PAPERS

Relating to the non-fulfilment by Canada of the Railway Clause of the Terms of Union.

By Command.
A. C. ELLIOTT,
Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
7th February, 1878.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor on the 8th day of November, 1877.

The Committee of Council having had under consideration the subject of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, report—

That the year having nearly elapsed, which was represented by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies as being required by the Dominion Government to enable it to determine the route and terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, it is highly desirable that the Government of this Province should be advised at the earliest period possible of the result of the year's surveys, in order that they may be in a position to convene the Legislature at an early date, and lay before it definite information with reference to the intention of the Dominion Government to carry out its Railway obligations to this Province, under the terms of the settlement recommended in 1874 by the Earl of Carnarvon, and agreed to by the Dominion Government as well as that of this Province.

That having complied with the request of Lord Carnarvon to grant the delay he thought necessary, as represented in his despatches of dates the 18th December, 1876, and 18th January, 1877, respectively, the people of British Columbia now feel that His Lordship will be careful to discountenance any further unnecessary delay in the commencement of Railway construction within the Province; and they confidently expect that on or before the expiration of the year His Lordship will be able to give the Government an assurance that actual construction will be begun as soon as tenders can be received and contracts awarded; and that work thereon be prosecuted thereafter in a manner that will ensure the ultimate completion of the undertaking within such reasonable period as the interests of the Empire, the Dominion, and the Province alike demand.

The Committee advise that the Report be approved, and that copies be forwarded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Secretary of State for the Dominion of Canada.

Certified,
(Signed) WM. SMITHE,
Minister of Finance and Clerk Executive Council.

The Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor.

OTTAWA, 29th December, 1877.

SIR,—With reference to your despatch of the 9th ultimo, and the accompanying Minute of your Executive Council of the 8th of that month, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for the information of your Government, a copy of an Order of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the subject of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) R. W. SCOTT.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the 24th day of December, 1877.

The Committee have had under consideration the despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia of the 9th of November, 1877, enclosing copy of a Minute of his Executive Council of the 8th of that month, which had been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the construction of the Canada Pacific Railway.

The Honourable the Minister of Public Works, to whom the above despatch and enclosure were referred, observes that the Minute in question calls the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the delay the Earl of Carnarvon thought necessary in commencing the construction of the Pacific Railway, in his despatches of December 18th, 1876, and January 18th, 1877, and states that the British Columbia Government are anxious to obtain a knowledge of the result of the year's surveys as early as possible, in order that they may be in a position to convene the Local Legislature at an early date, and lay before it "definite information as to the intentions of the Dominion "Government to carry out its railway obligations."

The Minister reports that the delay deemed necessary before advertising for tenders was consequent upon the manifest necessity of making a careful instrumental survey of the Fraser Valley route, upon which an exploratory survey only had been made in previous years.

That as early as the season permitted, a large staff of engineers was sent to perform this work under the immediate charge of Mr Cambie.

That the field work was finished about the beginning of November, and in the course of that month the engineers returned to Ottawa, where they are now engaged in plotting the results of the season's operations.

That it will take some time yet to accomplish this, and to report in such detail as will enable the Government to come to a decision as to the value of the route. That it is impossible to venture upon any decided opinion in advance of the complete report, maps, and profiles of the road, which are now in course of preparation.

That the Government also took necessary steps to obtain accurate information regarding the possibility of a route to the ocean at Port Essington, at the mouth of the Skeena River; as well as to ascertain the feasibility of a better pass through the Rocky Mountains in the vicinity of Pine River. That the information on both these points will be embraced in the report of the Engineer, and will include the reports of the Naval Officers upon the harbour at the mouth of the Skeena.

That, so far as can be seen at present, there would appear to be no necessity for any further explorations in British Columbia with the view of the determination of the best route from the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the sea.

That the conclusion reached will be duly communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Committee concur in the foregoing report, and advise that a copy of this Minute be transmitted to Lord Carnarvon and to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Certified,

(Signed) W. A. HIMSWORTH,
Clerk Privy Council.