

Public Accounts Committee Reports Presented By The Committee

Excerpt from Reports of the Public Accounts Committee: Part II, Session 1907-8 At Frankford arsenal I saw those machines at work, on Q. F. Cases, and the commanding Officer informed me that they had ordered a number for shell work, being entirely satisfied with results obtained. I have seen one man Operate three machines, but assuming that only two machines are run, it would require two men to run the four machines tendered for, and producing 50 shells per day. The wages would cost per man, or \$3 per day. We are at present employing seven lads to perform equivalent operations, at a cost of per 100 shells (piece-work), and would there fore save per 100, or on total order for shells. The manufacturers are prepared to guarantee that these machines will produce work in time Specified in tender and equal in accuracy to our specification. Purchase of these machines is recommended. This firm is not on Official list of patronage, but I understand that Mr. L. S. Macoun, Central Chambers, Ottawa (name on list), is in a position to handle this business, and it is suggested that the order be given through his agency. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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Scrutinizing Public Expenditures
Assessing the Performance of Public Accounts Committees

In 2002, David McGee wrote a comprehensive report on two important elements in the system of public financial accountability, namely the office of the Auditor General and the parliamentary oversight committee commonly referred to as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The purpose of the present paper is to deepen McGee's analysis of PACs. In particular, the authors define PAC success and identify those factors that affect PAC performance. They use data that were collected by the World Bank Institute in 2002, when a survey questionnaire was sent to 51 national and state/provincial parliaments in Commonwealth countries in Asia and Australasia, and Canada and the United Kingdom. The authors find that the institutional factors which most account for the success of the PACs are the focus on government's financial activity rather than its policies, the power to investigate all past and present government expenses, the power to follow up on government action in response to its recommendations, and its relationship with the Auditors General.

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