

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor on the 3rd day of June, 1876.*

The Committee of Council having had before them the Minute of the Privy Council of Canada, of March 18th last, commenting upon the Address and Petition to Her Majesty by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, desire to submit the following remarks in relation thereto:—

That that Minute in no way disproves or even disputes the material facts stated in the said Address, but rather seeks to account for them; nor does it in their opinion weaken the force of the representations based on those facts; and that they would be well satisfied that the argument in this case should be submitted to any impartial tribunal, just as it is left by the reply in the Minute of the Government of Canada upon that Address.

That they desire, however, to deny distinctly that British Columbia has at any time, through any delegate or agent, either directly or indirectly, consented or agreed that the Railway obligations of Canada towards British Columbia, under the Terms of Union, should be subject to the limitation specified in the Resolution adopted by the House of Commons of Canada on the 11th day of April, 1871.

That such a limitation virtually nullifies those obligations altogether, as, indeed, is now in fact claimed by the Government of the Dominion.

That they protest against the unwarranted assumption in that Minute that British Columbia has in any way assented or become bound, either legally or in honor, to such an abrogation of the Railway Article of the Terms of Union.

That they equally repel the charge that this Province, from sordid and selfish craving "for the gains and profits to be expected from the expenditure of millions in their midst, on "the construction of the Pacific Railway," has ever sought to exact the literal fulfilment of the Railway Agreement, regardless of the general welfare of Canada, even to the involvement of the Dominion, of which she is a Province, in financial ruin, as is asserted in that Minute. That, on the contrary, British Columbia has always been ready to adopt a reasonable view of that agreement, as is fully shown by the cordial concurrence of her Government and people in the modification of that agreement effected in 1874, through the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

That the Government of Canada, however, now evade compliance with the requirements of that modification, or seek to qualify and virtually nullify it by a condition certainly not clearly or openly stated (if stated at all) when that modification was decided upon by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and accepted unreservedly by that Government.

That British Columbia never urged, nor desired, nor would she have concurred in any such expenditure of the public funds of Canada, in the construction of the Pacific Railway, as could be shown to be beyond the financial ability of the Dominion, but that she has claimed