

1873, reserving the Crown lands of the east coast of Vancouver Island, is seriously retarding the settlement of that portion of the Province, and recommending that in view of the fact that the despatch from H. E. the Lieutenant-Governor to the Secretary of State, transmitting the Minute of this Executive Council, dated 20th July, upon the subject of this reservation, has not as yet been replied to; and as the matter requires immediate settlement, that the Dominion Government be respectfully urged to at once define, by survey, the land they propose claiming on the east coast of Vancouver Island, and that they appoint also a competent person in this Province to dispose of said lands on such terms as will admit of settlement, and that the Hon. A. DeCosmos, as special delegate about to proceed to Ottawa, be authorized to confer with the Dominion Government on this subject.

Certified,

W. J. ARMSTRONG,

*Clerk of the Executive Council.*

COPY of a Report of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 25th day of March, 1875.

On a memorandum, dated 25th March, 1875, from the Hon. the Minister of Public Works, reporting for the consideration of Council, that prior to the commencement of any works of construction on the proposed railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo, which the Dominion Government have agreed to build under the arrangement made through Lord Carnarvon at the instance of British Columbia, it is essential that the Province of British Columbia should convey, by legislation, to the Dominion Government in trust to be appropriated in such manner as the Dominion Government may deem advisable, a similar extent of public lands along the line of railway before mentioned (not to exceed twenty miles on each side of the said line) as may be appropriated for the same purpose by the Dominion from the public lands of the North-West Territories and the Province of Manitoba, as provided in the Order in Council, section 11, admitting the Province of British Columbia into the Confederation, and that it is desirable that the British Columbia Government should be at once notified that it will be necessary during the present Session of the Legislature of that Province to pass an Act so to appropriate and set apart lands to this extent, and for this purpose, the grant to be subject, otherwise, to all the conditions contained in the said eleventh section of the terms of union.

The Committee concur in the above report of the Minister of Public Works, and recommend the British Columbia Government be notified accordingly.

Certified, W. A. HIMSWORTH, C.P.C.

To the Honorable

The Minister of Public Works, &c.

OTTAWA, 4th March, 1876.

SIR, — Herewith I have the honor to present to you certain propositions of the Victoria and Esquimalt Railway Co., respecting the constructing and operating a line of railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo; also a copy of a letter authorizing me to present the same to you, and to act as agent of the company in negotiating the matter; and which services, I have acquainted the Company, I am willing to perform provided they in no way conflict with my entire freedom of action as a member of Parliament.

I have, therefore, to request the favor of an early consideration of the proposition of the Victoria and Esquimalt Railway Co., hoping, in view of the condition of affairs between British Columbia and Canada in relation to the construction of a railway

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