are you aware of the introduction of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—Yes; during the latter part of last season the balloting system was adopted by the Supervisor in place of the rotation system, and I consider it in violation of the Act regulating the Cullers' Bill and Timber Office, and should be abandoned.

FEBRUARY 11th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman ;

Mr. J. M. Currier,
Mr. J. W. Dunsford,
Mr. Geo. Jackson,
Mr. J. Perrault,

Mr. D. F. Jones (North Leeds),
Mr. J. Poupore,
Mr. P. G. Huot,
Mr. Alonzo Wright.

Mr. Perrault moved for copies of any departmental reports made by the Supervisor of Cullers at Quebec, during the year 1864, relative to the lumber trade of this Province, the administration of this office, the employment of cullers, and the present and proposed mode of measuring and culling timber.

Mr. McLaughlin was called, and answered the following questions:—

1st.—Are you engaged in the lumber trade as a manufacturer, and how long have you been so engaged?—I have been engaged in the lumber trade since 1827.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the system of management now in use in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office, and do you consider it satisfactory; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—I am acquainted with the rotation system, and I do not consider it satisfactory. First, I consider that it causes too great a number of cullers to be employed, which causes the tariff to be much higher than is necessary; secondly, that the rotation system causes a large number of cullers to be kept in office, who are incompetent to perform that duty. I would suggest that the rotation system be abolished, and that there should be an independent Board of Survey, of three persons, chosen respectively, whose duty it should be to examine any culler applying for a commission, and also to examine all measurements in dispute, unsatisfactory to either buyer or seller; and the applicant for measurement should have the option of choosing his own culler.

3rd.—Do you consider that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Lands Department, and if not, for what reason?—I prefer to see the office independent of the Crown Lands Department, in order that the Supervisor may be enabled to employ competent officials.

4th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the cullers' measurement, and with what results?—I have called but one survey; the result was that I gained eighteen hundred feet on a raft of sixty thousand feet, but the difference between the two specifications was eight thousand feet, mistakes being for and against.

5th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—It is not, for on most all occasions an applicant for measurement could have the culler he wanted, by waiting for his turn.

6th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—I think that the independent Board of Survey would be a sufficient check to guard the interests of either buyer or seller.

7th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the culling or measuring of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I think that all timber coming to this market should go through the Supervisor's Office.

8th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I do, and consider it double what it should be.

9th.—Are you aware of the introduction of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—Yes, I am aware that there was such a thing introduced into the office in the latter part of last season, and I consider it unjust, for it puts the incompetent on a footing with the competent culler, and is even more objectionable than the rotation system.

Answers of William Morris, Esq.

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been engaged in the lumber trade, as a manufacturer of square timber, since 1837.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—Yes; and I consider it very unsatisfactory. In the first place, there are a number of cullers attached to the office wholly unqualified, as cullers, to measure timber. A number of them have had very little experience in measuring till they got into office. I would have an independent Board of Examiners, unconnected with the office, to examine each culler with regard to qualification and fitness for his situation.

3rd.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—The Cullers' Office should be independent of the Crown Land Department in the management of their affairs, as it is generally understood that there have been a number of cullers appointed through the influence of parties, and otherwise of persons unfit for the situation.

4th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys on cullers' measurements, and with what results?—I have had several surveys on measurements of my timber; and, on one or two occasions, the result was in my favor. I have had no survey for a few years back, as, according to the present system, it was useless, as the arbitrators being cullers belonging to the office, generally give their decision in favor of the culler who is in default, not knowing what time there may be a survey called on their own measurement.

5th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The "rotation" system, as formerly practised in the trade, is bad; as you may in the same season have, as it may occur, several times a culler who has not given justice in his former measurement. It should be at the option of either buyer or seller to engage any duly sworn culler that he may think proper, by the same principle as sworn inspectors of ashes, pork, flour, &c.

6th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—All timber that is sold by the maker or manufacturer in Quebec should go through the Supervisor's Office; but manufacturers of their own lumber should, if they export, not be compelled to go through the office.

7th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—Yes, and should be reduced one-third of the present rates.

8th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—It was introduced late in the season, after I had got through, but those to whom I spoke of its adoption were dissatisfied with the system.

SUGGESTIONS.

There should be an independent Board, consisting of three persons, duly qualified in all the branches of the trade in culling, to be appointed, one by the Quebec Board of Trade, and one by the Ottawa Board of Trade, and one by the Government; their office and duties should be entirely independent of the Cullers' Office, and should be able to examine all cullers in their different branches, with respect to their qualification for the situation of culler, and if competent, to give him a certificate of his fitness for the duty, and then appear before the Board of Trade to be sworn in. All decisions given by this Board should be final. If they find the culler in default, they should have power to discharge him for the rest of the season or altogether, as they may see fit.

(Signed,)

WILLIAM MORRIS.

Answers of Mr. Robert Skead.

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am connected with the lumber trade as a manufacturer of square timber, and have been so connected for twenty years.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling timber, and do you consider it satisfactory; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—I am acquainted with the system now in use in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office at Quebec, and I do not consider it satisfactory. I think that the system of rotation is unsatisfactory, because the manufacturer who brings his timber to the market is obliged to employ men who are not able to do their work in a satisfactory manner, and in consequence there is injustice done to him and the buyer. To persons engaged in the lumbering business this system has always been unsatisfactory, by reason of the vexations and losses they have suffered. As a remedy to this state of affairs, I think that in order to render justice to all parties, there should be a Board of Examiners, the members of which should be appointed thus: one by the Board of Trade of Quebec, one by the Board of Trade of Ottawa, and one by the Government; and that all cullers should be examined as to their capacity to fulfill their duties, and as to their character, and that no one should be authorized to act as a culler without a certificate from this Board.

3rd.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I consider that the Cullers' Office should not continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department. In my own experience, I have seen cases which have proved to me that it would be desirable that this office should be independent of that department. It happens too often that incapable men are appointed on account of their interests with influential public men. I do not desire to particularize, but this fact is found a great inconvenience by the trade, and it has been so expressed and condemned for many years. I think that for the advantage of the trade, and for many other good reasons, and for the good working of the law, the department should be under the management of a man perfectly independent of the Crown Land Department, but especially that he should be free from the control of political influence.

4th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the cullers' measurement, and with what results?—I have not, in any case, required a survey upon the culler's measurement, because the system is such that the two cullers who are taken as arbitrators in one case may have the cullers, whose measurement they are called upon to survey, as judges on their own measurement the next day, and the necessity in which they are placed to support one another is such that it seems to me that we cannot hope to get justice under the circumstances. I have had reasons to feel aggrieved and wronged in certain cases, but believing that I could not get any redress, I did not choose to make matters worse, and in consequence I did not ask for a survey.

5th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—I think that the present system of rotation is generally carried out.

6th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring or culling of timber through the Cullers' Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I think that an office such as that now established by law should exist, for the protection of the manufacturer and purchaser. I think that it would be beneficial and advantageous to the manufacturers, and the timber trade in general, if the timber was classified; and also, that an arrangement of that kind, established in this port, would raise the character of the article exported and of the port. And although I am opposed to the management in some respects, I would like to see the principle applied in a satisfactory manner, instead of the present injurious manner. Such an arrangement would make it compulsory for the manufacturer or proprietor of timber rafts coming into the Port of Quebec, to have it reported and inspected. Even with good regulations, there would still be injustice if the management was bad. I would further suggest that any party, feeling aggrieved with respect to culling or measurement, should have the right to have a survey at any time during the season, until the first of November. Any culler found guilty of doing wrong in the performance of his duty should be suspended or discharged, and the names of all authorized cullers should appear on a list publicly in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office. I would also add, that in my opinion the office of Supervisor and that of Collector of Crown Dues also, should be under the same head. The present management causes inconvenience and annoyance to the trade.

7th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—Yes; and I think that they should be reduced at least one-third.

8th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I am aware that it existed later in the season than I had occasion to call for a culler. I do not approve of the system; it is injurious to the manufacturers of lumber.

(Signed,) ROBERT SKEAD.

FEBRUARY 13th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman;	
Mr. George Jackson,	Mr. George Irvine,
Mr. J. Poupore,	Mr. Alonzo Wright,
Mr. J. Perrault,	Mr. Currier.
Mr. J. W. Dunsford,	

Ordered, That the Clerk do require of the Crown Land Department, a copy of cullers' petition in winter of 1861 and 1862.

Mr. Dickson laid before the Committee the answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you engaged in the lumber trade as a manufacturer, and how long have you been so engaged?—I have been engaged as a manufacturer for the last seventeen years.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the system of management now in use in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office, and do you consider it satisfactory; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—I am acquainted to a certain degree with the system. I am not satisfied with it on account of the difficulty in obtaining cullers in whom confidence can be placed. Many of the cullers are incompetent and unreliable; yet, according to the system of rotation, the party requiring his lumber measured must accept the one who may be at the head of the list, whether good or bad, or evade the law by waiting until it comes to the turn of the culler in whom he has confidence. The Board of Survey is at present objectionable, being composed of cullers who have an interest in bearing each other out in what they do, not knowing how soon their position may be reversed, and the man who to-day sits in judgment may be, to-morrow, the party whose measurement is called in question. The tariff of fees is excessive, and much beyond what there is any necessity for. I would suggest the appointment of three competent men as a Board of Examiners for cullers and as a Board of Survey, to whom all questions of dispute should be referred. They should have full power to examine candidates for the office of culler, enforce the regulations of the Cullers' Act, and to be responsible that it should be carried out in its true spirit and meaning. They should have power to suspend or dismiss cullers when necessary. This Board should be well paid, and entirely independent of cullers or merchants.

3rd.—Do you consider that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I think it would be better to have the Office of Cullers unconnected with the Crown Land Department. As long as it is so the Commissioner of Crown Lands is always subject more or less to political influence—an influence which is too often brought to bear in favor of the appointment of political partizans, regardless of the requirements of the office or the qualifications of the applicant; and consequently persons not duly qualified are sometimes appointed, and on other occasions persons are appointed who are not really required, thus adding to the expense and inefficiency of the service to be performed. I feel satisfied that the Head of the Cullers' Department would be the most suitable person to make the selection of the number of cullers required, and also the best judge of the qualifications required for the efficient working of the office.

4th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what results?—I never had any surveys, but I have had good reason to call surveys on some of my rafts, having many times found the measurement in this market short of that made at Ottawa by competent measurers, and was as often advised by my friends in the trade not to do so, for the reason that the cullers, as now

organized under the present system, were all of the same family, and as a matter of course bound to protect each other's interests.

5th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—It is generally evaded, as parties requiring their rafts to be measured almost invariably wait until the culler, in whom they have confidence, comes round before putting in their requisition. I have waited days for that purpose, and with one or two exceptions succeeded in accomplishing my object.

6th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the culling or measuring of timber, through the Supervisor's Office, compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—The measurement by a public responsible department affords security to both buyer and seller, and such a department being necessary it is desirable that all lumber should contribute alike towards its maintenance. Formerly the measuring was done by the culler of merchants and cove-owners, and gross fraud and injustice was frequently done to the producer. The measurement through the Supervisor's Department also affords the Government the best mode of ascertaining the quantity of, and the amount due on, lumber coming to this market.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safe-guard would exist for the buyer?—I do not apprehend that the culler would have such an interest as would influence him in making incorrect measurements; on the contrary, the culler being dependent for employment upon his character for integrity and honesty, he would be more careful in making his work correct and reliable. The proposed Board of Survey, with its power to suspend or dismiss, and of seeing the provisions of the law strictly fulfilled, would afford an ample safe-guard to the buyer. Where any doubt or difficulty was likely to arise, it would be easy for the seller to stipulate with the buyer as to the selection of the culler in their mutual confidence.

8th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I think the charges are fully double what they should be. To illustrate this, take a raft of red pine containing one hundred thousand feet. To measure this a culler would be employed for two days with two boys; the specifications would occupy a clerk in the office two days more—making in all four days of a man and four days of a boy. Placing the man's wages at ten dollars and the boy's at five dollars, would make sixty dollars, ample, one would suppose, to compensate those of that class, making due allowances for the fact that they may not be regularly and continuously employed. Yet the present charge would amount to one hundred and forty-five dollars, being over double what it should be. The charges for the measurement of masts and spars are still more exorbitant.

9th.—Are you aware of the introduction of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—The system was introduced at the end of last season. From the reasons that may be gathered from the answers I have already given, I consider it in the highest degree objectionable, as by means of it incompetent cullers may be forced upon those requiring the measurement of their lumber.

10th.—Are you engaged in the manufacture of saw logs?—Yes, I am.

11th.—Have you any suggestions to offer relative to their classification and measurement?—A standard of first quality, white pine saw-logs, should be twelve feet six inches in length, and twenty-one inches in diameter at the top or small end, and free from ring and gum shakes and rot, with three knots, to be sound and not larger in diameter than a fifty cent piece. A second quality, white pine saw-log, should be free from ring-shake, but with a straight gum shake, and say six or more knots, none larger in diameter than a fifty cent piece, in the judgment of the culler. And a third quality, white pine saw-log, with gum and ring-shakes and knots, such as will not make a first or second quality log, in the judgment of the culler. Hollow butted logs not to be objected to if suitable for first or second quality, if free from other objections.

12th.—Is the present classification and system of measurement satisfactory?—It is most unsatisfactory. At present there is no standard or classification established by law; the different milling establishments having their different standards, and all depends upon the agreement with the contractors; and a standard established by law is necessary for the government of trade as well as for the collection of Crown dues.

Mr. Smith attended and answered the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—Yes, export.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I have been acquainted with it for fifteen years in this country. I consider it very unsatisfactory. Some cullers are not as efficient as others; there is no proper provision for settlement of dispute in measure, and producers are exempted from passing lumber through the office.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—A certain standard of efficiency for all cullers taken into the office; an independent Board of Survey for settlement of disputes; and all lumber to pass through the office.

4th.—Have you had occasion, in your experience, to require surveys on the culler's measurement, and with what result?—Yes, and the results were most unsatisfactory. On one occasion, objecting to the measurement of a raft, I, in accordance with the present Act, demanded a survey, and, as required, named a culler to represent me; the Supervisor of Cullers named a culler to represent him; and the party to whose measurement I made objection was requested by the Supervisor to name a culler to represent him; this he refused to do, and consequently the Board of Survey could not be formed, and I had no redress.

5th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I have no objection to its remaining as it is.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—It is generally evaded.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—Generally such would be the case.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I do, if it be properly conducted; because, if properly and fairly done, it provides a ground upon which buyer and seller may treat, and in case of culling, particularly of deals, affords a standard which would be recognized abroad.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—Yes, particularly as regards masts and spars, and I think that they ought generally to be reduced, so as to cover the expenses of the office, and as little as possible to be a burden to the trade.

10th.—Are you aware of the introduction of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—All cullers being equally efficient, as they ought to be, in the Supervisor's Office, I consider that the ballot system, if fairly worked, is superior to that of rotation.

Mr. Currier laid before the Committee the following letter and account:—

(Copy.)

ROCKINGHAM, February 8th, 1865.

DEAR CURRIER,—With regard to the Cullers' Act, in general, I think that the charges are too high for measuring almost all descriptions of lumber. The charges are so very high that a lot of men who would not otherwise earn over one dollar per day, now make from eight hundred to one thousand dollars per year, and they will not work for this over thirty or forty days during the year. In measuring a common raft of timber, a culler will get for his share say seventy or eighty dollars; and to make this it will not take him over two days at the outside; he can then afford to lie idle for eight or ten days waiting for another job; and if he can get twelve or fourteen rafts in a season, which he can measure in at least thirty days, he will have secured his eight hundred or one thousand dollars. The fact is that culling is so profitable, that every one who could get on at all, have got themselves appointed as a culler; and the consequence is that there are at present too many cullers, and they have to wait a long time for their turn to get a raft to measure, but the trade is so well taxed for what they do that a job once in two or three weeks pays them well.

I think that the charges for measuring all kinds of lumber should be reduced at least one-half, and the charge for measuring spars should be reduced at least to one quarter of the present charges. The number of cullers being reduced to a certain number of good men, they would get more constant employment, and consequently work for less than half the fees that they now get, and still have a fair salary.

I employed a culler, last year, to measure a raft of spars; the raft was lying at Cap Rouge; he (the culler) got the order to measure in the evening, about or a little after six o'clock; he went to Cap Rouge that night, and was back in Quebec between the hours of nine and ten A.M., next day, having measured some five hundred spars, for which he received, as his share of the work, the sum of one hundred and sixty dollars. I send you a duplicate copy of the account or bill received from the Cullers' Office; you will see from this that the culler got over three times what the office received for their part of the work.

The measuring of spars in the raft may be an extreme case. I am told that the law, or the Order in Council, as it now stands, regulating the measuring of spars, was formerly intended for the measuring and culling of spars after they were dressed—in which case the culler had to cant the spars over and examine them all round—and that there is no Order in Council regulating the measuring of spars in the raft without culling, and the consequence is that the cullers *collect for measuring only* the amount that they would be entitled to for measuring and culling.

Nearly all the spars taken to Quebec are now measured in the raft without culling, and it is a great tax on the trade to have to pay these heavy charges.

I think the charges, even for measuring and culling, too high; but for measuring without culling it is four times too high.

I think if McLean Stewart, Esq., had a chance, he could make the Supervisor's Office self-sustaining, and reduce the charges on the trade nearly one-half.

I hope you will get the charges for measuring spars, in the raft, reduced, whether anything else is done or not. This charge is out of all reason, and will, I think, only require to be brought before the Government to have it made right.

I am yours truly,
(Signed,)

JAMES MACLAREN.

To J. M. Currier, Esq., M. P. P.,
Quebec.

[Copy.]

Order No. 200.

Account No. 225.

F. Delaire, Culler.

Quebec, 21st June, 1864.

Messrs. J. McLaren & Co.,

		To the Supervisor of Cullers.	
For measuring and culling	3 white pine masts,	12 x 19 @ 43½c.....	\$ 1 30
"	" 7 "	19 x 24 " 65c.....	4 55
"	" 1 "	24 and upwards @ 76½c.	0 77
"	476 red pine spars,	12 x 19 @ 43½c.....	206 27
"	" 2 "	19 x 24 " 65c.....	1 30
"	16 white pine spars,	32 ²⁰ " 47½c.....	1 54
"	" 2 red pine "	21 ²	
"	" 1 tamarac "	01 ⁹	
		231 @ 6½c.....	0 17
			\$215 90

Duplicate.

Paid, 21st June, 1864.

per Sup. of Cullers,
(Signed,) T. Jos. WALSH.

FEBRUARY 14th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

Mr. George Jackson,
Mr. F. Jones (North Leeds),
Mr. P. G. Huot,

Mr. Perrault,
Mr. Poupore.

Ordered, That the Clerk do summon the following persons as Witnesses :—

Mr. S. Washburn, Hull, C. E., Mr. Wm. Moffett, Pembroke, C. W.

FEBRUARY 16th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman ;
Mr. Geo. Jackson, Mr. J. Perrault,
Mr. D. F. Jones (South Leeds), Mr. Poupore.
Mr. P. G. Huot.

Ordered, That the Clerk do summon the following persons as Witnesses :—

John O'Sullivan, Culler. Narcisse Valin, Culler.

Ordered, That the Clerk do require of the Crown Land Department, Copy of Cullers' Petition, presented in March, 1864.

Mr. M. Stevenson laid before the Committee the answers to the questions submitted to him, viz :—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch ?— I am acquainted with the lumber trade in all its branches.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory ; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory ? 3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system ?— I consider the present system unsatisfactory, and would refer for particulars to the " Report of the Committee of the Board of Trade," already furnished by me to the Committee. (See document marked B.)

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Supervisor of Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason ?—It is very desirable, indeed imperatively necessary, to the proper working of the Supervisor's Office, that it should be totally separated from the Crown Land Office, except for collecting revenue, and for this purpose would put the Office of Supervisor and Collector of Duties on Timber under one head. As the system is, the Supervisor has not the control of the officers and cullers under him, and is often obliged to employ persons unfit for the duties required, merely because they are sent to him by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result ?— I have always avoided surveys, considering the process as unlikely to give justice, and have preferred a private arrangement as the best, when disputes have arisen.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how ?—The system of rotation, as conducted at present, is a *nullity* and can easily be evaded, by both cullers and merchants. I have known cullers refuse to go out for a small job in their turn, because they had a requisition for a larger one in their pocket.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer ?—The right of selecting a culler might be given to buyer and seller ; the remedy for error or malefeasance ought to rest with a Board of Survey independent of both.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor of Cullers' Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answers ?—For purposes of revenue, all measurements of lumber ought to pass through the Supervisor's Office (that used for local purposes is at present exempt),

and I would approve of culling being made compulsory, being of opinion that lumber from Canada would, in that case, bear a higher character in all markets than it does at present.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—The present charges might be much reduced, and still keep the office in an efficient state.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I have heard of the ballot system being introduced by the Supervisor, but cannot see the advantage of it. It might do were all cullers equally efficient, but this is notoriously not the case.

Mr. Kelly, Culler, attended and answered the following questions:—

1st.—What is your occupation?—I am a commissioned Culler.

2nd.—How long have you been connected with the culling department?—It is nineteen years since I first went to the culling business. For the last four years I acted as a square timber culler under Mr. Quinn, the present Supervisor.

3rd.—Have any surveys been demanded or held upon your culling or measurement of lumber?—Since I have acted in the office of culler, no surveys have been held or demanded upon any work that I have done, nor have any complaints been laid against me that I am aware of.

4th.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of management as to the measuring and culling of timber, and do you consider it satisfactory; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—I am, and consider it most unsatisfactory. Rotation as it has existed is detrimental to the trade, from the difference in the capacities of cullers. The lottery system is not only detrimental to the lumber trade, but likewise injurious to the prospects of cullers of first class abilities, who are by this pernicious system placed on a footing with men totally unqualified to act in the capacity of such cullers, as the records of the surveys would testify. The constitution of the Board of Examiners is defective. Some of those who have acted for years as Examiners of applicants seeking commissions as cullers of square timber, have themselves been subjected to surveys, time after time for the non-fulfilment of their duties as cullers and measurers of timber.

5th.—Are the cullers now employed in the Supervisor's Office, in your opinion, alike competent, and do you consider them capable of discharging the duties required of them efficiently?—There is a great difference in the capacities of cullers at present connected with the Supervisor's Office, so much so that I am aware of many, who if requested to put a raft of timber in shipping order, are totally incompetent to perform the duty. It is impossible for any one to make a practical culler without undergoing a servitude on timber booms from five to seven years, as it is there and there only will he get that experience which will qualify him to undergo an examination as a licensed culler. There are many now in the Cullers' Office who never served a day on a timber boom, but acted as assistants to cullers, as tape-holders and markers of timber, who have been appointed from political influence, and who are now acting on the rotation list of licensed cullers. It is a fact that there are cullers in the office who, from old age, incompetency and otherwise, for years past have permitted their boys to perform the duties of culling and measuring for them, without regard to the obligation requiring it to be done by themselves personally.

6th.—Have you any suggestions to offer relative to the present mode of measuring?—I think the present mode as nearly fair as possible.

7th.—On an average how many days is a culler employed?—I think that the average runs up to fifty days, more or less, and the expenses attending the performance of our duties amount to seven or eight dollars per diem.

Mr. Gilchen, Culler, attended and answered the following questions:—

1st.—What is your occupation?—Commissioned Culler.

2nd.—How long have you been connected with the Cullers' Department?—I have been fifteen years in the square timber department, and the last four years in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office.

3rd.—Have any surveys been demanded or held upon your culling or measurement of timber?—I have never had a survey, nor do I know of any complaints having been made against me.

4th.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling of timber, and do you consider it satisfactory; if not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—I am; and do consider it satisfactory in so far as it relates to measuring and culling timber; but the mode of selecting a culler is very unsatisfactory. I consider that an open list would be preferable to either the rotation or ballot system. There is a great difference with regard to the capacity of cullers—so much so that there are many who, if requested to cull or put a raft in shipping order, in my opinion are totally incompetent; for this reason, that the cullers I have reference to are men who have never served a day on a timber-boom, and unless they have done so, they never could in the experience they have had in the Supervisor's Office as assistants to cullers. Another cause for the incompetency of many in the office is to be ascribed to the incompetent Board of Examiners, who have acted in that capacity for many years; they themselves have had their work surveyed from time to time. It is impossible for any one to become a practical culler without having served on a timber-boom for at least five or six years, as it is there, and there only, that he will get that experience necessary to qualify him for an examination as a licensed commissioned culler. There are many now in the Cullers' Office who never served a day on a boom, but acted as assistants to cullers as tape-holders and markers of timber, who, by party influence, have been appointed and are now acting in the capacity of such on the rotation-list of licensed cullers. In my opinion it would be much better if the Cullers' Office was entirely independent of the Crown Land Department; for until then it will be impossible to have competent men who will give satisfaction to the trade as cullers. To my own knowledge there are cullers in the office who, from old age, incapacity and otherwise, for years past, have permitted their boys to perform the said duties of culling and measuring timber for them, without the oath of obligation resting on their shoulders to guide them in the honest performance of the same. I feel convinced that from twenty to twenty-five cullers are more than sufficient to perform the duties of measuring and culling any quantity of timber that may be manufactured or arrive in port, at any one season, even if the quantity manufactured came as high as forty-five millions of feet of timber. I feel fully convinced that there should be an independent Board of Survey for the revision of any misconduct in measuring or culling, objected to in the discharge of the duties of any culler, so long as persons of thorough competency were appointed, and that no surveys were registered against any one culler so appointed.

5th.—On an average, how many days is a culler employed?—I think that the average runs up to fifty or sixty days, and in many instances my expenses have run up seven or eight dollars per diem.

6th.—Have you any suggestions to offer relative to the present mode of measuring?—No, I think the present mode perfectly satisfactory.

FEBRUARY 20th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present:

Mr. Geo. Jackson,
Mr. J. W. Dunsford,
Mr. F. Jones (North Leeds),

Mr. Wright (Ottawa Co.),
Mr. Poupore.

Mr. P. Dorval attended and answered the following questions:—

1st.—What is your occupation?—Mast, spar and square timber Culler.

2nd.—How long have you been connected with the Cullers' Department?—I am connected with the Cullers' Department the last eighteen years, and under the Supervisor for the last three years.

3rd.—Have any surveys been demanded or held upon your culling or measurement of timber?—No surveys have been held on my measurement or culling, nor have any complaints been made.

4th.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling timber, and do you consider it satisfactory?—I am, and consider it most satisfactory.

5th.—Do you consider the rotation or ballot system satisfactory; and, if not, wherein is it unsatisfactory?—I do not consider the rotation or ballot system satisfactory, as many

cullers are incompetent, from old age and other causes, to perform their respective duties ; for these reasons I prefer the open list for the selection of cullers.

6th.—Are the cullers now employed in the Supervisor's Office, in your opinion, alike competent, and do you consider them capable of discharging the duties required of them efficiently?—I do not consider them alike competent, for this reason that many of them employ boys to do their work. One great cause for the incompetency of cullers is the incompetent Board of Examiners, as many of those constituting said Board have had their own work surveyed ; and I have been informed by one of the clerks employed by said Board of Examiners to keep the books relative to timber examinations, that a certificate had been granted, on a blank report, to one qualifying him for a commission as culler

7th.—Have you any suggestions to offer relative to the present mode of measuring?—No, I think the present mode perfectly satisfactory.

8th.—On an average, how many days is a culler employed?—A square timber culler's time averages from fifty to sixty days, and the expenses attending the performance of our duty amount to seven dollars per diem.

Mr. James Gillespie laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am not now connected with the lumber trade, but was largely interested some years ago, chiefly as a seller in this market.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I believe the same system of measuring and culling lumber now exists as when I was interested in the trade, and I did not then consider it satisfactory, which I think my subsequent answers will meet.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I would suggest that the Supervisor of Cullers should act (as the word *Supervisor* only can be construed) with one or more deputies as a Board of Survey, to *personally supervise* the measurement and culling of all lumber brought to this market, so that the whole may be regulated under one system ; said Board to be appointed by a Committee to be chosen by buyers and sellers.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department ; and, if not, for what reason?—I consider that it is not desirable to have the Cullers' Office under the Crown Land Department, as, in my opinion, the duties of the cullers would be much better carried out by the Supervisor and his deputies having the confirmation of their appointment, and control over them when appointed.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—I never called a survey on the measurement of any lumber I have either bought or sold.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The rotation system I do not think was ever practically carried out. It was generally evaded by the requisition being retained by the applicant for a culler, *particularly when the raft was not sold*, until a favorite's turn.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler be given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—On my suggestion to third answer that the Supervisor and one or more deputies be named by a Board of Examiners, I think that a selection of cullers could be made by the Examiners, the Supervisor and his deputies, which would insure a sufficient safeguard to buyer and seller ; the said Examiners, Supervisor and deputies to have the power of imposing a heavy penalty upon any culler whose measurement was reported, and proved to them to be unsatisfactory.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I approve of putting measurement and culling of timber, deals, staves and lumber generally under one law ; my reason is, let all be on one footing.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I consider if the

foregoing suggestions were acted upon, the charges for measuring and culling could be reduced.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I am aware of the introduction of the ballot system, it is, in my opinion, an improvement on that of rotation; but I think, with the Supervisor's Office, constituted as it now is, it does not meet the difficulties between buyer and seller.

Mr. A. Valin attended, and laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—What is your occupation?—I am a licensed commissioned Culler.

2nd.—How long have you been connected with the Cullers' Department?—I have been in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office for the last twelve years.

3rd.—Have any surveys been demanded or held upon your culling or measurement of timber?—During the twelve years that I have been in the Office, I have had but one survey on my work, and this was caused by the party for whom I was measuring refusing to give me men necessary for the execution of my work; according to law, I could have eluded this survey as the difference was very small, but I consented, to give satisfaction to all parties. In proof of what I say, I have before me a letter from the Supervisor exonerating me from all blame; and I will further remark, that if it does sometimes happen that a survey is demanded, it is not at all times the fault of the culler, but because the timber is not placed to his satisfaction, or as the law requires it should be.

4th.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measurement and culling of timber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—The mode adopted, up to the present, for the selection of cullers for the measuring and culling of lumber, is the one of rotation; but since a few years it has been so abused, that the authorities considered it their duty to put an end to it by establishing another system, that of ballot, always retaining the rotation, and I am convinced that this is the only system that will meet the approbation of all honest persons who like to see every man having justice; and more, it is the one that will maintain the independence of the culler between buyer and seller, and will put the latter on his guard not to make propositions the most dishonest to the culler.

5th.—Are the Cullers now employed in the Supervisor's Office, in your opinion, alike competent, and do you consider them capable of discharging the duties required of them efficiently?—The greater number of the cullers attached to the office are competent to perform their duty, and of the number of those who are not, we ought to attribute to age and infirmity that renders them inapt for such work; nevertheless, the Supervisor should know the capacities of his subordinates. I also think that there are too many cullers attached to the Office for the performance of the work transacted.

6th.—Have you any suggestion to offer relative to the present mode of measuring?—The present mode of measuring is perfectly satisfactory.

7th.—On an average how many days is a culler employed?—The cullers are not always occupied in the execution of their duty, but they are obliged to await their turn in the Office, and to be present in case of need, and in this manner they are employed the whole season.

Mr. W. W. Scott laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been engaged in the lumber trade for the past twenty years in all its branches, particularly in that of square timber.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I am well acquainted with the present system of measuring and culling, and do not consider it satisfactory, inasmuch as many incompetent persons are thrust upon the Supervisor to perform work that they are totally ignorant of.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I would suggest that the Supervisor should have the sole and entire control of his department, and have the power of choosing or appointing his staff of cullers and clerks, and be held responsible for the

correct working of his department ; and that a Board should be appointed, with power to settle any disputes that might arise.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I consider that the Supervisor's Office should not be under the control or management of the Crown Land Department, inasmuch as through political influence many incompetent persons are thrust upon the Supervisor for employment, regardless of their qualification for the duties assigned to them.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—I have had occasion repeatedly to complain of bad measurement, but as the law provides that no survey can be had against the culler, if not applied for within forty-eight hours after the taking out of the specification, and when timber is on hand, unsold, the owner having no doubt as to the correctness of the measurement ; it is only when the purchaser tests the specification and the measurement that the question is raised as to the correctness of the measurement, when too late for redress.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded and how?—The present rotary system, if carried out correctly as originally intended, should give satisfaction, if competent cullers *only* were employed on the staff ; but as many incompetent men hold office, the rule is evaded, each culler knowing exactly how he stands on the list, can induce the lumberman to hold over his requisition until the turn of his favorite culler comes on.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—I would not accord the right to any man to choose his own culler, as he would assuredly have a leaning in favor of his employer. The only safeguard to the buyer would be the right of survey, and suspension or dismissal from the Department in the event of the survey going against the culler.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I do approve of the system of compulsory measuring through the Supervisor's Office, as it protects the manufacturer from fraud, by having competent men to measure, and being under the control of the Supervisor, the Crown will be protected from fraud, also by having correct return made, for the collection of Crown dues, &c.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I consider the charges too high decidedly, particularly in the square timber department.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I have been informed that it was the intention of the Supervisor of Cullers to introduce the ballot system into his department. I cannot say anything as to its merits. I certainly do know that the rotation system has been evaded through some loose manner in carrying out the plan ; but I think, nevertheless, that if the system was carried out with secrecy, as originally intended, that it would meet all the requirements desired.

FEBRUARY 21st, 1865.

The Committee met.

Members present :

Mr. D. F. Jones (South Leeds),	Mr. J. W. Dunsford,
Mr. J. Poupore,	Mr. Geo. Jackson,
Mr. Geo. Irvine,	Mr. Alonzo Wright (Ottawa County).

Mr. James Counolly laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am, and have been connected with the lumber trade for the last twenty-four years, during fourteen of which I conducted the lumbering operations of one of the largest shipping houses in that branch of business, and since then I have been engaged in the same pursuits on my own account.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I am

acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do not consider it unsatisfactory, except in the instances and particulars which my answers to the subsequent questions will disclose.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I would suggest that waney or board timber should be measured by string or calliper, at the option of the party requiring its measurement, and not exclusively, as at present, by calliper. This description of timber is invariably sold according to string measurement, the English merchants refuse to buy it otherwise. I would also suggest that the Cullers, now incapable, or who may hereafter become incapable from old age, should be superannuated, and that the Supervisor's Office should be relieved of cullers notoriously incompetent to fulfil their duties, and more regard should be had in the granting of commissions to new applicants as cullers than has prevailed for a long time past. Instances are well known, of young men, who have merely held a tape-line for cullers during two or three years, to obtain commissions as cullers. This practice necessarily places men in positions they are totally unfit to occupy. Applicants for commissions as cullers should be compelled to serve three or four years in a lumber shipping establishment, in order to acquire a practical knowledge of their duties.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—I do not consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the control of Crown Land Department. My reasons are, that being under that control, the Government of the day may exercise an influence over the employés, and individuals who happen to be political partisans of any particular Government, may importune their friends to have them placed in the office to the prejudice of competent, deserving and practical men, who never interfere in politics.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what results?—I have had occasion frequently to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and unless the fault was very glaring I found it useless to test the matter. The reason is very clear, a culler is called upon to survey or pass judgment upon the conduct of his brother culler, who may be selected the next day to sit in judgment upon himself. In other instances where a survey cannot be had or a remedy obtained, owing to the provision of the law, parties suffer a great loss. I, myself, upon one occasion, lost *seven per cent.* upon a raft which I purchased according to specifications; the measurement was incorrect, and intentionally made so. The Supervisor was made aware of the fact, and I was informed that as the time for complaint had passed, nothing could be done. The time prescribed for the calling of survey ought not to be limited as it is. The right to have the survey at any time before the raft is broken up, or removed from one place or cove to another, ought to be given, and the honest and impartial culler will not object to it. I respectfully suggest that a Board of Survey should be appointed, and that the Quebec Board of Trade, and the Ottawa Board of Trade do each appoint a competent person to form that Board, the Supervisor to act as umpire.

6th & 7th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how? If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—The rotation system, as it has been carried out for the last few years, has been practically a failure, and generally evaded. I disapprove of it. The cullers, through indirect means, get the names on the rotary list, and can inform the party requiring their services whose turn comes next, thereby enabling their friends to secure the particular culler they desire. The result is as might be expected, partiality in many cases and a heavy loss to the purchaser. To remedy the evils arising from this practice, I would suggest that the cullers be paid a fixed sum for the season, and their number limited to the actual requirements of the trade; those found neglecting their duties or acting partially to the detriment of buyer or seller to be immediately dismissed, and held liable for their conduct, and in the event of the culler refusing or being unable to make good the loss occasioned by his fault, the sufferer to have the right to have him imprisoned.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I do approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and

culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and would like to see the principle extended to all descriptions of lumber, and particularly to deals. Many of our most extensive operators in deals get them culled and classed by their own employés, hired for the season; the result is that strict regard to classification does not always follow, and shippers consequently meet with heavy loss, and have to make reductions in their invoices to parties in England. This is of frequent occurrence, and is much, and justly so, complained of by exporters. Others get the privilege of selecting a favorite culler, and keep him for the season, provided he culls according to their wishes and interests; the result in this case is the same as in the former. This practice is to be deplored; it is a great injustice to many deserving and good cullers, as none but those who will cull according to the wishes of the employer get remunerative jobs, and the deserving men are consequently deprived of the opportunity of earning one-half made by the select few.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I do consider the charges for measuring timber excessive, and believe that they might be reduced ten to twenty per cent., not only leaving the Office self-sustaining, but with a handsome balance as revenue for the country, provided the Government cease making the Office an asylum or house of refuge for political partisans, incompetent and inexperienced individuals. There is very little doubt but that the internal working of the Cullers' Office could be done more efficiently and with greater satisfaction to the trade, and at much less expense than at present.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I was apprised of the introduction of the ballot system in October last; how it has worked I cannot say; I am opposed to its adoption, because it is calculated to create more abuses than the rotation system, with less chance of detecting injustice.

Mr. Benson Bennett laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am connected with the lumber trade, more particularly with the deal trade.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I am of opinion that many of the cullers measure and cull lumber too hurriedly to perform the work correctly. I am also of opinion that by the present Act the qualities of white or yellow pine deals are not defined with sufficient minuteness, and that too much is left to the discretion of the culler. With spruce deals it is different, as from the peculiar nature of the wood it would be difficult to define the qualities more minutely.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I am of opinion that the Board of Survey, for the purpose of holding surveys when required, should consist of the Supervisor and two other competent persons to be employed at a yearly salary, for that purpose, and whose duty it should be (when not engaged on surveys) to go round the different coves, &c., and see the cullers at work, and endeavor to bring the culling and measuring to one uniform system.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—I am of opinion that the Cullers' Office should not be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and the Supervisor would then have greater control over his office and the cullers.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—I have had occasion to call surveys, and the result has been unsatisfactory. On one occasion the person from whom I purchased a quantity of deals would not allow the surveyors to go on his premises to hold the survey, and the Supervisor was unwilling to act without first obtaining the advice of the Attorney General; this caused so much delay that I was compelled to submit to a gross injustice. The rule which the Supervisor and surveying cullers have hitherto adopted is unfair: thus, if on surveying a lot of deals—say of second quality—if they find one portion to be first quality and about as large a portion to be third quality, they will not condemn the culler, setting off the firsts against the thirds; this I think is wrong. In the same manner in measuring timber, part of the raft may have been returned short of the contents; but if in the same

raft about an equal quantity has been returned over the contents, they do not condemn the culler.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically evaded, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The rotation system is very often evaded by persons wishing for any particular culler, waiting until his turn comes round.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—I am of opinion that with an independent Board of Survey, there would be no fear of injustice in allowing applicants to select any particular culler.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I do not approve of the principle that makes the culling and measuring through the Supervisor's Office compulsory. I think it unjust that manufacturers of lumber should be obliged to employ cullers from the Supervisor's Office, if they are not satisfied with the cullers employed by the Supervisor.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I do not think the charge for culling and measuring excessive, if the cullers take the time necessary to do their work properly.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I do not approve of the introduction of the ballot system.

The Committee then adjourned.

FEBRUARY 22nd, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

Wm. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman :

Mr. J. Poupore,	Mr. J. W. Dunsford,
Mr. D. F. Jones (South Leeds),	Mr. Wright (Ottawa County),
Mr. G. Irvine,	Mr. A. McKellar,
Mr. F. Jones (North Leeds),	Mr. J. M. Currier.

Mr. Wm. Moffatt laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been a manufacturer of square timber for the past seventeen years.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—The present system is in many respects unsatisfactory; first, no fractional parts of the foot in length or inch in girth are taken into account, in computing the cubical contents; thus a piece of timber measuring thirty-five feet eleven and seven-eighth inches (35 feet $11\frac{7}{8}$ in.) in length, and twenty-four and twenty-four and seven-eighth inches in girth, is held to measure but $35\frac{21}{24}$ —entailing a loss on the manufacturer of over seven and a-half feet on one piece, or about five per cent., taking the usual quantity in a raft to be one hundred thousand cubical feet. In connection with the measurement of timber, I would recommend its classification, the same as other articles of commerce, such as 1st, 2nd and 3rd deals, staves, &c. The only objection I have heard urged against classification is the time it would occupy in the busy season of shipping. I feel satisfied that if the system was once adopted, that this objection would be found more imaginary than real. The commission booms would do it in the same way that warehousemen do pork, flour and ashes; besides being more equitable between buyer and seller, it would raise the character of our timber. To avoid too great a press of business, in the port of Quebec, the manufacturer could secure the services of a culler during the manufacturing season, who could then and there stamp it, the same as is at present done with saw-logs.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I believe

the connection with the Crown Land Department is prejudicial ; parties having no other qualifications than their political influence, are thrust upon the Supervisor, who is required to find employment for them, and over whose actions and conduct he has little or no control. That there should be a Board of Survey appointed, one by the Governor General, one by the Quebec Board of Trade, and the third by the Ottawa Board of Trade, whose duty it should be to examine applicants for the office of culler, to inspect all rafts measured by the cullers, and sign the specifications before they are given out of the office. Applicants for the office of culler should undergo the same examination as first class-teachers of common schools in Upper Canada, and have served at least three years in a shipping boom, and produce a certificate under oath, of the party in whose employment he has served, of his competency ; also testimonials of good moral character. All disputes as to the measurement or culling of timber to be decided by the Board of Survey.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—I have never called a survey. I have no confidence in a tribunal of interested judges who are generally believed to sustain each other.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or generally evaded, and how?—Rotation is generally evaded. Parties having rafts to measure are desirous of having it done correctly, and all cullers not being equally efficient, the seller ascertains from a culler, in whom he has confidence, when his turn comes, gives him the requisition, who hands it in at the proper time. The reason for this course on the part of the manufacturer is that a raft improperly measured is the cause of delay in settling up with the purchaser ; and the general belief is that surveys result in nothing but delay.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—The Board of Survey would be a sufficient guarantee.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reason for your answer?—I do ; all lumber should be obliged to pass through the Cullers' Office for the purpose of measurement ; culling, and putting in shipping order, might be left optional with the parties. The expenses of the office should be borne by the whole trade.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—The charges for measuring are one-half too high ; if a return of the number of days worked by each culler could be obtained, and the amounts paid them, it would be the most conclusive evidence on this point.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I have heard of the introduction of the ballot system, but I have no knowledge of the working of it.

Mr. Walton Smith laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been engaged in the manufacture of square timber, spars and saw-logs, on my own account for fifteen years.

2nd and 3rd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory, and what changes would you suggest?—I do not consider the present system of measuring and culling timber correct or satisfactory by any means, for the following reasons : the cullers, though sworn to give the cubical contents of each square log, do not give any fractionals, either of the foot in length or of the inch in girth ; thus, for example, a square log forty feet eleven inches long, and fifteen seven-eighths inches in girth, would be given only forty feet fifteen inches, so that in a large raft the manufacturer would lose considerably. I would suggest that when the fractional parts exceed six inches of the foot in length, and half an inch in the girth, the culler should give the whole foot and inch to the seller, and when less, to the buyer. I think that the hook of the culler's gauge should be one inch in length, instead of a quarter of an inch, as it is at present. I consider the present system of measuring spars bad and unjust to the manufacturer, since he has to pay the same for measuring small spars, worth only, say five dollars each in the market, as he has for large ones, worth fifty dollars each. I advise that the manufacturer *be permitted to*

have red pine spars, say twelve inches and under, and spruce spars, fourteen inches and under, measure as round timber. I think the culler's assistants, viz., two boys whom he employs to take the lengths and one to keep check, should be examined by the Supervisor, before they are employed, as to their competency; since it is notorious that cullers sometimes employ boys for assistants who can hardly read the figures on the measuring tape—and who have so little knowledge of writing that their figures cannot be correctly understood by those employed to make out the specifications from their check-books. I think, also, that each assistant ought to be sworn, and that they should sign the check-book with the culler, when they return it to the Supervisor, and that their names should appear with the culler's on each specification. I recommend a system of classification of timber, when measured and culled, into first, second and third qualities. I believe it would raise the character of our timber, both at home and abroad; deals, staves, and pot ash, and most other of our productions, are inspected properly and divided into qualities; and why not inspect and classify timber? The buyers would then know what they were getting, and the seller would find that it paid best to bring to market only good, sound and merchantable timber, whilst inferior and unmerchantable timber, instead of being brought to market and sold at less than half the first cost, would be left standing in the forest, and become valuable, in time, for local purposes.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—I think that the Supervisor's Office should be separated from the Crown Land Department. I believe the connexion has been prejudicial to the trade, because the Supervisor has to accept the cullers nominated by that Department, who are often men of doubtful character, incompetent in every way, and are sometimes appointed only because they are political friends. I think the Supervisor should have full control over the Department and be responsible only to the Governor and Council, and that the Board of Survey, connected with his Department, should consist of three surveyors who should be, of course, competent persons, and whose duty it should be to examine all cullers before they are commissioned, as well as to decide disputes about measurement; one of whom should be appointed by the Government, one by the Board of Trade of Quebec, and the other by the Board of Trade of Ottawa.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys on the cullers' measurement, and with what result?—I never called a survey, because I have no faith in the present system. I have often thought that my timber was incorrectly measured, but having watched the results of other surveys, I am satisfied that justice is often not done by the surveying cullers, as they will naturally protect the culler complained of, because they don't know how soon he may be appointed to hold a survey on rafts of their measurement.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—I object to the rotation system, because the manufacturer is compelled to accept a culler, even when he knows him to be incompetent—and because the competent culler and industrious man, by that system, has no more chance to advance himself, than one who may be both incompetent and improvident. I object to the ballot system for the same reasons. Under the rotation system I had a culler forced upon me, who came to the raft with his assistants, all drunk, so bad that they could neither walk nor see figures; after waiting two or three days, they were still unable to work, and the Supervisor cancelled the order and sent me another culler. Now, if the first culler had not been *quite so bad*, if he could have seen enough to read figures, and been able to walk, he must have measured my raft, and if I was not satisfied I must have called a survey. I have known instances of cullers hurrying over rafts, containing upwards of two thousand pieces of timber, in *one day*, so as to get their names again on the list of rotation. I advise the abolition of the rotation system, and the retaining only twenty competent cullers at a *fixed salary*. Cullers can always evade the intention of the rotation system, and frequently do so; they enquire of the lumbermen the size of their rafts coming in, and ask for their requisitions, which they keep in their pockets until their turns come, when, if they have not in the meantime got another requisition from a lumberman who has a larger raft, they hand it into the Office just before they are called. I have also known cullers refuse to measure small rafts when ordered to do so by the Supervisor.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler was given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—I think that a competent culler would be too much afraid of a survey to favour his employer, and that the utmost he could do would be to measure carefully so as to give his employer justice.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I think that all timber should be measured through the Supervisor's Office, but that culling, or putting it into shipping order, should be arranged between the *buyer* and *seller*.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I think the charges for measuring timber and spars excessive, and should be reduced at least *one-half*; the number of cullers being also reduced, those left would get constant employment, and their pay would thus amount to the same thing, with this exception, that they would have to work every day for a year's pay, whilst now they get a year's pay for twenty or thirty days' work. I annex an account paid into the Supervisor's Office by me last season, which shows one instance of the exorbitant charges that the trade is subject to; the culler measured two hundred and ninety-four spruce spars; he was not on the raft more than two hours, and yet I had to pay the enormous sum of one hundred and twenty-seven dollars and forty cents. I remonstrated with the Supervisor at the time, and wanted to have them measured as *round timber*, but he refused and told me that I was charged *the regular tariff* only.

10th.—Are you engaged in the manufacture of saw-logs?—I have manufactured white pine saw-logs for the past fifteen years.

11th.—Have you any suggestions to offer relative to their classification and measurement?—I think that the size or dimensions of the standard log should be fixed by statute; at present this is regulated by the custom of the trade in different parts of the country, and I have known twelve feet in length and twenty, twenty-one or twenty-two inches diameter at the smallest end computed as the standard log, according to the custom of the locality. My opinion is that a white pine standard saw-log should be twelve and a half feet long and twenty-one inches diameter at the top or smallest end, and perfectly straight.

[Copy.]

Order No. 11.

Account No. 580.

A. Dorval, Culler,

Quebec, 13th August, 1864.

Mr. Walton Smith,

To the Supervisor of Cullers.

For measuring 294 spruce spars, 12 x 19 @ 43½ cts. \$ 127.40

Paid, 14th October, 1864.

per Sup. of Cullers,

T. JOS. WALSH.

The above is a true copy of the original.

Richard Atkins.

Mr. Bryson attended and laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been engaged in the manufacture of square timber for the last thirty years, and have brought to market from one hundred thousand feet to eight hundred thousand feet annually.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—The object of the Cullers' Bill being intended to give the true and entire cubical contents of timber, I think that the fractional parts of the inch, and the fractional parts of the foot on the length, should be measured and allowed the producer. The half foot in the length and the half inch in the girth should at least be measured and allowed.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—Answered in all the other questions.

4th.—Do you think it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department? and if not, for what reason?—Unconnected, there would be less political influences brought to bear, and the head of the Office would thereby feel more responsibility and be better enabled to carry out the routine of his office, both with a view to economy and the rendering of more general satisfaction to the trade.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys on cullers' measurement, and with what result?—I have very frequently been dissatisfied with the measurement of my timber, but only recollect of calling three or four surveys, all of which, however, were decided in my favor. In cases of surveys the cullers do everything to extricate one another from their mistakes in measurement. The cost of surveys is considerable, and unless the measurement is very palpably wrong the lumberer is not safe in resorting to survey as a means of redress, and therefore not unfrequently submits to measurement which he knows to be unfair, but afraid to avail himself of surveying.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The rotation system has been generally carried out, but has been at the same time often evaded by some parties. I do not, however, consider it a good one. I think the owner of timber should be entitled to take any culler of his choice, if disengaged at the time.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—An independent Board of Survey should be formed for the purpose of examining the measurement of all timber arriving and being measured in the Port of Quebec. This Board of Survey should be composed of three competent and responsible men, appointed respectively by the Government, the Board of Trade of Quebec, and the Board of Trade of Ottawa. This, I think, would afford a protection to the interests of the buyer as well as to the seller, and would ensure general satisfaction in measurement.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and state your reasons for your answer?—It would be more regular that all timber arriving in the Port of Quebec should undergo the measurement and supervision of the Cullers' Office, and I can see no good reason why any party should be exempt from submitting to this rule. If for no other reason, the convenience afforded the Crown Land Department in the collecting of the dues, &c., should be in itself sufficient.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I do think them excessive, in respect to the measurement of square timber, and that a reduction of nearly one-half the present rate should be made. They are also excessive upon spars, and would require an equal reduction. With prudent and economical management in keeping up only a sufficient staff of cullers and other officials who would be constantly under employment, a large saving would be effected, quite sufficient to admit of a reduction in the charges for measurement, after amply defraying all the expenses of the Cullers' Office. Twenty cullers would be more than ample to measure all the lumber arriving in the port.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I do not approve of the ballot system. It should not be competent for the Supervisor or any other official to adopt any system otherwise than those laid down and provided for by the law. The Cullers' Bill as it is now, or as it may be when amended, should not be tampered with by the Supervisor.

11th.—What mode of selecting cullers would you suggest?—I would suggest or recommend that each lumberman should select his own culler in accordance with the laws of the office.

NOTE.—Mr. Bryson submits the following:—
If circumstances would admit, I am of opinion that all lumber should be classified, under the supervision of the Cullers' Office, as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class quality. I fear, however, that the present accommodation of boorage is inadequate to the accomplishment

of this end. I think that while making changes in the Cullers' Bill, it would be very necessary to state definitely what the standard should be of saw-logs, and also what should constitute firsts and seconds, &c., &c.

The Committee then adjourned.

FEBRUARY 23rd, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

Mr. Wright,	Mr. J. W. Dunsford,
Mr. D. F. Jones (South Lee Is),	Mr. J. M. Currier,
Mr. F. Jones (North Leeds),	Mr. J. Poupore.

Ordered, That the Clerk do summon Mr. Quirek as witness.

Mr. Storey laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions :—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am agent of Messrs. Calvin & Breck, forwarders and manufacturers of timber and staves, and in that capacity I have larger business transactions with the Supervisor's Office than has any other house bringing lumber to this market.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—My experience as to the measuring and culling of lumber extends only to timber and staves. In reference to timber, I think the owner should have the right to choose how the waney should be measured, whether by calliper or by string. I am of opinion, too, that the law is too stringent in reference to measuring and culling staves.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I think that *six* instead of *three* worm-holes should be the number specified in the Act for the culling of staves—also, that in measuring the staves they be measured at the shortest, narrowest and thinnest part *only when it does not exceed the standard length, breadth, and thickness.*

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—I am not prepared to say what effects would be produced by a change.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—No.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The rotation system has been generally evaded, by each culler keeping a register of his own, by which he could always tell who was first on the list; so that at any time a lumberman with this information could avoid the culler he disliked and secure the one he favored.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safe guard would exist for the buyer?—I should say so decidedly; and the only safeguard for the buyer would be his right to call a survey.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and state your reasons for your answer?—Yes. Because I think there would be endless disputes between the buyer and seller, if there was no disinterested party or medium for establishing the contents of a raft or lot of lumber.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I do consider the charges too high.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor and what is your opinion of its adoption?—Yes; and I believe it would give entire satisfaction to every lover of justice in the lumber trade, if it was not for the fact that there are on the list, some incompetent cullers, whom no one having a raft to measure wishes to run the risk of drawing by ballot.

Mr. Charlton attended and answered to the following questions :—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am with every branch.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I do not consider it satisfactory, there being so many incompetent persons on the present cullers' list.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I would like to see the office put entirely in the hands of the Supervisor, giving him full power to select his cullers and staff, and to suspend or dismiss them.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—No, I think that the office should be altogether under the Supervisor of Cullers, too much political influence being brought to bear on the appointment of cullers, in consequence of which it frequently happens that incompetent men are appointed.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon cullers' measurement, and with what result?—I have had reason, but have never put it in force, knowing it would be perfectly useless under the existing system.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—No, it is not; every culler knows when his turn comes on, and therefore can retain a requisition till his turn arrives.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—A competent Board of Survey, and the desire that a culler would have to maintain his reputation.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber compulsory, and state your reasons for your answer?—I do approve of the principle of the law making the measuring and culling of timber, &c., through the Supervisor's Office, compulsory, because I think, if the law was properly carried out, both buyer and seller would get every justice done them.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I do, both as regards square timber, masts and spars, and could be reduced one-fourth the present fees.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I am not aware of the ballot system having been introduced, and therefore cannot offer any opinion.

Mr. Poitras laid before the Committee his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been connected with the lumber trade for the past thirty-seven years. My first five years were in the character of an apprentice-culler, in all the branches of the said lumber trade; the remainder has been past in connection with the manufacturing, measuring, culling, assorting, putting in shipping order, overhauling, counting and classifying the said lumber.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—Yes, and I consider the present system very unsatisfactory. Firstly, the want of a proper and thorough organization in the Department of Cullers and Clerks. Corruption has so crept in of late that the rotation system has been only in theory, and not at all properly acted upon, and the present system of survey, is, being in the hands of the cullers, a perfect absurdity. Secondly, there are a number of cullers attached to the Office, wholly unqualified as regards judgment and discipline, to the prejudice of the proper performance of their duty in measuring, culling and assorting the different descriptions of our lumber. I would recommend a Board of Examiners for the examination of each culler, as respects his fitness and qualification to perform the responsible duties and obligations he owes to buyer and seller. Said Board to be composed of the Board of Surveyors (as defined in the third clause of my third answer), two cullers of whatever department the applicant is being examined for, one lumberman, one merchant and the Supervisor.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—Firstly, an independent Supervisor of Cullers, responsible to the Government for the due fulfilment of his important duties, and giving heavy securities thereon. Secondly, a reduction of one-third of the present staff of cullers, which would then be quite sufficient to carry on the business

of the trade. Thirdly, a Board of independent Surveyors, composed of three select and able men, duly qualified in all the branches of the lumber trade, one to be named by the Board of Trade at Ottawa, one by the Quebec Board of Trade, and one by the Government, these Surveyors to hold surveys, and to decide all disputes that might arise between buyer and seller. Fourthly, should at any time any of the cullers have had three surveys during one season, his name to be erased for ever from the Supervisor's list, as being totally unqualified; also, at any time, if a culler be found at work while under the influence of liquor, for the first offence to lose his job, for the second to be struck off the list for three week, and for the third his name to be erased from the list entirely. Fifthly, A large room should be provided in the building of the department of the Supervisor for the purpose of containing a library; select books on mensuration, &c., also, with all the most modern instruments for measuring, and a few pieces of each description of lumber for the purpose of testing the qualifications of the young men who are about to become applicants for examination, and it should be made a duty for the more experienced cullers to give problems to and occasionally (say three times a week) examine the apprentice cullers in the establishment, thereby cultivating a taste to improve themselves, and ultimately raise the standard of qualification in the whole body to a higher mark than it would otherwise obtain. Sixthly, the Supervisor should adopt a measuring line, made of metal, somewhat similar to a surveyor's chain, as with the present mode the ordinary linen tape-line is apt to cause discrepancies and disputes between buyers and sellers, which would not arise were the proposed improved measures adopted for use. Seventhly, it would also be very desirable that particular care be taken in scribing or marking the timber, as it is of the utmost importance that cullers should, on measuring lumber, mark it in the most legible manner.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the control of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—Yes, I do consider that the practical working of the Cullers' Office should be perfectly independent of the management and free from the control of the Crown Land Department; as it is, the Supervisor is and has been to a great extent prevented from properly discharging his duty, having to employ cullers and clerks, just as sent to him, whereas if he had the full control of his office staff, and was responsible to the Government for the proper working thereof, he would in a better manner organize the office, and as the previous Supervisor did at the organization of the department, give more general satisfaction to the trade at large, and very probably cause a revenue to proceed from the working thereof, instead of the office hardly paying expenses.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—Not being directly a manufacturer, I have never been under the necessity of calling a survey, although I have very frequently witnessed them; but I consider the present system of conducting them as most absurd and unsatisfactory, as the cullers are, under existing arrangements, chosen as judges or surveyors, cannot be called disinterested parties, seeing that the person whose culling or measuring they survey, may in his turn, (possibly the next day) be selected to hold survey on their work.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The present system of rotation is, I consider, a perfect sham and much abused. In order the more to secure an honest and faithful rotation, the management should be left entirely in the hands of the Supervisor, he being bound under a solemn oath to do justly in the matter, and none of his staff to be permitted to see the list. The rotation system was well and properly administered by the former Supervisor, and I see no reason why, under the foregoing proposed system, the present Supervisor should not be able to deal equally just as well towards the manufacturer and merchant as towards the cullers in his office, whose emoluments would by this plan be more equally divided than at present.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—No doubt human nature has its weak points, but a Board of independent surveyors, with the rotation system as before described, would in my opinion be a sufficient safeguard to both buyer and seller. The system of independent cullers would not in my opinion work at all satisfactorily; it would open too wide a field for corruption.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and state your reasons for your answer?—In my opinion the manufacturer of lumber should have the privilege of exporting his productions without compulsory culling by the Supervisor's culler, but it should be measured, and not only counted, and proper returns of the same should be recorded by the Supervisor's officers. All timber sold in this market or elsewhere, for exportation or otherwise, should be measured by the Supervisor.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—The department of the Cullers' Office should do the business of the office with two-thirds their present staff, which reduction would naturally enable a similar reduction in the present tariff of charges.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—Yes, I understood it had been put in operation last fall, and caused a great deal of dissatisfaction amongst the cullers. However, I must state that I am not an admirer of the ballot system. I consider the rotation system, faithfully carried out as described in my reply to the sixth question, to be the best mode of obtaining justice. The ballot-box could be carried on more equitably to all concerned than it is at present, by restricting the amount of timber to be culled by each culler in his turn to, say, not more than one hundred thousand feet, and so on in proportion for other descriptions of lumber; but the working of this would be attended by so many drawbacks, that I must say I prefer the rotation system as already proposed by me.

Mr. Quirek was called in and examined.

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am an overseer of lumber of all kinds coming into the port of Quebec, for Messrs. D. D. Young & Co., and have been connected with the trade for over twenty years.

2nd and 3rd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory; and what changes would you suggest in the system?—The only alteration I would suggest with regard to that is, that in waney timber the buyer or seller should have the right of having it measured by either string or calliper.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—I consider that the Supervisor of Cullers' Office should be independent of the Crown Land Department to a certain extent, but with regard to the management of the Office, the Supervisor should have the full control. From my knowledge and experience of the trade, when it was so managed, it gave general satisfaction; under the existing state of things, I consider the Supervisor has not that power for the efficient working of the Department, as many incompetent men are forced upon him, over whom he has no control.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to call surveys upon the cullers' measurement, and with what result?—I have had occasion to call for two surveys, and in both cases the parties purchasing found the timber over-measured by the cullers. With regard to surveys, I would suggest that four days be allowed to pass before survey is called, as the present time is too short.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The rotation system, as it exists, is only nominal, and has done more to bring disrepute upon the Supervisor's Office than anything that I am aware of. I would recommend a more competent class of men as cullers than those now in office, and that every culler should have his fair share of the earnings of the Department, but at the same time keeping in view that those men should be able and competent to discharge the duties imposed on them. I would also recommend that many of the cullers now in the office should be superannuated.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to a party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—An independent Board of Survey; such Board of Survey to be appointed by the Board of Trade of Ottawa, the Board of Trade of Quebec, and an umpire appointed by the Government; and this Board to be entirely unconnected from the Supervisor's Office; and that each member of the Board should be men thoroughly conversant with the trade, as regards shipping and manufacturing, and that have themselves been

cullers, or connected with the trade sufficiently to know the duties of cullers. They should also be connected with the Board of Examiners, before whom all applicants for commissions as licensed cullers. Under this head I would also recommend that applicants should serve an apprenticeship of three or four years in a shipping-boom, and he shall receive written recommendations from his employers to that effect, also keeping in view his capabilities and moral character.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of lumber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and state your reasons for your answer?—I consider that all timber, masts and spars, and everything in the shape of lumber, should pass through the Supervisor's Office, and the system of counting off deals, as now practised, should be done away with.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I consider the charges upon spruce and red pine spars, of fifteen inches and under, is one-half too high; and on masts and spars of fifteen inches and upwards for red pine, and twenty-two inches and upwards for white pine, is one-fourth too high. The charges upon spruce deals, according to their intrinsic value, is too high.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I consider either the ballot or rotation system, or any other, the judicious and most impartial system of carrying out the working of the Office, so long as every man is equally competent.

The Committee then adjourned.

FEBRUARY 24th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present:

Mr. Currier,
Mr. F. Jones (North Leeds),
Mr. Poupore,

Mr. Wright,
Mr. Dunsford.

Mr. Stubbs was called in, and answered to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been engaged in the manufacture and bringing to market of square red and white pine timber for the last thirty years.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—The object of the Cullers' Bill being evidently intended to give the entire and true cubical contents of timber, I think that the fractional parts of the inch in girth and the fractional parts of the foot in length, should be measured and allowed the producer. The half-inch and half-foot should at least be measured and accounted for. Disregarding these fractional parts subjects the manufacturer to a loss of about seven per centum, and gives the lumber merchant a profit of the same percentage in the markets of Great Britain, where the proper means are taken in order to ascertain the entire cubical contents.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—This question is answered in my answers to the others.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—In my opinion the Supervisor's Office should be entirely out of the control of the Department of Crown Lands. There should be no interference whatever, excepting in so far as may be necessary for the Crown Land Department in the collecting of Crown dues. It cannot reasonably be supposed that any official in the Crown Land Department should be competent to dictate the duties of the Supervisor. Besides, if the Supervisor was to feel the whole responsibility of his office resting upon himself alone, I am convinced that the duties would in every respect be more efficiently and economically discharged, and much more satisfaction thus afforded the trade.

5th.—Have you had occasion, in your experience, to require surveys upon cullers' measurement, and with what result?—I have never had a survey, but have been, nevertheless, considerably dissatisfied with the measurement of some of my rafts. From the dissatisfaction which I saw evinced by many who called surveys, and ending as they did, without affording the desired redress, I was constrained to adopt the expedient of evading

the rotation of cullers, and select and await the turn of one in whom I had some confidence. The cost of survey is considerable, and unless the measurement be palpably very wrong, a person would not be warranted or safe in calling one.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The system of rotation is not generally carried out. It is easily evaded by the combination of the lumberer with the culler for whom he may have a preference. The cullers seem to know quite well when their turn is at hand, and give the necessary information to the lumberer, who defers putting in his requisition for measurement until the culler of his choice is next upon the list. This has been more especially practised of late years. Under the former Supervisor, it was much more difficult to evade rotation.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—Granting the right to the owner of timber to select a culler should not operate as a means of his favoring the party so selecting him. The class of men who, in my opinion, should constitute a staff of cullers (equal in every respect to the honest and efficient discharge of their duties), would not be actuated from any such cause to measure unfairly between the buyer and seller, merely because selected by the latter. Instead, however, of continuing the present system of calling surveys upon rafts unsatisfactorily measured, there should be a separate Board of Survey composed of three competent and respectable men of known integrity, to whom special reference would be submitted of all matters of dispute in measurement. The Board should also be required to examine all the cullers applying for admission to the office. In order to render this Board of Survey satisfactory, generally, it would appear desirable that the buyer and seller as well as the Government should each be entitled to the selection of a member composing it, which would, of course, be done through the Boards of Trade of Quebec and Ottawa on the part of the buyer and seller.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and, state your reasons for your answer?—I do approve of the principle of the law. Previously to the enactment of the Cullers' Bill, when the Quebec merchants had their own cullers engaged by the year, there was the most unblushing "chiselling" perpetrated upon the lumbermen without any means of redress. With the present system of measurement, under the supervision of the Government, the door is not open to such wholesale frauds. Besides, if for no better reason, I think that all lumber should undergo the supervision and measurement of the Office, in order that the Government should be afforded a convenient means of collecting the Crown dues.

9th.—Do you think the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I do consider them excessive. If the Supervisor's Office was managed with prudence and economy, the charges might be reduced twenty-five to thirty per cent. With regard to the expense attendant upon the measurement, it must be obvious that it will bear great reduction, when it is known that each of the cullers obtain their whole income of the year, say from twelve hundred to sixteen hundred dollars, for about one month's work. This is owing of course to their being entirely too many cullers admitted to the office, and the carrying out the system of rotation, affording as it does to each one a fair amount of compensation for a year for the actual services of only about twenty-five or twenty-six days' work. The other expenses of the Office, such as accountants, specification clerks, messengers, &c., &c., are no doubt excessive to a degree, and must require "weeding out." I think that portion of the work consisting of the making out of specifications, might to advantage be given out on contract, and effect a considerable saving. Or, if not done in that manner, the clerks engaged for the purpose should be paid at the rate of so much per thousand feet, instead of by the season or day.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I heard of the introduction of the ballot system last summer, but do not know how it was found to work. It should not, however, be competent for the Supervisor to tamper with the law in introducing "new-fangled" ideas of his own. He should study to perform his duties as ably as possible, agreeably with the law, but not to try any new experiments.

FEBRUARY 28th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman ;
 Hon. Mr. Chas. Alleyn, Mr. J. W. Dunsford,
 Mr. Alonzo Wright, Mr. F. Jones (North Leeds).

Mr. Spence was called in, and answered to the following questions :—

1st.—Are you acquainted with the timber trade, and with what particular branch ?—
 Yes, but principally with the measurement of square timber and furnishing specifications of the same, having been some years engaged in such occupation by leading men in the trade.

2nd.—Do you consider the present system of measuring timber satisfactory ? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory ?—It is not satisfactory to the seller in giving the true contents. In my opinion, in order to give the true contents, and at the same time save the trouble of the fractional calculations, the proper way would be, when the fractional part is nine-twelfths and over, to allow a full inch in girth, or foot in length, and when under nine-twelfths to disallow it ; for instance, a piece of timber, say seventy-five feet eleven inches in length, seventeen and eleven-twelfths by eighteen and eleven-twelfths is now measured as seventy-five feet, seventeen by eighteen inches, being a loss on the true contents of nearly twenty-two feet. The proposed arrangement would, I think, equalize the fractional parts and save much labor.

3rd.—Do you consider it important that cullers should possess certain educational requirements, and what is your opinion of the rotation system ?—In my opinion the class of persons employed as cullers should possess more than ordinary intelligence and judgment, able to read and write well, and generally qualified with a fair education. The present rotation system, I believe, causes much dissatisfaction, and is easily evaded.

4th.—What changes would you suggest in the system ?—I believe that if a superior class of men were employed, at a salary, a great reduction in the working expenses could be effected ; such men should possess the qualifications necessary to be also employed in the Office, when not engaged measuring.

5th.—What time do you consider is required to measure off, with two assistants, a raft of white and red pine, containing say 100,000 feet ?—I have frequently measured a raft of white and red pine of about one hundred thousand feet, and furnished a correct specification of the same, in *two* days.

6th.—For what purpose were you employed to furnish such specifications ?—Frequently to forward to Quebec in advance of the timber, also to be used as a check on the results of the official measurement at Quebec.

7th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive ?—Yes, and am of opinion that a reduction of twenty-five per cent. could be made by employing only a sufficient staff of cullers and officials properly qualified, at a fair salary, leaving a surplus to pay expenses of an independent Board of Survey. In this I have allowed a wide margin to provide for all contingencies.

8th.—What staff of cullers would you consider sufficient, if constantly employed, and what amount should be considered a fair salary ?—I consider that twenty, for square timber, masts and spars ; ten for deals, &c., and eight for staves, would be sufficient, and admit of a great part of their time being also employed at making specifications in the office. This would make a total of say thirty-eight which, at a salary of eight hundred dollars, would only be thirty thousand four hundred dollars, whereas the amount paid to cullers alone, last year, amounted to sixty-two thousand one hundred and sixty-three dollars. I think that a smaller and more efficient number of clerks in the office would get through the work more satisfactorily to the public, and should be as liberally paid as first or second class clerk in any other branch of the civil service.

9th.—Is it your opinion that it would be beneficial to the trade to have a classification of timber at this port ?—In my opinion it would be an important benefit to the trade, and would tend much to raise it in the confidence of purchasers in the European markets, having all timber legally classified as of first, second, and third quality. It would also be of incalculable benefit to foreign purchasers and strangers visiting this market, and would greatly tend in establishing and elevating the character of our Canadian pine.

10th.—Do you consider the office now occupied as Supervisor's Office suitable and convenient?—No, the office should be more conveniently located; the present offices are altogether too small and contracted, badly ventilated and lighted, and without proper safes or vaults for the safe-keeping of records. From the importance of this office to the staple trade of the province, it ought to be only second to the Custom House. I would suggest more capacious offices. That a room should be provided for the convenience of the trade, also suitable waiting rooms for the cullers, as the general appearance of the present office during the business season detaches greatly from its dignity, as an important public office of the Crown.

11th.—What is your opinion of the ballot system, as compared with that of rotation?—In my opinion the ballot system is much more unsatisfactory than that of rotation when properly carried out, besides being illegal and contrary to law; and under the circumstances, an unjust action, causing great dissatisfaction among the cullers and the trade; as for instance, by the ballot system, the most imbecile and incompetent cullers may be drawn for the measuring of the largest and most important rafts, and the intelligent and well qualified culler be drawn for the smallest and least important lots. I believe both systems bad, so long as there are so many unfit for duty, at any time, on the list; the only remedy being employment of a select and ably qualified staff, being constantly employed as salaried officers, and which, as I have shewn in answer to question number eight, would effect a saving of some thirty thousand dollars.

Mr. O'Connor was called in, and answered to the following questions:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have been connected with the timber branch of the lumber trade for the last twenty-seven years.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling timber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I am acquainted with the existing system of measuring timber. Culling timber is rarely practised by public cullers or measurers, and I am of opinion that it rarely gives satisfaction either to buyer or seller. The time occupied in measuring is in general too little to ensure correctness; the object of the culler being more to return as quickly as possible to the Supervisor's Office, so as to have his name placed again on the list for another "requisition," than to devote sufficient time and attention to ascertain the correct dimensions of the timber. Buyers of timber complain that the present system of "measuring off" subjects them to paying for "cracks," "shakes," and rotten butts," which are palpably evident to the measurer and which he must know will entail heavy loss on the party who may become the buyer of the timber. The method of measuring "waucy" timber is absurd, as it is impossible to sell this timber until it has undergone a new measurement, by what is called the string method.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—The measurers of timber, that is to say, if the present institution of Supervisor and public measurers is to be maintained, should be exclusively examined and licensed by a Board composed of persons who are engaged in manufacturing wood-goods, or in buying and shipping the same; say, that half should be nominated by the Board of Trade of Ottawa, and the other half by the Board of Trade of Quebec; and it should be obligatory that all measurers and cullers, before presenting themselves to be examined and licensed by the said Board, should have been employed in some private timber shipping establishment for a period of five years at least.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; if not, for what reason?—It is very desirable that the Supervisor of Cullers' Office should be entirely independent and free from the control of the Crown Land Department. It is owing to the existing connexion that the Supervisor of Cullers' Office is overrun with political nominees (both in the cullers' and specification clerks' branches), persons generally believed to be incapable of properly filling the positions they occupy, and who would hardly find employment in private timber establishments in the Port of Quebec. It is owing to this undesirable connexion that the Supervisor has descended from being the arbitrator and determiner between buyer and seller (when cases of unsatisfactory measurement, &c., arise), to being

a sort of under clerk or dependent of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. I have heard it stated that questions which should have been decided promptly by the Supervisor, in what may be called his judicial capacity, have frequently been referred to the Crown Land Department, thereby causing unnecessary and sometimes vexatious delays. The Office of Supervisor is thus shorn of a large amount of that respect which it would otherwise be entitled to.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—In general, the trade look upon surveys as fallacious, not that there is no occasion for them, as the Surveyors, from the fact of their being cullers and measurers themselves, in the employment of the Supervisor, invariably sustain the party against whose measurement the complaint is lodged; besides, the time allowed within which an objection can be made is absurd. I believe the law, as it now stands, allows but forty-eight hours, and every man conversant with the trade knows it may be weeks or months before an opportunity arises to dispose of a raft of timber, and it is generally at that time that an exception is taken against the measurement. To show how little confidence can be placed in surveys as lately conducted, I take the liberty of stating a case that came under my own observation last summer:—A raft of timber had been measured by one of the Supervisor's cullers; the owners were dissatisfied with the measurement and demanded a survey; the Surveyors found that one-half the measurements were erroneous, yet the majority of the Surveyors (two) decided "that the parties complaining had not sufficient cause," the remaining Surveyor dissented in this opinion, "inasmuch as that they found from ten to twelve pieces of timber, in each crib surveyed, wrongly measured, and in consequence they were obliged to alter the dimensions marked thereon." (I may here state that a crib of pine timber generally consists of sixteen to eighteen pieces.) The owners were informed by the Supervisor accordingly, that they should pay the cost of survey, forty-two dollars, in addition to the original cost of measurement. As a further proof of the unsoundness of the system, in the case stated, a brother-in-law of the man against whose measurement the complaint was laid, was actually appointed to be one of the Surveyors, and I need hardly state that he glossed over his relative's blunders. In another case, the house I represent had to allow the sum of two hundred dollars as compensation to a purchaser, because the culler had made a return of "*red pine*" when he should have stated that it was "*white pine*," and there is no redress to be obtained, as the error was not detected within the forty-eight hours after measurement. It is quite a common thing for allowances to be made of fifteen hundred to two thousand feet and upwards on a raft of timber, because the purchasers have no confidence in certain cullers' measurements. The only way to ensure proper surveys is to appoint a Board of Experts (that is to say, composed of experienced measurers and cullers), entirely independent of the Supervisor's Office, to perform such duties, and I believe that three or four persons would be quite enough to perform the functions of the Board.

6th.—Is the rotation system practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—The cullers themselves have violated the rotation system hundreds of times. A culler knows the time when his name will come up first on the list, and having obtained a "requisition" from the owner of a raft, or lot of lumber, he sends in the requisition at the critical moment, obtains the measuring of the coveted raft, and defeats the law. I believe that late last autumn another system was introduced by the Supervisor, something on the principle of the ballot; but I cannot take upon me to say how it has worked. However, under the present system, it is very rare that the purchaser can exercise any influence in selecting the measurer or culler.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer; or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, I apprehend that the culler *would* have an interest in favoring his employer (and this obtains to a great extent, as may be perceived by my answer number six), and no safeguard would exist for the buyer. It is true, that in seasons when the Port of Quebec is overstocked with timber, the buyer will shun all rafts which have been measured by men of whose honesty or abilities he entertains a doubt; but in seasons when timber is in limited supply, the buyer will suffer.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and

culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and state your reasons for your answer?—If efficient measures and cullers can be obtained in the way pointed out in answer number three, and if the Supervisor be made independent of the Crown Land Department, and if the measurers and cullers be held responsible for their actions, no matter when they may be called in question; I think that it would be desirable to have lumber measured or culled "by authority," otherwise it had better be left to private arrangement between buyer and seller.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring and culling timber excessive?—I do consider the charges for measuring timber excessive, especially as the duty is not performed to general satisfaction. The staff of cullers kept up is entirely too large; they are not employed at work one-sixth of their time, so that it is evident the work could be done by fewer hands, and would require less money to be raised in charges.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I believe that the ballot system has been introduced, and I have heard that the cullers are not contented with it. If the cullers were uniformly competent to the faithful discharge of their duties, no doubt the ballot system would work well; but, as it is generally conceded that many of them are not competent to the faithful and proper discharge of their duties, neither the rotation nor the ballot system will cure the evil.

Mr. John Thompson laid before the Committee his answers to the written questions submitted to him:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I have, for many years past, been engaged in the deal trade.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measurement and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I cannot speak from practical experience of the working of the existing system of measuring timber under the Supervisor of Cullers. I believe it is unsatisfactory, more particularly in respect of surveys.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I would recommend the appointment of a paid Board of Surveyors, composed of men of high character and ability.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should not continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, as I am not aware of any good or sufficient reason for its being under such management.

5th.—Have you had occasion, in your experience, to require surveys upon cullers' measurements, and with what results?—I have not.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—I believe it is very generally evaded by the measurer and the person requiring his services.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer; or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—It might have the effect apprehended, but the safeguards would be to have none but efficient and honest measurers, and above them an efficient Board of Surveyors.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and, state your reasons for your answer?—I am opposed to the enactment of any law which would make the culling of timber, or any other article of trade, compulsory?

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—Not being in the square timber trade I do not feel qualified to answer this question.

Mr. Robert Hamilton laid before the Committee his answers to the written questions submitted to him:—

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am engaged in the deal trade.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling timber,

and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I cannot speak from practical experience of the working of the existing system of measuring timber under the Supervisor of Cullers. I believe it is unsatisfactory, particularly in respect of surveys.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—I would suggest the appointment of a paid Board of Surveyors, composed of men of high character. I consider it very injudicious that one timber measurer should sit in judgment on the work done by his *confrère*.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department, and if not, for what reason?—I consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should not continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department. I am ignorant of any good and sufficient reason for its being under such management.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—I have not.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—I believe that it is not practically carried out, but that it is generally evaded by an understanding between the measurer and the person requiring his services, that the latter will wait till it is the turn, by rotation, for the former to be employed.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer, or what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—It might have the effect apprehended; it is indeed a hard matter to prevent fraud. The best safeguard would be to have none but efficient and honest measurers, and above them, to have an efficient and honest Board of Surveyors.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and, state your reasons for your answer?—I am strongly opposed to the enactment of any law which would make the culling of timber, or of any other article of trade, compulsory; the less interference, between buyer and seller, the better for them both; and trade ought not to be hampered by any requirements which are not of unquestionable necessity. If a manufacturer has acquired, for the article which he makes, a high character, by the careful and steady assorting of it, which he has pursued during a long course of years, where would be the policy or justice of depriving him of that high character, by rendering it compulsory in him to have his manufacture culled by any particular set of men, or in other words, withdrawing it from his control in the culling and assorting of it?

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—Not being engaged in the square timber trade, I do not feel competent to answer this question.

10th.—Are you aware of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor, and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I have heard of the introduction of the ballot system, and unless the measurers were all equally honest and competent (which they are not, and are not likely to be), I would no more approve of balloting for a measurer than for a doctor.

MARCH 1st, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present:

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman;
Hon. Mr. C. Alleyn, Mr. Geo. Irvine.
Mr. Geo. Jackson,

Mr. Quinn, Supervisor, attended and gave his answers to the following questions:—

1st.—How long have you held the office of Supervisor of Cullers, and are you practically conversant with the culling and measurement of timber in this and the European markets?—Almost ten years. I am practically conversant with the culling and measuring of lumber in this market, having been actively and continuously engaged in the lumber trade during the last thirty-nine years. I have also some knowledge of the culling and measuring of lumber in the European markets, having officially visited the principal places of import and export in the United Kingdom and on the continent.

2d.—What are, in your opinion, the qualifications that should be required of a licensed culler?—I am of opinion that he should possess a knowledge of reading and writing, a thorough knowledge of arithmetic, including vulgar and decimal fractions, and the extraction of the square root; and that he should be sufficiently well skilled and practically acquainted with the lumber trade of this Province to cull and measure square, round, waney and flat timber, and masts, spars, oars, bowsprits, handspikes, deals, boards, lath-wood and staves.

3rd.—Are we then to understand that the license should only be given to those qualified to act for the four branches into which cullers are now divided?—Yes, with regard to all new applicants.

4th.—Why not, then, to those already licensed?—I think that in the case of those already holding licenses, it would be unjust to deprive them of them.

5th.—Are we then to understand, that though you consider a licensed culler should be skilled in all branches of culling, and no license in future should be granted but to such, that you would continue all the present cullers employed in the Office, though not licensed for the four branches?—I cannot answer that question regarding the employment of cullers; what I mean to say is this, that I do not want to deprive them of their license, whether employed in the office or not; my object in saying this is, that I have heard frequent complaints from the trade, that the qualifications were too low, and as there are now sufficient cullers to do the work, it is the time to raise the question of qualification: should they be efficient in all the branches, a fewer number would be able to perform the duty, as they could then execute an order in any branch.

6th.—You say the trade wish a higher standard for cullers, and therefore that all licensed cullers should be qualified for the four branches. Explain how a knowledge of oars, deals and staves would better qualify a man to cull masts or square timber?—I only consider it one man's work, and a reasonable apprenticeship will qualify him for the same.

7th.—Could a culler be well qualified to cull masts or square timber, without being at all qualified to cull deals, oars, or staves?—He might.

8th.—Have not cullers, now employed in your office, applied for licenses for more than one branch, to the Board of Examiners, of which you are a member, and been refused?—I cannot remember any particular case, but such might have occurred.

9th.—Where cullers, already commissioned, are manifestly incompetent, either from want of education, intemperate habits or otherwise, do you think they should still be continued as cullers?—I should say not.

10th.—Is it not within your knowledge that there are cullers who have been commissioned, during the past season, that are so disqualified?—I know that there are some of whom I have reason to believe have been drinking very hard; but as a body, I consider them to be as well-conducted as any other class of men. There are some men who have very poor education, and at the time they were licensed, education, as a qualification, was not required.

11th.—In the event of a remodelling of the Supervisor's Department, would you consider it desirable that all cullers, to be employed in the future, should have all the qualifications you have enumerated?—No; that it should only apply to future applicants.

12th.—Would you suggest any changes in the present mode of measuring lumber, that would enable the quantity to be more fully arrived at; and if so, particularize such changes?—The modes of measuring lumber at present in use, in the Supervisor's Office, are sufficiently correct for all practical purposes, excepting standard staves, which should be subject to the same modes of measurement as West India staves. Provision should also be made for the measuring of crown staves, and furnishing specifications thereof; with reference to waney timber, that the Order in Council should be legalized and provision made for culling timber of that description.

13th.—Are not the fractional parts omitted in measuring timber, and do you consider this fair to the seller?—Yes, so long as it is uniform and all parties carry it out.

14th.—Then you think if it was uniform to take off two or three inches in the square, it would make no difference?—Not a bit, as all these things find their level.

15th.—Do you consider it fair to the seller that the fractional parts should not be included in the measurement of square timber?—This practice has been followed for all the time that I have been acquainted with the trade, and I am of opinion that timber

measured off in the raft, is liable to barely hold out the measurement even with this allowance.

16th.—The law provides that in measuring off timber in the raft or otherwise, the full cubic contents should be given; is this done at present, or are the fractional parts allowed?—No fractional part of a foot in the length, or fractional parts of an inch in girth are taken into account.

17th.—Are you aware that in Great Britain the full contents are allowed, resulting in an advantage to the buyer, varying from seven to ten per cent?—In some ports in Great Britain, it is not uniformly the case; in some places it is; for instance the import of Canadian wood into Liverpool, during one year, would barely hold out the Quebec measurement; if anything happens between here and Liverpool, they knock it off.

18th.—Do you consider it desirable that it should be made compulsory that all lumber shipped for exportation from all ports in this Province, should be either culled, counted, or measured; and if so, state your reasons?—I do; the exemption clause in the present Act leads to much abuse; its repeal would tend to make the statistics of the trade more reliable, to prevent illegal shipments of lumber purchased from small producers, and to distribute the burthens and cost of the trade more generally. In the first four pages of my report above cited, I have more fully treated of this subject.

19th.—You are aware that large quantities have been shipped at Quebec, by the manufacturers, without having passed through the Supervisor's Office; will you state in what manner the Crown dues were collected on this lumber?—I believe the dues were paid on measurements, furnished by the shippers, and verified on oath.

20th.—Do you consider that the charges for measuring lumber are excessive, and if so, in what way would you reconstruct the scale?—I do not consider the present tariff excessive, with the exception of measuring off masts and spars. I beg to refer you to tables C and D, of my report to the Honorable Commissioner of Crown Lands, dated December 23rd, 1864.

21st.—What is the average number of days that a culler is employed during the season, and what were the highest and lowest sums respectively paid to any culler during the season?—During the season of 1864, the average number of days' work in each department was, about, as follows:—

Square timber and masts.....	32 days each culler.
Deals, boards, &c.....	120 " "
Staves.....	160 " "

The highest sum paid was seventeen hundred and twenty-seven dollars, the lowest five hundred and twenty-seven. In this latter statement I do not include the supernumeraries, and those cullers who were suspended during the year.

22nd.—What time do you consider necessary to measure off a raft of, say, one hundred and twenty thousand feet of white pine, or say fifteen hundred pieces, averaging about eighty feet, and how long to make the specification, and what would be the proportionate amount charged for each service, measuring and specification, according to present tariff?—About one day and a half with one culler and two assistants to measure. The specification would take two days, the measuring would be ninety-three dollars and seventy-five cents, and the specification forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents. Total charge, one hundred and thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

23rd.—When does the season of the employment of cullers commence, nominally as well as actually?—The first of May we generally get them to sign a book binding themselves to work all the season, that is, to the close of navigation. There is not a great deal of work before the first of June generally. The busy season is from the first of June till the first of October, the great bulk of the work being done in June, July and August.

24th.—Do you consider that the cullers were sufficiently paid for their services last season?—I would say if it was evenly divided, they were; but some received too much, and others too little. Each square timber culler is obliged to be at an expense averaging two hundred dollars.

25th.—How many cullers of square timber and masts were employed last season? What was the average amount paid to each; and what were the highest and lowest sums respectively paid to one culler of square timber?—Forty-six cullers of square timber, and

of these three are cullers of masts. The average sum paid to each was seven hundred and ninety-one dollars eighty cents. The highest sum paid was seventeen hundred and twenty-seven dollars twenty cents, and the lowest was five hundred and twenty-nine dollars.

26th.—In your opinion, are there not more cullers than the trade requires?—I think there are on the square timber list at present about forty-five, and I think that twenty would be sufficient.

27th.—Have you not stated in your report that the number of square timber cullers could be reduced from forty-five to twenty, and if the fees accruing from the work done was sufficient to pay forty-five, would it not be excessive if divided amongst twenty?—Twenty cullers would, I think, be sufficient. The original intention of the Act was to have first-class men, the best in the trade; this is not now the case, owing to the plan adopted of *shoving* in more cullers than are sufficient, thereby reducing the earnings of each respectively. First-class men can earn higher salaries from private merchants, and that is the cause of the Office being run down, so that the cullers in it are third-rate men. There are, of course, exceptions, as I only speak of them in a general way. I do not think the fees would be excessive, if divided amongst twenty first-class men.

28th.—Last year there were forty-six cullers of square timber and masts who received seven hundred and ninety-one dollars on an average, for thirty-two days' work; this would give to each, if there were but twenty, seventeen hundred and eighty-one dollars. Do you think this would be excessive or not?—I do not think this would be excessive, taking into consideration their increased expenses.

29th.—Of what would those increased expenses consist?—Being constantly employed, and having more wages to pay their boys.

30th.—How many boys does a culler employ, and does he employ them as he gets a job?—Generally two, sometimes only one, but in that case he takes the length of the timber himself. The cullers of timber are those only obliged to employ assistants.

31st.—What is this profession of a culler? Do those entering it serve for a number of years without pay, or is the profession composed of men who have acquired their knowledge working about booms for wages, and generally amongst timber?—I have never known any apprentice without being paid. Almost all the cullers are those of the latter class, who have acquired their knowledge working about booms.

32nd.—Were not the cullers' fees increased twenty-five per cent. in 1854, by an Order in Council, and was not the measurement as satisfactory before this increase as since?—Yes, I believe they were about the same.

33rd.—In your report to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, do you not recommend that fifteen per cent. of the cullers' fees should be set apart for the purpose of pensioning off a number of those whom you regard as incompetent from various causes?—I do not know that I call any of them incompetent, but I did recommend that the Governor in Council should pension off a certain number of the cullers, and fifteen per cent. of the cullers' fees should be set apart to create the fund.

34th.—Do you not think that taking the cullers as a class, eight hundred dollars a-year, clear, would be ample remuneration for them for the season?—I think it would be fair on an average, it being perhaps well to have cullers classified, some less, some more.

35th.—Are you aware that many of the cullers have other occupations, and obtain other employment during the winter season?—I am aware that some of them obtain employment in winter, being engaged up the country in the lumbering establishments. A few of them have farms; I know of fifteen or twenty. The culler is quite free in winter, and many of them make pretty well.

36th.—What is the reason that the number employed is so much in excess to the number required?—Chiefly owing to the fact of the Office being under the management of the Crown Land Department, who, in some cases, appoint cullers when not required.

37th.—Has it been the custom with the Crown Land Department to appoint new cullers without first obtaining information from you as to whether they were required or not?—Yes.

38th.—State the cases in which cullers have been appointed without your recommendation?—I cannot now remember all the cases, and to detail them would necessitate the

reading of ten years' correspondence of my office; but a few notable cases were those of Robert Russel, Jean Bornais, George Donaghue and G. Philbert, John Miller, George Miller and Michael Kelly; the latter four were appointed during my absence in Europe.

39th.—Do you consider it advisable to allow parties to select their own cullers, provided such cullers were duly licensed, and compelled to make their returns to your Office, whence the specifications should issue? If not, point out your objections to it?—At present all cullers are duly licensed. I do not consider it proper that either buyer or seller should have the selection of the culler. That system existed formerly, and led to such abuses and collusion between the culler and those employing him, that specifications, based upon the measurements of duly licensed cullers, fell into disrepute. The system was abolished at the desire and after much complaint on the part of the manufacturers. The culler should be kept independent of both buyer and seller. If the culler knows that getting employment depends on the favor in which he is held by the parties putting in requisitions, or requiring his services, there is every reason to fear that the old abuses and accusations of partiality will revive.

40th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Supervisor's Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, state your reasons?—I believe that the general sentiment of the trade favors its being disconnected from the Department, and I coincide therein, provided the change be accompanied with the legislative amendments and enactments, or their equivalents, recommended in my report to the Crown Land Department.

41st.—Have you changed the system of selection of cullers by substitution of ballot to the rotation system? If so, when?—During last September a system of ballot was adopted to regulate the rotation of the cullers attached to my office.

42nd.—What were your reasons for so doing?—To regulate the rotation of the cullers, with a view to the better equalization of their earnings.

43rd.—State under what authority you have so changed?—I made the change under the authority of the Honorable Commissioner of Crown Lands.

44th.—If the said authority is in writing, produce it.—I herewith submit a copy of an official report of mine, dated August 9th, 1864, having endorsed thereon instructions from the Honorable Commissioner of Crown Lands, dated 14th September of the same year, and having also endorsed thereon memorandums relating thereto, signed by Mr. A. Russell, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. P. M. Partridge, both dated August the fifteenth.

45th.—Produce all the papers on the subject, and any report you have made thereon.—The papers on this subject are the report I have just handed in, and my general report to the Department, of December twenty-third, 1864, already in the hands of the Committee.

46th.—Has the rotation system really had the practical effect of preventing parties requiring cullers from selecting those of their own choice?—Not previous to last September, when, under the sanction of the Crown Land Department, a mode of regulating the rotation was adopted, which put an end to the evasions of the law that were previously practised.

47th.—How long had the evasion of the law, under the violation system, existed previous to September last, to your knowledge?—I had no proof of it, but had a suspicion of its existence from the beginning.

48th.—When did you first obtain proof, and if so, in how many cases?—I cannot say positively.

49th.—Can you mention a case?—Yes, during last season, previous to September, a merchant complained to me of cullers pestering him for his rafts.

50th.—Have you heard dissatisfaction expressed with the system of rotation, and what was the nature of the complaint?—I have heard general complaints for different reasons; some complained of not getting their favorite culler, and others complained of collusion between cullers and parties requiring their services, and from cullers who did not make it a practice of canvassing for rafts.

51st.—Would the system of ballot in your opinion remedy the dissatisfaction of those who complain of being compelled to accept the services of incompetent cullers; or, on the contrary, increase it?—In my opinion, if there are such persons, the ballot would not remedy the evil.

52nd.—Does statement F, attached to your report to the Commissioner of Crown

Lands, of 23rd December, 1864, show the whole staff connected with your Office?—These are all that are engaged by the season or the year. We employ extra clerks in addition, during the press of business, to make specifications, paying them from twenty-five shillings to twenty-seven shillings and six-pence per thousand, and we find this the cheapest way of getting the work done.

53rd.—Are the duties of your staff continuous?—No, not altogether. During the month of May business is slack, and generally in October and November there are only the Deputy Supervisor, the book-keeper, the cashier, and one extra hand employed for the winter, until the employment of Mr. Carey.

54th.—Would it not, in your opinion, be the most economical mode of getting the work done, to adopt this system altogether with respect to specifications?—We require a certain number to keep the work in order.

55th.—Do you think that the present number could be reduced?—I certainly would not be for increasing them.

56th.—It is in your evidence that a greater number of cullers than is required have been forced upon your department, through political and other influences? Is not this equally true with regard to the permanent staff of the Office, or have assistants been given you only as you asked for them?—I do not think that there was more than one placed on the staff without my asking. I have asked for another clerk since.

57th.—The last appointment, that of Daniel Carey, bears date 1st of October, 1864; did you ask his appointment; what are his duties, and what was its necessity at the close of the season, when the business of the year had ended?—I asked for the appointment of a clerk possessing more than the ordinary abilities of a specification clerk, to be a general clerk to assist in correspondence and making up statements, and the general business of the Office. Those are his duties. I asked for it, I think, in August.

58th.—At the time you already had a staff of eleven permanent clerks; is it possible that none of them could discharge the duties spoken of?—I daresay they could. The regular staff all have their own duties allotted them, and I found such a person was necessary.

59th.—Who performed the duties of correspondence and statements previous to Mr. Carey's appointment?—Mr. Fraser assisted me with the correspondence, but it seemed to me he appeared to think his own duties as book-keeper enough.

60th.—Are there not several months in the year that Mr. Fraser has little to do, and was he, in your opinion, overworked at the time he assisted you, or did he ever complain of having too much to do?—There are several months in the year that he has little to do. I thought he was overworked in some instances. He often complained that he had more than his own duties to perform.

61st.—Have you ever heard that Mr. Fraser offered the Commissioner, some time since, that if his salary was increased he would perform the duties of book-keeper, deputy-supervisor and cashier, and could not, in your opinion, one thorough business man do so?—Never, until this morning. I think it would be too much for one man, nor do I think it would be right to do so. Perhaps one might be dispensed with, not two.

62nd.—You have recommended a still further increase of the salaries of your staff?—I have.

63rd.—During the last two years the contingencies are set down at ten thousand dollars, of what do they consist?—House rent, fuel, stationery, and other items, of which I will furnish details, if required.

64th.—In your return the expenses of your office, including staff and contingencies, with the Montreal branch for the two last years, exceed an average of two hundred thousand dollars; is not this, in your opinion, susceptible of a large reduction?—I do not think it susceptible of any reduction.

65th.—Look at the account of F. Delaire for measuring the raft of Messrs. McLaren & Co., amounting to two hundred and fifteen dollars ninety cents, and the note at the foot saying that he got the order at six in the evening and was back from Cap Rouge at nine the next morning, having performed the measurement, and give your opinion as to the charge, at the same time informing us whether Mr. F. Delaire can read and write?—I consider it was a mistake in the act, and that the charges for masts and spars were intended for culling them. I think if he can write, it must be very imperfectly.

66th.—Look at the account of Mr. A. Dorval, for measuring the raft of Mr. Walton Smith, amounting to one hundred and twenty-seven dollars forty cents, and the latter's evidence shewing that the culler was only two hours' employed, and give your opinion as to the charge?—I consider the tariff for measuring off masts and spars too high.

MARCH 3rd, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman ;	
Mr. Wright (Ottawa County),	Hon. Mr. C. Alleyn,
Mr. D. F. Jones (South Leeds),	Mr. Geo. Irvine.
Mr. J. W. Dunsford,	

Mr. Fraser was called in and examined :—

1st.—How long have you been employed in the Supervisor of Cullers' Office, and in what capacity?—Since 1844, with the exception of 1848 and 1849; the then Supervisor, Mr. Sharples, reduced the establishment that year, with an understanding that I should return when the business warranted. I was then specification clerk. In 1852 I became book-keeper.

2nd.—What additions have been made to the permanent staff of officers in the Supervisor's Office last season?—Three; two specification clerks, Eugène Blondeau and Neil Stewart, and one general clerk, Daniel Carey.

3rd.—Was there a necessity for these appointments, and for which of them?—In my opinion the work would have been done cheaper by the employment of supernumeraries, who are temporary, than by the employment of the specification clerks. There was certainly no necessity for the employment of the general clerk, if he has nothing more to do than he has done since his employment, unless it could be shown that I was incompetent to do the duty which I had hitherto performed.

4th.—Were you quite willing and able to continue to do this work, or did you consider it a hardship from already having too much to do?—I was quite willing to do it, and never in any way objected.

5th.—Did you at one time offer to perform the duties of Deputy Supervisor, and Deputy Collector of Crown Dues on timber, provided you got a salary commensurate with the work?—The question was asked me if I was competent to the discharge of the duties, and I said I would undertake them provided the salary was a fair one.

6th.—What mode would you advise, as the most economical, of getting the work of the office done?—I would keep a superintendent of supernumerary clerks, and with the exception of eight permanent clerks, I would employ supernumeraries for the specification work. I think this would effect a decided saving. We have always found that this was the cheapest way of doing the work.

7th.—Do you think a reduction of the permanent staff of the Supervisor's Office could be effected consistently with its efficiency?—I think that three permanent clerks could do the whole work of the office satisfactorily, excepting of course the specification clerks. In fact, in the busy season, I have frequently done the whole of the work myself. For several years the policy of the office was not to fill up vacancies, until latterly new clerks have been introduced.

MARCH 7th, 1865.

The Committee met.

Present :

W. F. Powell, Esq., Chairman :	
Mr. A. Wright (Ottawa County),	Mr. F. Jones (North Leeds),
Mr. J. M. Currier,	Mr. P. G. Huot,
Mr. D. F. Jones (South Leeds),	Mr. A. McKellar,
Hon. Mr. C. Alleyn,	Mr. Geo. Jackson.
Mr. J. W. Dunsford,	

Mr. John Gilmour laid before the Committee his answers to the written questions submitted to him.

1st.—Are you connected with the lumber trade, and with what particular branch?—I am, as a manufacturer, shipper and dealer therein at Quebec.

2nd.—Are you acquainted with the existing system of measuring and culling lumber, and do you consider it satisfactory? If not, in what respect is it unsatisfactory?—I am, and do not consider it satisfactory in some respects, particularly in the case of rectifying erroneous culling and measurements, and determining disputes respecting the same. The objection to the present system being that one or more of the cullers themselves are the parties employed to decide upon the work of their associates being properly or improperly performed.

3rd.—What changes would you suggest in the system?—The changes which I would suggest are, that three competent men, who should be debarred from dealing in or being in any way interested in the buying or selling of lumber, should be appointed to act as surveyors in all cases of dispute respecting the measurement and culling of timber, deals, or other lumber, and who should also form the Board of Examiners, and grant certificates to those found properly qualified to perform the duties of cullers. Of the three men, whom I am of opinion should be appointed to perform the services now pointed out, one should be named by the Government, and one each by the Boards of Trade of Quebec and Ottawa, who should be paid an annual salary, and not be employed in the measurement and culling of timber, &c., except when required to determine cases of dispute; and to save expenses as much as possible, the Supervisor of Cullers might, *ex-officio*, act as the surveyor to be named by the Government.

4th.—Do you consider it desirable that the Cullers' Office should continue to be under the management of the Crown Land Department; and if not, for what reason?—I do not; but on the contrary, am of opinion that the Cullers' Office should be conducted under the Supervisor's management, in the same manner as the inspection of ashes, flour, beef and pork, or other commodities, where the law properly leaves the control chiefly with the Boards of Trade. In the matter of lumber, when Government duties are payable upon the measurement determined by the cullers, it is doubtless necessary that this should be done in such a manner as would effectually protect the Government against fraudulent measurements, and when this is accomplished, no good reason remains for the Cullers' Office being placed under the management of any department of the Government; all other consideration resting on the grounds of affording the necessary and proper facilities required by the trade, and at the least possible cost consistent with efficiency. And when the Supervisor is appointed by the Government, acting under his oath of office, and gives security for the proper performance of his duties, and the cullers likewise are commissioned by Government, and are also sworn in and required to give security for the proper and faithful performance of their duties, it would seem that all requisite provisions were made to protect the revenue. It may be supposed that collusion between the culler, buyer and seller of lumber to defraud the Government might take place, but this evidently would be difficult, if not impossible, requiring, as it would, all the three to be parties thereto, and still there would remain the difficulty of buyer and seller settling for the lumber upon a known erroneous specification. The risk of fraudulent measurement must therefore be considered as reduced to the minimum, if not entirely guarded against. Objections to the Cullers' Office being placed under any department of the Government are also urged, on the ground that political influence may be used in the appointment of the officials, and many more of those be retained than is requisite properly to perform the duties required, and thus occasion an unnecessary tax on the trade in the shape of higher charges than should be paid for the measurement and culling of lumber.

5th.—Have you had occasion in your experience to require surveys upon the culler's measurement, and with what result?—I have frequently had such occasion, and generally, though not in all cases, succeeded in having the erroneous measurements corrected; and I would here remark, that in those cases where any culler's measurement or culling has been found erroneous to any unjustifiable extent, that he should be suspended for one or two months or longer, at the discretion of the Board of Surveyors.

6th.—Is the present system of rotation practically carried out, or is it generally evaded, and how?—I have understood that the system of rotation required by law for the

employment of cullers has not been adhered to during the past season, but how this has been I cannot speak from my own knowledge.

7th.—If the right of selecting a culler is given to the party requiring his services, would it not give the culler an interest in favoring his employer; or, what sufficient safeguard would exist for the buyer?—I am of opinion that the right of selecting a culler would naturally predispose him to favor his employer, and believe the rotation system to be the safest if strictly adhered to. In cases where the buyer and seller agree as to the selection of a culler, such selection might with advantage be allowed, as it would, in most instances, prevent any dispute as to the correctness of such culling or measurement.

8th.—Do you approve of the principle of the law which makes the measuring and culling of timber through the Supervisor's Office compulsory; and, state your reasons for your answer?—I am of opinion that except in the case of the *bona fide* manufacturer and shipper, the measurement of all timber through the Supervisor's Office should be compulsory, though not the culling thereof, except when required by the owner previous to its sale, or by the buyer and seller at time of sale, the public having no interest in enforcing culling not demanded by the trade.

9th.—Do you consider the charges for measuring timber excessive?—I am of opinion that the charges for measuring timber are much higher than necessary, caused principally from a greater number of cullers being retained than is necessary properly to perform the work they have to do, as it is well known that one-half, or at most, two-thirds of the present number are amply sufficient for the purpose, so that the present charges for measuring and culling might easily be reduced by one-third, were no more cullers retained than are found necessary properly to perform the work required of them, while the maintenance of any greater number becomes a tax unnecessarily and unjustly imposed upon the trade, of which those engaged therein have just reason to complain.

10th.—Are you aware of the introduction of the ballot system having been introduced by the Supervisor and what is your opinion of its adoption?—I have been informed that the ballot system has been introduced by the Supervisor in allotting the work for the cullers to perform, but do not approve of it, believing, as I have already stated, that the rotation system is the best, except when buyer and seller agree as to the selection of a culler.

JOHN GILMOUR.

Quebec, 7th March, 1865.

The Chairman laid before the Committee his Report, and the same having been read, it was resolved, on motion of Mr. McKellar, seconded by Mr. Currier, that the same be adopted and reported to the House.—Carried.

The Committee on the Lumber Bills beg to submit to the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade the following alterations and suggestions to the Bill of Mr. Powell's, and to cap. 46 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada:—

Sections 6 and 7 to be repealed.

Section 8 of the said Act to be repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

“When required by the Supervisor, the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade, and the Ottawa Board of Lumber Manufacturers, shall each respectively elect three persons practically acquainted with the lumber trade, and the Supervisor shall, by an instrument under his hand and seal, appoint three licensed cullers, which said persons so elected by the Quebec Board of Trade, and the Board of Lumber Manufacturers, and the three said cullers appointed by the Supervisor, shall constitute a Board of Examiners, of which Board the Supervisor shall, *ex-officio*, be a member and chairman; and as often as vacancies occur in the said Board by death or otherwise, such vacancies shall be filled by election in the case of any of those appointed by the Quebec Board of Trade, or Ottawa Board of Lumber Manufacturers, and by new appointment in the case of cullers forming part of the said Board of Examiners.

Section 12—After the word “square” insert “round, waney, and flat.”

Section 14 to be altered as follows:—“Before receiving a license, such applicant shall himself, with two sufficient sureties, enter into a bond to Her Majesty, in the penal sum of four hundred dollars each for the faithful discharge of his duties, and such bond shall enure to the benefit of the Supervisor of Cullers, who shall indemnify all parties for the

misfeasance, malefeasance or nonfeasance of such culler to the amount of such loss, provided the same does not exceed the amount of the bond."

Sections 17 and 18, 1st paragraph—Strike out all the words after "office hours." 2nd. paragraph of section 17, and the whole of section 18 to be repealed, and the following to be substituted therefor:—"Any party requiring the services of a culler or cullers, shall have the right to select such licensed culler as he may think proper to measure such lumber, and for that purpose shall address a requisition to the Supervisor, and the Supervisor may dictate the number of men required to be employed under the direction of the culler so employed, for the expeditious culling of timber, masts, spars, deals, staves or other descriptions of lumber, so as to avoid unnecessary delay; and if such assistance be refused, the Supervisor or culler may employ the number required at the expense of the parties concerned. The Supervisor shall keep a record in his office of the several requisitions for the measuring or culling each description of lumber, and of the time at which such requisitions are made, and shall keep, in a conspicuous place in his office, a true and correct register of all the cullers in the service of his department, distinguishing between those employed and unemployed; and the Supervisor shall, when required, send the culler specified in each requisition to do the measuring, culling or counting therein required, in any place within the Harbor of Quebec, within twelve business hours after such culler shall be on the unemployed list, and if there should be more than one requisition for the same culler, then he shall be first sent to the party who has made the first application, provided always that the Supervisor may recall every such culler at any time, if he deems it necessary."

Section 20—Strike out the words "may withhold such specification from the parties interested therein."

Section 22, and 1st clause or paragraph—After the word "contents" insert "when timber is bruised, split or broken at the end or ends where holes have been bored, the length shall be taken from such place as shall allow for making a square butt or top as the case may be, after cutting off the part spoilt, bruised, broken, or bored."

Section 24, add the following clause,—“All square timber shall be measured with the rod above mentioned, and all waney or round timber with a string round the circumference, one-fourth of which shall be taken as the side of the square.”

Section 25, 5th paragraph—After "red pine" insert "tamarack."

6th paragraph—After "basswood" insert "walnut."

22nd paragraph—For "head-staves" read "hart-staves."

24th paragraph—After the word "of," in the seventh line, strike out the remainder of the paragraph and insert as follows:—"All staves, at the shortest, narrowest and thinnest part of such stave where it does not exceed the standard length, breadth and thickness above provided for."

27th paragraph—"Elm and red pine to be considered merchantable if nine inches square instead of ten."

31st paragraph—After "birch" insert "black walnut."

Section 28—After the word "Supervisor" in the seventh line, page 580, insert "which three persons shall be independent, and not be employed by or under the control of the Supervisor of Cullers."

2nd paragraph—Instead of "two days" say "four," and after "on" in the fourth line, read "and after the 20th November, for transactions of the current year, and no survey shall be held on the culling or measuring of any lumber, the same having been culled or measured between 20th November and 1st May."

Section 31st to be repealed, and the following substituted:—"The tariff of fees to be regulated by the Board of Trade of Quebec and the Ottawa Board of Lumber Manufacturers."

Section 38—After "culler" in first line, insert "connected with the Supervisor's Office."

With regard to section 46, the Committee do not agree, and suggest that this clause be considered by the Council.

(Signed,)

T. H. DUNN,
Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Garneau, That the Report be adopted as far as has been read.—Carried.

The recommendation to consider clause 46 was then taken up.

Moved by Mr. Dean, seconded by Mr. Garneau, That as the General Quarterly Meeting of the Board is so near at hand, and as the Lumber Act, especially the 46th clause, is of such great importance to the trade, the further consideration of the Act be postponed until the Quarterly Meeting, Wednesday next.

Moved in amendment by Mr. Tomson, seconded by Mr. Scott, that in the opinion of the Council, no alteration be made in clause 46 of the Act.—Lost.

