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# PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

## PROPOSED TRANSFER TO THE CITY OF VICTORIA OF THE "MUD FLAT" SITUATED TO THE EAST OF JAMES' BAY BRIDGE.

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*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor 7th April, 1885.*

On a Memorandum from the Honourable the Minister of Finance and Agriculture, dated the 30th March, 1885, reporting that the following Resolution has been passed by the Legislative Assembly, viz.:—

"Whereas the piece of Crown land, from time to time covered by tide-water, situated to the east of James' Bay Bridge, within the limits of the City of Victoria, and commonly known as the "Mud Flat," is a nuisance, dangerous to the health of the citizens of Victoria;

"And whereas it is desirable that authority should be given to the City of Victoria to abate promptly the said nuisance, and that the said land should be conveyed to the said City to be dealt with in such manner as to the Municipal Council may seem expedient;

"Be it therefore resolved, that a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting His Honour to take such action as to him may seem expedient, to cause to be transferred to the City of Victoria, British Columbia, all that part of land situated to the east of the westerly side of James' Bay Bridge, in the said City."

And further reporting:—

1. That the said land is situated between high and low water marks, and to the east of James' Bay Bridge, in the City of Victoria, and is cut off from the harbour proper by the bridge which was erected some years prior to Confederation.

2. That the said plot contains about eight (8) acres in all, and, its condition at present being a mere receptacle for all kinds of filth and garbage from the City, is such as to render it a great nuisance and dangerous to the health of the general public.

3. That as the City is rapidly increasing in population the condition of the "Mud Flat" is becoming more and more intolerable, and hence it is highly important that immediate steps be taken with a view of providing for the sanitary requirements of the City in this locality.

4. That if this property were transferred to the City of Victoria a retention wall could be erected where the bridge now stands, and the Flat filled in and made valuable, either as a park or to be utilized in connection with a system of sewerage.

And recommending that the Government of the Dominion be requested to transfer the land in question to the City of Victoria.

The Committee of Council advise that the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly, together with the report and the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Finance and Agriculture, be approved, and that a copy of this Minute be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

Certified,

(Signed) JNO. ROBSON,  
Clerk Executive Council.

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Receipt of the above was acknowledged by the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada in a despatch to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, dated 21st April, 1885.



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*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the 15th December, 1885.*

On a Memorandum from the Honourable the Minister of Finance, dated December 8th, 1885, reporting that the enclosed Resolution was passed by the Provincial Legislature at its last session, March 2nd, 1885. That a copy of the said Resolution, together with a Minute of the Executive Council approving it, was forwarded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor April 7th, 1885, to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada,

And further reporting:—

1st. That no satisfactory reply has been received to the aforesaid Minute of Council, and that the said nuisance is becoming more and more intolerable.

2nd. That the Provincial Government would cheerfully convey the said "Mud Flat" to the City of Victoria to be reclaimed in the interests of the sanitary requirements of the said city; but the question of jurisdiction as between the Province and the Dominion appears to be involved in some doubt.

The Minister therefore suggests that the Dominion Government be asked to waive their claim, if any, in this instance (without prejudice as to future questions) to enable the Provincial Government to at once carry out the wishes of the Legislature as expressed in the aforesaid Resolution, and that a copy of this Minute be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Canada.

The Committee advise approval.

Certified,  
(Signed) JNO. ROBSON,  
*Clerk Executive Council.*

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*The Under Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor.*

OTTAWA, 29th December, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 19th instant transmitting a copy of a Report of your Executive Council approved by you on the 8th instant, relative to a piece of Crown land within the limits of the City of Victoria, known as the "Mud Flat," and to state that the matter will receive consideration.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) G. POWELL,  
*Under Secretary of State.*

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