

Resolution passed by the citizens of Victoria and residents of Vancouver Island, November, 1880:—

We, the citizens of Victoria and residents of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in mass meeting assembled, respectfully call the attention of the Dominion Government to the resolutions passed by the British Columbia Board of Trade, on the 28th January last, reciting important facts relating to the obligations of the Dominion Government to construct the railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo, and also to the following resolutions bearing thereon, and on the relations existing between British Columbia and the Dominion, as follows:—

1. That while several of the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion have obtained better terms than those under which they confederated, the Western Province of British Columbia, under the Carnarvon settlement (in language of Lord Carnarvon) "will receive considerably less than was promised to her as the condition of entering the Dominion;"

2. That the first condition of the said settlement, made in 1874, was the construction of the railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo;

3. That although the people of the Province were justified in expecting the commencement of the Esquimalt-Nanaimo Railway in 1875, their generous recognition of the embarrassed condition of the Dominion induced them for years to refrain from emphatically insisting upon the immediate construction of the railway;

4. That Lord Dufferin, in his official capacity of Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, in his speech delivered at Government House, Victoria, September 20th, 1876, pledged his word for the good faith of the Dominion to British Columbia in the following impressive language: "I would sooner," said his Lordship, "cut my right hand off, than utter a single word that I do not know to be absolute truth. * * * Every single item of the Carnarvon terms is at this moment in the course of fulfilment;"

5. That after five years of patient waiting the only Acts of the Dominion, in 1880, at all bearing upon the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway have been the application to the Provincial Government for the conveyance to the Dominion of an additional twenty miles belt of land between Esquimalt and Nanaimo, and the removal of steel rails purchased for the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway from Nanaimo to near Yale, on the Frazer River, for the use of the Emory Bar and Savona Ferry section of the Canadian Pacific Railway on the mainland;

6. That it is believed throughout the Dominion that arrangements have been recently made with a syndicate of capitalists for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway by 1890, which includes about 500 miles of railway known as the Lake Superior section, and excludes the 70 miles of the railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo;

7. That under the Carnarvon settlement the first portion of the railway to be built was the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, and the last the Lake Superior section which was postponed indefinitely until after the completion, by 1890, of the railway between the Pacific seaboard and Lake Superior;

8. That it is evident that the Dominion of Canada has not kept faith with British Columbia in carrying out its railway obligations;

9. That the inducements to British Columbia to confederate with the Dominion of Canada was the agreements which hold out the prospects of rapidly opening up, settling and developing different portions of this Province;

10. That in consequence of the default of the Dominion, Confederation has inflicted irreparable injury upon Vancouver Island, a most important part of British Columbia. So far from inducing settlement, it has prevented it. From the 7th June, 1873, until now, a belt of land along the east coast of Vancouver Island, over 180 miles in length, by 20 miles in breadth, has been kept locked up by the Dominion, so that thousands who intended to settle in this valuable portion of the Province have been placed across the boundary into Washington Territory which, in consequence, has largely increased in population since last census, greatly at the expense of British Columbia;