
RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly, for copies of all unpublished correspondence during the year, referring to, or any offer or communication made to the Provincial Government, or any of its members, respecting the construction of the Island Railway or the Esquimalt Dock.

By Command.

JNO. ROBSON,

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
8th December, 1883.*

Provincial Secretary.

[Confidential.]

VICTORIA, July 2, 1883.

SIR,—I beg on behalf of a syndicate to make the following proposal :

- 1st. To construct, maintain, and operate the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway.
- 2nd. To complete, maintain, and operate the Graving Dock upon the terms agreed upon with the Imperial and Dominion Governments.
- 3rd. To pay to the Provincial Government the sum of \$250,000 expended on the Dock.

In consideration of a grant from the Province to the Syndicate, of the land on Vancouver Island reserved for the Island Railway and the grant of 3,500,000 acres of land in Peace River District of British Columbia, adjoining the Northwest Territory, and upon the further consideration, that the Island Railway shall be exempt from taxation for a period of ten years from its completion, and that the Dock shall be the property of the Syndicate and exempt from taxation for ever.

The Syndicate I represent will be prepared to give the Province such material guarantee as may be required for the due fulfilment of this proposal. In the event of the proposal above made being entertained by the Provincial Government, I shall be glad to have your immediate reply to that effect, to enable me to communicate accordingly with other members of the Syndicate, and to take the necessary steps in carrying out the object of this undertaking.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. OPPENHEIMER.

*To Hon. Wm. Smithe, M. P. P.,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Premier.*

VICTORIA, 7th July, 1883.

SIR,—The Government have had under consideration the proposal contained in your letter of the 2nd instant, to construct, maintain, and operate the Esquimalt-Nanaimo Railway, to construct, maintain, and operate the Graving Dock, and to pay the sum of \$250,000 expended thereon by the Province, in consideration of a grant of the Island Reserve lands and three and a half million acres of land in the Peace River district adjoining the North-West Territory. In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the Government will be glad to learn the names of your associates, with a view of determining the financial ability of the syndicate you represent to carry out the undertaking, and to learn also what material guarantee you would be prepared to give, (1st) that you would enter into a contract for the construction of the Island Railway and Graving Dock, and (2nd) that you would complete the works in the event of the contract being awarded to you. Satisfactory evidence on the points named will ensure prompt attention at the hands of the Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. SMITHE,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

To D. Oppenheimer, Esq., Victoria.

[Confidential.]

VICTORIA, 9th July, 1883.

SIR,—I will thank you to grant me an interview to-day at an early hour convenient to you. Please state place and hour.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. OPPENHEIMER.

To Hon. Wm. Smithe, M. P. P.,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Premier.

P.S.—Bearer will wait your answer.

[Confidential.]

VICTORIA, 9th July, 1883.

SIR,—With reference to our conversation of to-day, respecting your letter of the 7th inst., upon the subject of my proposal on behalf of a syndicate to construct, maintain and operate the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, to construct, maintain and operate the Graving Dock, and to pay the sum of \$250,000 expended thereon by the Province in consideration of a grant of the Island reserve lands, and three and a half million acres of land in the Peace River District, adjoining the Northwest Territory, would you have the goodness to acquaint me if a deposit of \$250,000 by my associates in this matter, and bearing a rate of interest to be agreed upon hereafter, would be considered by the Government a sufficient guarantee for the faithful performance of the contract above referred to.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. OPPENHEIMER.

To Hon. Mr. Smithe, M. P. P.,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Premier.

P.S.—The bearer will wait for your answer.

[Confidential.]

VICTORIA, B. C., 9th July, 1883.

SIR,—I should be obliged if you favour me with a reply to-day. I made arrangements to leave to-morrow morning to make immediate arrangements for the necessary cash deposit of security.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. OPPENHEIMER.

To Hon. Mr. Smithe, M. P. P.,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and Premier.

[Confidential]

VICTORIA, 10th July, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of to-day, and in reply to say, that the sum of two hundred and fifty (\$250,000) thousand dollars which you propose to deposit as security for the due and faithful performance of obligations, which upon certain outlined conditions you desire to assume, to construct, operate and maintain the Esquimalt-Nanaimo Railway and the Graving Dock—would appear to be reasonable and in fair proportion to the magnitude of the proposed undertaking. It must, however, be understood that the Provincial Legislative Assembly would have to be consulted upon that point and upon the conditions generally. It is much too important a subject to be disposed of without the full sanction of Parliament.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. SMITHE.

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

D. Oppenheimer, Esq., Victoria.