RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly for copies of all correspondence, telegrams, or Orders in Council, by this Government, with any other Government, or person, or persons whatsoever, relative to the calling of trans-Pacific steamships, carrying Her Majesty's mails, at the ports of Victoria and Esquimalt.

By Command.

JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
17th February, 1887.

The Hon. Mr. Duck to the Executive Council.

TREASURY, VICTORIA, April 29th, 1886.

The undersigned has the honour to represent that it is of the utmost importance that any steamships which may be employed in the trade between the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Burrard Inlet and trans-Pacific ports shall call regularly, both on the outward and inward voyage, at Victoria or Esquimalt, and to recommend that the Dominion Government be urged to provide for the same in any trans-Pacific mail contract that may be entered into.

(Signed) S. DUCK,
Minister of Finance.

[TELEGRAM.]

Beeton,
33, Finsbury Circus, London.

VICTORIA, April 29th, 1886.

Make effort to secure that in any trans-Pacific mail contract with Canadian Pacific Railway Company, steamships shall be required to call at Victoria or Esquimalt, both inward and outward.

(Signed) JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 30th day of April, 1886.

On a Memorandum from the Honourable the Minister of Finance, dated 29th April, 1886, recommending that the Dominion Government be requested to stipulate in any contract made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for a trans-Pacific mail service, that the steamships engaged in such service shall be required to touch at Victoria or Esquimalt, both on the outward and inward voyage.

The Committee advise that the recommendation be approved, and that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be respectfully requested to telegraph the substance thereof to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

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

[TELEGRAM.]

VICTORIA, April 30th, 1886

To Secretary of State, Ottawa.

Order in Council to-day's date recommends Dominion Government be requested to stipulate in any contract made with Canadian Pacific Railway Company for trans-Pacific mail service, that steamers shall be required to touch at Victoria or Esquimalt, going inwards and outwards. Despatch follows.

(Signed) C. F. CORNWALL.

Mr. H. C. Beeton to the Provincial Secretary.

33, FINSBURY CIRCUS,
LONDON, E. C., 13th May, 1886.

DEAR SIR,—I duly received your cablegram on the 1st May as follows:—

"Make effort to secure that in any trans-Pacific mail contract with Canadian Pacific "Railway Company, steamships shall be required to call at Victoria or Esquimalt, both inward "and outward."

I decided that my best course would be to enlist the co-operation of Sir Charles Tupper, and with that in view I sent him a copy of the telegram and proposed a meeting, the result being that he expressed a wish that I should write him a full letter to lay before the Colonial Office, a copy of which I now enclose. I may mention that negotiations with the Government are, so far, very little advanced, so that our application is in good time.

You can depend upon my following the matter up, and making every effort to secure the object. I trust that what I have done so far meets with your approval.

A correspondent inquires whether the Texada deposits are in the hands of the Government, or in whose hands? Please let me know by return.

I remain, etc.,
(Signed) H. C. BEETON.

[ENCLOSURE.]

To the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, G.C.M.G., C.B.,
9, Victoria Chambers, S. W.

DEAR SIR,—I desire to call your special attention to the enclosed copy of a cablegram received from my Government, desiring me, in the event of the trans-Pacific mail contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway being entertained by Her Majesty's Government, to insure the steamers calling either at Victoria or Esquimalt,—my own views favouring the latter on account of its being the superior harbour.

I am sure I can rely upon your best efforts to assist me in the accomplishment of what, to the Province of British Columbia, is a matter of some importance.

I remain, etc.,
(Signed) H. C. BEETON.

[TELEGRAM.]

VICTORIA, May 23rd, 1886.

To the Secretary of State, Ottawa:

My telegram, first instant, relative trans-Pacific mail service. Pray take action on telegram. (Signed) C. F. CORNWALL.

The Under Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor.

OTTAWA, 7th June, 1886.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 26th ult., transmitting copy of a Report of a Committee of your Executive Committee, approved by you on the 30th April, in reference to two telegrams dispatched by you, dated respectively the 1st and 23rd ult., with reference to contract for trans-Pacific mail service, and to state that the matter will receive consideration.

(Signed) G. POWELL.

Mr. H. C. Beeton to Sir Charles Tupper, G.C.M.G., C.B.

LONDON, 24th September, 1886.

MY DEAR SIR,—As, possibly, I may not be in England on your return from Canada, I thought it better to write you during your stay there, to say that my Government have written again with reference to the mail steamers for the East calling at Esquimalt.

As you are aware, I desire to urge this point on general grounds, as by this arrangement the Canadian Pacific Route would command the traffic of Oregon and Washington Territory, going east and west.

I remain, &c.,

(Signed) H. C. BEETON.

Sir Charles Tupper to Mr. H. C. Beeton.

LONDON, 28th October, 1886.

DEAR MR. BEETON,—I duly received your letter of the 24th ult., and beg to inform you that the question of the calling of the mail steamers at Esquimalt cannot be taken up until the proposed scheme assumes some definite shape. I will, however, as promised, keep the matter before me.

Believe me, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

Mr. H. C. Beeton to the Provincial Secretary.

1st November, 1886.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to hand you a copy of a letter I addressed the High Commissioner on 24th September, during his recent visit to Ottawa, and his reply to same received this morning (copy enclosed).

I may mention, that previous to writing the enclosed letter, I had on several occasions when meeting Sir Charles Tupper, taken the opportunity of reminding him of the subject. I have no reason to doubt that he will do his best when the proper time arrives.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. C. BEETON.

VICTORIA: Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Government Printer, at the Government Printing Office, James' Bay.