
RETURN

To an Order of the House for copies of all correspondence between the Government or any member thereof and any other person or persons, with reference to the construction of a trail through the northern portion of the Province to the Yukon District, since 1st October, 1895.

GEO. B. MARTIN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

*Lands and Works Department,
April 16th, 1896.*

SKAGWAY BAY, September 24th, 1895.

*To the Honourable
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

SIR,—I want to renew my application with your department for a Charter from the summit of the White Pass to the navigable waters of Tagish Lake for a trail. This portion of the route asked for is wholly in B. C.

I propose making a pack trail the first year and a waggon road the next year. Conceding me this request would materially aid me in getting a franchise from the U. S. Government for a trail from Skagway Bay to connect with the above route. The late Hon. John Robson most highly approved of the concession now asked for.

Would like an early reply to know if my request will be favourably entertained by your Department, or Executive Department, as I am anxious to be prepared to consult my associates intelligently upon the subject, and that I may be prepared to commence operations early in the spring.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

VICTORIA, B. C., October 24th, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, and in reply beg to say that the Government are not at present disposed to favourably consider your application to be granted a Charter, presumably with the privilege of collecting tolls, in consideration of your constructing a trail from the summit of the White Pass to the navigable waters of Tagish Lake.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. B. MARTIN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

*Captain W. Moore,
Skagway Bay, via Juneau, Alaska.*

VICTORIA, B. C., November 28th, 1895.

The Honourable

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works,
Victoria, B. C.*

SIR,—I take the liberty of drawing the attention of your Government to the great need of a road into Tuchi Lake, on the route of the Yukon gold-fields, the portion of the route of which I write being within the Province of British Columbia, and therefore, I take it, a provincial undertaking.

As to the route: The White Pass has been conceded by all scientific men who have examined it to be the best, and I believe Mr. Wm. Ogilvie has recommended it to his Government as the best supply and traffic route.

At the present time, a small outlay would be a great benefit to the public, both by assisting in no small degree to divert the trade of the northern gold-fields to Victoria, and by facilitating transportation. This region is in a somewhat similar position to that of Cassiar in the early days, with the exception that the Yukon is much more accessible than Cassiar was.

Regarding the White Pass, since the surveys of 1887, '94, and '95, Mr. Ogilvie has made the distance from Skagway Bay to the summit 14 miles, and his endorsement of it, while detailed on the particular duty of finding the most practical route to the Yukon, should be strong proof to the Provincial Government that it is the best.

Should your Government, however, not deem it expedient to build a road as above, the least that should be done is to expend a sum sufficient to brush and blaze the trail for the guidance of miners, the valley in this locality being from 4 to 9 miles wide, making the trail hard to follow.

If this latter idea be also rejected, then I would suggest that the Government let the route as a toll road, as it is most important that some better means of reaching the gold-fields than now exists be available for next season.

Thanking you in advance for an early reply.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) Wm. MOORE.

VICTORIA, B. C., November 29th, 1895.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, on the subject of a road into Tuchi Lake, on the route to the Yukon gold-fields.

In reply I beg to say that the matter will have the consideration of the Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. B. MARTIN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

*Capt. Wm. Moore,
Victoria, B. C.*

VICTORIA, B.C.

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