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## SUPPLEMENTARY RETURN

To an Address presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will be pleased to send down a Return showing the terms upon which the settlement of the Railway Lands question between the Provincial and Dominion Governments was completed.

By Command.

JAMES BAKER,  
*Provincial Secretary.*

*Provincial Secretary's Office,  
10th March, 1896.*

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*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on the 21st February, 1896.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, hereto attached, dated 10th December, 1895, from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, transmitting a copy of an approved Report of a Committee of His Executive Council, accepting, on the part of the Province of British Columbia, the terms of agreement embodied in the Order in Council of the 29th March, 1895, relative to land within the Railway Belt of British Columbia.

The Minister of the Interior, to whom the despatch and its enclosure were referred, submits:—

(1.) That as to the alternative methods proposed by the Government of Canada and accepted by the Government of British Columbia, for settling the boundary of the Railway Belt, he (the Minister) will give his early consideration thereto, and communicate his conclusion in due time to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works of British Columbia, who is authorized by the Order of the Executive Council of that Province to give all necessary instructions and conduct all necessary negotiations in connection with the arrangement.

(2.) That as the provisions for registering Dominion titles in the Provincial Land Registry Offices appear to be quite satisfactory, the Minister recommends that the Lieutenant-Governor be informed that Your Excellency's Government observes with satisfaction the readiness expressed by the Provincial Government to pass such further Orders, and promulgate such rules and regulations from time to time, if any, as shall be requisite for the purpose of giving effect to the agreement between the two Governments in this relation. Upon this subject, also, the Minister will place himself in communication with the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

(3.) The Minister also recommends that the Government of British Columbia be informed that, upon receipt by the Department of the Interior of the requisite leases and surrenders of the land within the Railway Belt referred to in the third paragraph of the Order of the Executive Council now under consideration, such releases and surrenders will be accepted by the Dominion Government in discharge and satisfaction of the several judgments of the Exchequer Court of Canada and of the Supreme Court, and of the costs thereof; and upon payment of the purchase money for the said lands mentioned in sub-section (a) of section 3 of the Order of the Executive Council, steps will be taken to issue patents, in fee simple, to the parties whose names are set out in that Order.

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(4.) The Minister states that the officers of the Department of the Interior are in correspondence directly with the Provincial Department of Lands and Works in relation to the subject of the fourth paragraph of the Order of the Executive Council, and he (the Minister) expects, at a very early day, to be in a position to convey the lands mentioned therein to the Province, as provided for by the Act 52 Victoria, chapter 7, intituled "An Act to provide for the conveyance of certain lands to British Columbia."

The Committee advise that a certified copy of this Minute be forwarded by the Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia for the information of his Government.

All which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,  
*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

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VICTORIA, B.C.:

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