
DESPATCH

From the Dominion Government relating to the Reservation of Railway Lands,
received in July, 1876, not hitherto published.

By Command,

T. B. HUMPHREYS,
Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
February 4th, 1879.*

No. 47. (COPY.)

W. S. Boyle, P. S.

The Lieutenant-Governor to the Secretary of State for Canada.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Victoria, B.C., 4th July, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to state that I have this day received and laid before my Executive Council your Despatch of the 13th ultimo, and the copy therewith transmitted, of an Order of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and of the Memorandum of the Honourable Minister of Public Works therein referred to, in relation to a conveyance from this Government to that of the Dominion of a tract of land twenty miles in width on each side of the portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway Line surveyed and located in this Province.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) J. W. TRUTCH.

The Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor.

[Copy sent to Executive Council, 4th July.—(Signed,) J. W. T.]

No. 44. (COPY.)

W. S. Boyle, P.S.

OTTAWA, 13th June, 1876.
Received 4th July, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for the consideration of your Government, a Copy of an Order of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and of the Memorandum of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, therein referred to, representing the expediency of obtaining from the Government of British Columbia a conveyance of land twenty miles in width on each side of the portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway Line surveyed and located in that Province.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the 9th June, 1876.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration the Memorandum from the Honourable Mr. Mackenzie, submitting the expediency of obtaining from the Government of British Columbia a conveyance of land twenty (20) miles in width on each side of the portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway Line surveyed and located in that Province, and they respectfully submit their concurrence therein, and advise that a copy thereof, and of this Minute, be transmitted to the Government of British Columbia.

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

OTTAWA, 7th June, 1876.

The undersigned has the honour to report:—

That, under the terms by which British Columbia entered the Dominion of Canada, the Government of that Province agreed to convey to the Dominion Government, in trust, to be appropriated in such manner as the Dominion Government may deem advisable, in furtherance of the construction of what is known as the Canadian Pacific Railway, a similar extent of public lands along the line of Railway throughout its entire length in British Columbia, (not to exceed, however, twenty miles on each side of said line,) as may be appropriated for the same purpose by the Dominion Government from the public lands of the North-West Territories and the Province of Manitoba.

That the Government of Canada have, already, by Orders in Council, withdrawn from sale or settlement all lands in the Province of Manitoba within twenty miles on each side of the Railway line surveyed, and also for a district twenty miles to the westward of Fort Pelly, in the North-West Territories, and further extending from a point twenty miles westerly of Fort Pelly to a point twenty miles westerly of the mouth of Battle River, and further for twenty miles on each side of the Railway from a point twenty miles westerly of the Battle River to Jasper House, in the Yellow Head Pass, through the Rocky Mountains.

That the line of Railway has been defined and located through part of the Province of British Columbia, and that it is desirable, with the view of enabling the Government of Canada to proceed with the construction of the Railway, that the lands along such line of Railway, and for twenty miles on each side of the line, may be conveyed to the Dominion Government in accordance with the 11th paragraph of the Terms of Union.

The description of the line so located, to which reference is above made, is as follows: Commencing at a point on the eastern boundary of British Columbia, in the Yellow Head Pass, through the Rocky Mountains, the line follows down the Valley of the River Fraser to Grand Rapids, a distance of about 185 miles; thence westerly, turning the north end of the Cariboo Range and cutting off the great bend of the Fraser, it crosses the latter near the mouth of Willow River; thence south-westerly to a point near the confluence of the Rivers Stewart and Chilacoh.

The undersigned further recommends that communication be had to this effect with the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, requesting that the lands along the line of Railway, as herein described, and for twenty miles on each side of the said line, be forthwith conveyed to the Dominion Government, and that it be represented that an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, appropriating this tract of land, will at present suffice as a sufficient conveyance of the same, but that it is further suggested that an Act be passed by the Legislature of British Columbia conveying and vesting such appropriation in Her Majesty, for the purposes of the Government of Canada, and to be appropriated in such manner as the said Dominion Government may deem advisable in furtherance of the construction of the said Railway.

He further recommends that in order to give due information to the public, and to prevent squatters or the pre-emption of any portion of the land so conveyed, the Lieutenant-Governor should be invited to give public notice of the passing of such Order in Council, and of the conveyance of the said lands as herein mentioned and herein comprised.

(Signed)

A. MACKENZIE.