

1376, transmitting a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State by the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, enclosing, with other papers, a petition to the Crown from the Legislative Assembly of the Province, praying Her Majesty to cause the Canadian Government to be immediately moved to carry out the terms of settlement effected through Lord Carnarvon's intervention in 1874, and also copies of previous letters from the Lieutenant-Governor, enclosing other papers on the same subject, which despatch intimates that Lord Carnarvon would be glad to receive the observations of Your Excellency's Ministers on the whole question.

The Minute of Council of the 18th March last, of which a copy has already been transmitted to Lord Carnarvon, fully expresses the views of this Government on the subject of the petition in question, and the other papers.

It is right to observe that, so far as the Committee are able to judge, the conclusions of that minute faithfully represent the opinions of the people of Canada on the question, and further, that the Appropriation Act, to which Your Excellency has just assented, contains a clause attached to the grant of money for the Pacific Railway, expressing the view of Parliament, that the arrangements for the construction of the work should be such as the resources of the country would permit without increasing the existing rates of taxation.

The Committee continue to be of opinion that the arrangements proposed in 1874 having been found impossible of execution, and British Columbia having declined to entertain the subsequent proposals made to her, and insisting still upon the performance of what has been found impossible, it only remains for the Government to make such arrangements for the construction of the Pacific Railway as the resources of the country will permit without increasing the existing rates of taxation.

The Committee recommend that a copy of this minute should be transmitted to Lord Carnarvon.

CERTIFIED.

(Signed,)

W. A. HIMSWORTH.

C. P. C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

3rd June, 1876.

SIR,—

With reference to your despatch of 17th March last, the receipt of which was duly acknowledged by me on the 17th April, transmitting six copies of an Order of His