

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
VICTORIA, 23rd May, 1899.

Lieut.-Colonel L. F. PINAULT,  
Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence  
Ottawa, Ont.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant.

In reply to the remarks therein in reference to the claim that Stanley Park and Deadman's Island are the property of the Dominion, I beg to state that there is nothing in the records of this department which would show that such is the case. On the contrary there is evidence that those tracts belong to the province.

I have every confidence that upon investigation your government will acknowledge the correctness of the position assumed by this government, a position I may say which has been held by my predecessors in this department for many years.

This government will be pleased to afford your government any information on the subject which it may have, and I would repeat what I said in my letters of the 22nd ultimo and 2nd instant to the Honourable the Minister of Militia, that it will facilitate the settlement of the matter if you will forward me details of the facts on which the claim of the Dominion is based.

I sincerely reciprocate your expression that everything can be settled amicably between the two governments and without any friction.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

F. CARTER COTTON.  
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.