PAPERS

Relating to the discontinuance of Mail Subsidy between Victoria and San Francisco.

By Command.
JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
20th February, 1888.

Copy of Telegram to the Honourable Thomas White, Minister of the Interior, Ottawa.

VICTORIA, 13th January, 1888.

It is freely stated that the mail subsidy between here and San Francisco has been discontinued. Surely it is not possible that this would be done without consent of one of the high contracting parties to the Terms of Union, of which this subsidy forms part. Please answer.

(Signed) JOHN ROBSON.

Copy of Telegram from the Honourable Thomas White, Minister of the Interior.

OTTAWA, 14th January, 1888.

Mails have for some months not gone by the ocean route, and the mail subsidy has been withdrawn with the consent of the Company. The subsidy for the maintenance of the line for passengers and freight is the subject of communication. The Government fully recognizes its obligation under the Terms of Union.

(Signed) THOS. WHITE.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 14th day of January, 1888.

On a memorandum from the Honourable the Minister of Finance, dated the 13th January, 1888, reporting,

That he is informed, and has every reason to believe, that the subsidy for the steamship mail service, as provided for in the fourth clause of the Terms of Union, has been discontinued, and recommending that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to dispatch the following message by telegraph to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada :—

"The Government of British Columbia protest against discontinuance of the subsidy for the steamship mail service between this Province and San Francisco. That service was intended as much for trade and commerce as for the carriage of mail matter. Canada, in the Terms of Union, undertook to maintain the service in perpetuity, and has no right to discontinue it without the concurrence of the Province, one of the high contracting parties."

The Committee advise approval.

Certified,
(Signed) T. ELWYN,
Deputy Clerk of Executive Council.

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