

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY OF STATE, OTTAWA, 4th April, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 23rd instant, forwarding copy of a report of your Executive Council, dated the 18th March, 1885, in reference to opening up the lands within the railway reserve in the Province of British Columbia, and to state the matter will receive due consideration.

I have, &c.,

G. POWELL, *Under Secretary of State.*

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, Victoria, B.C.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA, 23rd March, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward a copy of a report of my Executive Council, dated the 18th March, embodying an Address passed by the Legislative Assembly, asking me to urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of at once opening up the lands within the railway reserve in this Province to settlement and purchase.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

CLEMENT P. CORNWALL, *Lieutenant-Governor.*

Hon. the Secretary of State, Ottawa.

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor the 18th March, 1885.*

On a memorandum from the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, dated the 10th March, 1885, recommending approval of the following Address to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, which has been passed by the Legislative Assembly, viz.:—

“That His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of at once opening up the lands within the railway reserve in this Province to settlement and purchase.”

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

Certified.

JOHN ROBSON, *Clerk Executive Council.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OTTAWA, 8th April, 1885.

MEMORANDUM.—The undersigned has the honor to report to Council that:—

1. In February, 1883, the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, acting under and by advice of his Ministers, made a formal proposition to the Dominion Government for the purpose of effecting a settlement of certain open questions which existed between the Provincial Government and the Dominion Government, in respect of the Island Railway, graving dock, and lands on the mainland. The proposition, with some modifications, was, in substance, agreed to between the two Governments. The subject of the lands to be granted by the Provincial Government to the Dominion Government for railway purposes in lieu of lands which had been disposed of in the railway belt, was one of the most important questions to be settled, and a large concession of lands on Peace River was made to the Dominion Government for this purpose, and at the same time it was proposed and agreed to, that until the railway was finally located, the Provincial Government should reserve from sale all lands in British Columbia east of Kamloops, in order that when the line was finally decided upon the Dominion Government would find the lands in the railway belt free from all other claims, except *bonâ fide* purchases or pre-emptions made prior to the agreement between the two Governments.

2. In accordance with the agreement thus arrived at between the two Governments, an Act, known as the Act relating to the Island Railway, the Graving Dock and Railway Lands of the Province, was passed by the Provincial Assembly, and assented to by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 12th May, 1883.