FURTHER PAPERS

Relating to the Island Railway, the Graving Dock, and Railway Lands.

By Command.
JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

The Hon. J. W. Trutch, C.M.G., to the Hon. G. A. Walkem.

Victoria, B. C., 5th May, 1880.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, covering a copy of an Order in Council of the same date, expressing the views of the Government of British Columbia in relation to the application of the Dominion Government, conveyed in my letter to you of the 14th ultimo, for the conveyance by Act of the Legislature of the Lands provided under the "Terms and Conditions of Union" to be transferred by the Province of British Columbia to the Dominion in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and more particularly preferring the request that the right be conceded to the Dominion, and included in the provisions of such Act, to obtain Lands outside of the forty mile belt in lieu of worthless tracts of country within that limit, as also to supply the deficieney caused by the International Boundary on the Mainland, and the Coast Line on Vancouver Island respectively falling within the Railway Belt.

A copy of your letter, and the accompanying Order in Council, shall be immediately forwarded to the Right Honourable the Minister of the Interior.

The views of the Government of British Columbia expressed in that Order in Council appear to me to intimate plainly the definite refusal of the Provincial Government to concede, for the present at least, the special requests preferred by me on behalf of the Dominion Government. If this is the conclusion of the Provincial Government, I can only deeply regret it. It would be unavailing, however, for me now to comment at any length on the conditions which, and especially the fourth condition stated in the Order in Council, appear to be stipulated for by the Provincial Government as requirements necessarily precedent to the request of the Dominion Government receiving a liberal consideration.

I deem it my duty, however, to point out at once that (1st) the two first of the conditions proposed are clearly impossible of fulfilment for years to come, that is to say, not until the Dominion Government could itself have acquired, as the results of actual survey, the information which the Provincial Government asks to be now furnished with; that (2nd) the third condition is already virtually fulfilled, by the recent statements in Parliament of the Right Honourable the Minister of the Interior defining the system on which the Dominion Railway Lands in the North-West are now being dealt with, which system, modified only to suit the special topographical requirements of the country, is intended to be extended over British Columbia; and that (3rd) as to the proposition that the Dominion Government should acquaint the Provincial Government of the nature of the guarantees they are willing to give for the continuous and active prosecution of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, I cannot think it possible that any more positive and material guarantee could possibly be obtained by the Province than that which will be afforded by the actual commencement this month of the section of one hundred and thirty miles of Railway on the Mainland now under contract; and that I am fully convinced that it is not only impracticable for the Dominion Government to offer any further assurance on this point, but most inexpedient that such a requirement should be suggested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Joseph W. Trutch,

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

OTTAWA, 22nd March, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor-General has had under his consideration in Council the Minute of your Executive Council enclosed in your despatch of the 10th February last, and that His Excellency's advisers have had an opportunity of comminicating personally with the Dominion Agent, the Honourable J. W. Trutch, upon the various subjects mentioned in such Minute.

His Excellency is advised that Mr. Trutch, who has been fully informed of the views of this Government on those subjects, should at once return to British Columbia and enter into negotiations with the Administration there, for the adjustment of all the matters remaining unsettled between the two Governments, such adjustment to be subject to the approval of the Government of the Dominion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. L. LANGEVIN,
Acting Secretary of State.

The Hon. J. W. Trutch, C.M.G., to the Hon. Mr. Smithe.

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
11th May, 1883.

DEAR SIR,—I have just received the following telegram from Sir John A. Macdonald:—

"Dominion will pay $250,000, also money actually expended on construction of Dock "since date of offer of Provincial Government to Government here."

I have telegraphed to Sir John Macdonald full text of Bill relating to Island Railway, Graving Dock, and Railway Lands, as it passed the second reading, and am about to telegraph the amendments thereto adopted in Committee, and to acquaint him that the Bill, so amended, was read the third time and passed last night.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.

The Hon. J. W. Trutch, C.M.G., to the Hon. Mr. Smithe.

VICTORIA, B. C., 11th May, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing a copy of an Order in Council of the 7th instant, embodying the acceptance by the Government of British Columbia of the proposed arrangement, communicated to you by me, on behalf of the Dominion Government, by letter of the 5th instant, for the construction of the Island Railway, the opening of the Railway Lands to settlement, and the completion of the Dry Dock as a Federal work.

A copy of this Order in Council will be forwarded to the Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald, Premier of Canada, by to-morrow's mail.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOSEPH W. TRUTCH,
Agent of Canada for British Columbia.

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