

with Canada, and stating, that in accordance with the advice of his Ministers, expressed in this Minute, he requests that this despatch and its inclosure be laid before your Excellency, together with the previous Minutes of his Executive Council on the same subject, which were forwarded for consideration in his despatches of the 26th of July last, the latter of which, conveying a protest from that Government on the failure of the Dominion Government to secure the commencement, within two years from the date of Union, of the construction of a railroad from the Pacific towards the Rocky Mountains, as provided in the XIth Article of the Terms of Union, he states, is yet unanswered, and requesting your Excellency to communicate to that Government, in whatever manner may be deemed advisable, in time to meet the requirements of the desire indicated by his Ministers, the course intended to be taken by the Dominion Government in fulfilment of the XIth Article of the Terms of Union of that Province with Canada.

The Committee of Council respectfully recommend that the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia be informed that this Government is giving its most earnest consideration to the project for the construction of the Pacific Railway, an outline of which was given in the speech delivered by Mr. Mackenzie at Sarnia on the 25th of November: a scheme which they believe will be acceptable to the whole Dominion, including British Columbia, and that they hope to be able within a short time to communicate more definitely with that Province on the subject.

Certified,

(Signed) W. A. HIMSWORTH,  
Clerk, Privy Council.

#### Inclosure.

*Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor on the 22nd day of November, 1873.*

THE Committee of Council having had under consideration a Memorandum for the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, dated 19th November, 1873, setting forth the facts: That the Government of British Columbia has protested against the non-fulfilment of the XIth Article of the Terms of Union; that, beyond the acknowledgment of receipt, no reply has been made by the Dominion Government to the despatch conveying that protest:

That the Government of British Columbia, looking at the actual position of affairs, felt compelled to wait the action of the Parliament of Canada, expected shortly to meet, and which did meet on the 23rd October last past:

That the Parliament of Canada has been prorogued, not to meet until February next, without making provision for the construction of the Pacific Railway:

That the Legislative Assembly of this Province stands called to meet at Victoria on the 18th day of December next; and that the non-fulfilment by the Dominion Government of the Terms of Union has caused a strong feeling of anxiety and discouragement to exist throughout the Province. The Committee advise your Honour to ask the Dominion Government, through the proper channel, for a decided expression of its policy with regard to the fulfilment of the XIth Article of the Terms of Union, in order that the information may be given to the Legislature at the opening of the coming Session, and to request that the decision arrived at be communicated to your Honour by telegram at the earliest moment possible. And the Committee respectfully suggest that if the present report be sanctioned, your Honour will be pleased to forward the same to his Excellency the Governor-General, and also to draw his attention to the Minutes of Council, each bearing date the 25th July last on the same subject, one being a protest against the breach of Article XI, and the other a denial of the right of the Dominion Government to a conveyance, or reserve, of any of the public lands for railway purposes, until the line of railway should be defined.

Certified,

(Signed) W. J. ARMSTRONG,  
Clerk, Executive Council.