

## Stanley Park and Deadman's Island.

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 25th February, 1880.*

On a memorandum dated 16th February, 1880, from the Honourable the Minister of the Interior, reporting that he is informed that a considerable area of lands, situate at important points along the coast line in the province of British Columbia, is held by the Imperial Government as military and naval reserves, and suggesting for the consideration of your Excellency in Council the expediency of inviting the attention of the Imperial authorities to the fact, and asking should the same not be inconsistent with the views of Her Majesty's government that the lands in question, excepting such as may actually be required for military or naval purposes, may be transferred to the Dominion, to be held and administered in the same manner as the lands of corresponding character in the older provinces formerly transferred by Her Majesty's government to Canada.

The committee submit the foregoing suggestions for your Excellency's approval.

J. O. COTÉ,  
Clerk Privy Council.

*The Earl of Derby to the Marquis of Lansdowne.*

Governor General, the Most Honourable  
The Marquis of Lansdowne, G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

DOWNING STREET, 27th March, 1884.

MY LORD,—With reference to your despatch No. 207 of the 13th of July, 1881, and to previous correspondence respecting the proposed surrender to the Canadian Government of certain lands reserved for naval and military purposes in British Columbia, I have the honour to state that the power of Governor Douglas to make reserves in British Columbia appears to have rested on the 2nd clause of his commission, dated the 2nd of September, 1858, directing him to execute his trust according to powers, directions and authorities granted or appointed to him under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet or by Order in Council or by the Queen through one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State; and further, upon despatches from Sir E. B. Lytton, dated the 31st of July and 14th of August, 1858, and giving him instructions as to the marking out of allotments for public purposes and giving him provisional rules for his guidance in selling lands. These papers are contained in a parliamentary paper given to the British Parliament in 1859 entitled "Papers relative to the affairs of British Columbia," printed 18th February, 1859, pp. 3, 45 and 49. And it has always been considered that reserves made by him were valid and became effectual without confirmation by the Secretary of State.

As regards the reserves now in question no formal deed appears to have been made conveying them to the military or naval authorities, and I am advised that they may now in like manner be surrendered without the formality of a regular deed of conveyance.

It appears therefore sufficient to state that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to surrender the military reserves specified in the schedule to the War Office Letter of the 27th of July, 1883, a copy of which is inclosed, and all navy reserves with the exception of those mentioned in the letter from the Admiralty of the 29th ultimo, a copy of which is inclosed.