New Westminster 17th April 1865

Sir

Your communication of the 25th ult. only reached me this this morning, I now take leave to state for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the Vessel which I propose to employ to carry out a Mail Contract service with the Post between New Westminster and San Francisco twice a month would be about 500 tons and the average speed not less than 9 knots per hour; she would in fact be a 10½ or 11 knot boat on her trial trip; but from the frequent fogs and strong gales of this coast it would not be safe to state a greater average speed than 9 knots.

The ship would have accommodation for 40 to 50 first class and about 200 second class passengers and would carry 300 tons of cargo; as the subsidy named £1200 per annum would not alone pay the Steamer it would much assist the owners if they could be allowed to stay 3 hours to land passengers at Victoria on the way up and to call there on the return voyage.

If the steamer has to be built she could not be placed on the line under 15 months, but I have no doubt that a Vessel already built in all respects suitable for this service could be got in that case she could be here ready to commence work in about ten months from date of executing the contract.

At any time when from fogs bad weather, Ice or other causes the Steamer could not enter the Fraser River she should be permitted to land mails at Burrards Inlet.

In my negotiations with Her Majesty's Government in the year 1859 I engaged to have two ships of 800 tons and 9 knots average speed for which I was

to have ~~had~~ received £20,000 per annum, the contract was for 7 years. the service was to have been two voyages per month between San Francisco Victoria & Langley new wharfments not then having been selected I was also allowed to land the mails at the nearest convenient place at any time the steamer could not enter the Fraser River

The correspondence with the govt is still in my possession and at your service if you would like to see it.

I am &c

1865 (mail Contract)

E. Stamp
New Westminster
April 17th

Hon. A. N. Birch
Colonial Secy N.W.
17th May 1865.