
RETURN

To an Address presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor asking him to cause to be sent down to the House copies of all Orders in Council, letters, and correspondence between this Government and the Government of the Dominion of Canada, or any correspondence between any members of said Governments, in relation to the proposed exchange of lands in the Peace River country for the lands known as the Railway Belt on the Mainland of the Province.

By Command.

JNO. ROBSON,

Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
19th March, 1890.*

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 17th day of December, 1887.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration a certified copy of a Report of the Honourable the Privy Council for Canada, dated the 27th May, 1887, together with a tracing accompanying the same, proposing a mode of defining the limits and boundaries of the Railway Belt in British Columbia.

The Committee respectfully submit that, in consequence of the sinuous nature of the railway, it will not be practicable to establish the boundaries of a forty-mile belt along its line so as to keep within the twenty-mile limit imposed by the Terms of Union, and at the same time include the area claimed by the Dominion Government.

The Committee further submit that, apart from the impracticability of establishing satisfactory boundary lines, very great inconvenience and ever-recurring complications will arise from the administration by the Dominion Government of a narrow and extremely irregular strip of land extending through the entire mainland part of the Province, while the whole of the public domain, with the exception of said strip, is administered by the Provincial Government.

The Committee believe that it would be for the convenience of both Governments, as well as in the general interests of the country, that the belt along the line of railway should be exchanged for such an area of the public lands of the Province, lying east of the Rocky Mountains, as might fairly be considered equivalent in value, and they accordingly recommend that all that parcel or tract of land which is bounded on the north by the 60th parallel of north latitude, on the east by the 120th meridian, on the south by the 55th parallel of north latitude, and on the west by the 122nd meridian, and colored red on the annexed map, the same containing fifteen million acres, more or less, and including the three and a half millions of acres granted by section 7 of the Act intituled "An Act relating to the Island Railway, the Graving Dock, and the Railway Lands of the Province," be offered to the Dominion Government in exchange for the Railway Belt, and that, in the event of the offer being accepted, the necessary legislation for the purpose of completing the transaction be sought.

The Committee advise that this Minute be approved, and that a copy be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

Victoria, 15th December, 1887.

Certified,

(Signed)

A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
Deputy Clerk Executive Council
