RETURN

To an Order of the House for copies of all correspondence between James Robertson, Road Superintendent, or any other person in the Lillooet District, and the Government, or any member thereof, in regard to the Government Agent taking over the third horse and cart for the use of the district road party in the year 1884.

JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
19th January, 1885.

F. Soues to the Surveyor-General.

GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
Clinton, March 4th, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to make the following suggestions, and apply to you for authority to act in the matter.

From the nature of the work required on the district roads in the neighborhood of Alkali Lake, I would suggest that *one* of the *three* horse and carts be taken from the main trunk road for a short time, and given to the district road superintendent, Mr. Allen. With the district road horse he would then have a team which he can use for ploughing a large extent of the road to be constructed in that neighborhood, and of course with the aid of a plough can be done at a much less cost than man labor, besides the saving in time, which is a matter of importance there, the ground sun-drying and baking hard, early in the season.

I have also to suggest that you instruct me in reference to the work to be done on sections 3 and 4, main trunk road. Operations should commence at as early a date as the season will permit.

I have had the district and main trunk roads attended to carefully, while the snow was melting, and up to date have to report them all in thorough repair.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. SOUES.

The Surveyor-General to F. Soues.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Victoria, March 20th, 1884.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I have the honor to state that you are fully authorized to carry out your suggestion with reference to district road work, and to proceed as may appear most advantageous.

Work upon sections 3 and 4, trunk road, may commence as soon as the season is sufficiently far advanced, or as occasion may require, but the work must be carried on with as small an expenditure as is compatible with necessary efficiency.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

The Surveyor-General to F. Soues.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Victoria, June 2nd, 1884.

SIR,—Representations have been made that work upon the trunk road has been much

impeded for want of the horse which was taken away from sections 3 and 4 for the use of Mr. Allen's party.

Feeling assured that you would exercise your discretion judiciously in such matters, I am convinced that some misapprehension has arisen with respect to the trunk road work having suffered on this account, and beg you will kindly report fully on the matter.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works to F. Soues.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Victoria, June 14th, 1884.

SIR,—It has been represented to this Department that work upon the main road is suffering on account of a horse having been taken away from that road to the river road; and further, that the horse is not required on said road.

You will enquire into this matter, and if you find that another horse is required on the main road have the one taken to the river road returned if it is not needed where it is.

If it cannot properly be spared from that work, however, let another horse be procured to meet the necessities of the main road work.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. SMITHE,
Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works.

F. Soues to the Surveyor-General.

GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
Clinton, June 17th, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, informing me that representations have been made that work on the main trunk road has been much impeded for want of the horse which was taken from sections 3 and 4, main trunk road, for the use of Mr. Allen's district road party.

In reply, I beg to say that this is the first intimation that I have had of such being the case; and further, I may say that I am yet unaware that the trunk road has suffered from want of the horse referred to. The total absence of rain this year, so far, following a light snow fall, last year also very dry, has the effect of keeping these two sections (3 and 4), with the light traffic over them so far, in first-class order; and I beg to say most distinctly that I have not had one word of complaint as to the state of the road this season.

Departmental instructions to me last March were to the effect that "work must be carried on with as small an expenditure as is compatible with necessary efficiency." These instructions I read to Superintendent Robertson. In June last year instructions reached me to reduce expenditure on the main trunk road as much as possible. For the remainder of the season Mr. Robertson used a third horse as a saddle horse, and the cart stood exposed to the elements from *June*, until I got the Government store house finished in *November*. Mr. Robertson worked a party of seven men last year from June to close of season; this season, so far, nine men, two horses and carts.

The horse and cart was taken from the trunk road this year for the district road party, for a specific purpose, viz., to aid in the construction (by ploughing) of a piece of new road near Alkali Lake. On the road party proceeding out in that direction, it was found that repeated complaints as to the state of the road between Haller's and Canoe Creek were correct, viz., that it was impassable, and to have passed this over and gone on to the far end of the district to construct a piece of new road would have been a most unwise proceeding.

I therefore gave Mr. Allen instructions to make good and passable as he went along. That part of the road is finished, and I presume at this date the party should be well on their way to Alkali Lake. Mr. Allen is working a party of ten men, and it is absolutely necessary that he should have two carts and horses for the purpose of moving the camps and tools of that number of men.

If the main trunk road is at all likely to suffer for want of the third horse and cart, I will

have them returned at once, and Mr. Allen will, for a time, be compelled to hire horses and waggons (a very expensive as well as unsatisfactory plan) for moving camps, &c.

The general welfare would be vastly improved at present, if the trunk road did get into bad order from the effect of a week or two of rainy weather, but from all appearances I am afraid there is no such benefit to be looked for. Twenty-four hours' rain would be positive benefit to the road, especially on section 3, at present.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. SOUES,
Government Agent.

F Soues to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
Clinton, June 24th, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, in reference to the main trunk road, and in reply I beg to say that I have reported fully on the subject to Mr. Gore, Surveyor-General, by this mail.

My reply to Mr. Gore is in answer to a letter from him dated June 2nd. The subject-matter of his letter is the same as contained in your letter of the 14th instant, received to-night.

I should have replied to Mr. Gore on the 11th instant, but the extra duties falling upon me at present, consequent on the sessions of both Supreme and County Courts here, have compelled me to neglect official letters, that would otherwise have been promptly replied to. For instance, I have letters to-night from the Provincial Secretary's Department, that I would certainly have replied to by the mail leaving here at 3 A.M., but County Court only closed a few minutes ago, and it is now nearly midnight, and the P. O. Department will not wait after midnight for me.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. SOUES,
Government Agent.

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