
FURTHER RETURN

To an Address presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, asking His Honour to cause to be sent down to the House copies of Orders in Council and all correspondence between His Honour's Government and the Government of the Dominion, or between any member of the Ministry and any other person, in reference to the preservation of the Town of Revelstoke from destruction by the waters of the Columbia River.

By Command.

JAMES BAKER,

Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,

14th April, 1898.

OTTAWA, February 23rd, 1898.

*Honourable J. H. Turner, Prime Minister,
Victoria, B. C.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I do not think you have any ground, and even any pretext, to find fault with the tone of my communications *re* Revelstoke. I cannot allow you to try to put my Department and the Government in a position which is not justified by the facts of the case.

Our Estimates for 1896-97 contained a vote of \$10,500.00 for the protection of the Revelstoke banks.

Surely, you took enough interest in public affairs to have noticed that item which immediately concerned your Province. But even if you had overlooked this matter, on January the 22nd, 1897, I sent you the following telegram:—

“Parliament, last Session, has voted \$10,500.00 for protection of banks, Revelstoke, Columbia River, Government of British Columbia contributing like amount. Please state when your contribution can be expected, so that work can begin without delay.”

On the 23rd January you replied that—

“Your Government had not been advised until quite lately that a vote was passed in the House of Commons, and that no vote was passed by the Provincial Legislature towards such works, nor was it contemplated. No arrangement for co-operation was made.”

You will not fail to observe that, in that communication, you distinctly declined to take any steps towards co-operating for the protection works at Revelstoke. In face of your refusal the item for \$10,500.00 was allowed to drop.

And then, when you could not ignore that the amount had been dropped on account of your action, you started asking my Department to go on with the works.

These are the facts of the case. Let the responsibility lie where it really does lie, that is to say, with you and your Government. You had all the time necessary to arrange for co-operating with us. You thought fit not to do so. It is not for me to throw any blame on you. But it is my duty to protest against your attempt to make this Government responsible for the present state of things.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

J. ISRAEL TARTE.

(From the private letter book of the Hon. Theo. Davie.)

Dictated 29th December, 1894.

Hon. J. A. Ouimet, Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR MR. OUMIET,—The matter of protecting the river bank at Revelstoke is assuming a grave aspect.

As you will remember this work was to be undertaken at the joint expense of the Dominion and the Province, and the amount estimated being \$10,000.00, the Province has appropriated one-half of that sum and the Dominion has appropriated a similar amount, the Dominion annexing a condition in the Estimates that the Revelstoke question between the two Governments should be settled.

Our Provincial Deputy Commissioner to-day sends us a memorandum saying that Mr. Gamble, the Dominion Resident Engineer, has so far been given no instructions to proceed, and that unless the work is commenced soon it will have to be postponed for another year.

To postpone this work for another year would mean the almost certain washing into the river of the Revelstoke townsite. Let me beg of you, therefore, to give Mr. Gamble the necessary instructions to proceed immediately.

Even if by good luck there was to be no high water this next year, and no further encroachment by the river upon its bank, the effect upon the public mind, as against both the Dominion and Provincial Governments, would be most intense. Whereas to have the work well under way and completed before high water means the settling of the public mind, not merely at Revelstoke, but throughout the neighbouring country, where the condition of things is understood.

There ought to be no trouble about complying with the rider as to settlement of the pending difficulties between the Province and the Dominion regarding the railway belt. That was all practically settled before I left Ottawa upon my recent trip, but even if there is to be further delay upon this point, the urgency of the occasion should be a sufficient indication to the Dominion Government in causing this work to be proceeded with immediately, but in any case I shall be much disappointed if the settlement which we practically arrived at while I was in Ottawa is not at once carried out.

Although I know that you must be severely pressed upon all sides with matters of public policy and questions of departmental detail, I venture to urge the question of the Revelstoke protection and the settlement of the railway question upon your prompt attention.

Wishing you the compliments of the season I am, &c.,

(Signed) THEODORE DAVIE.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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