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Railway Construction and Better Terms

Important Announcement by Mr. Borden, Liberal-Conservative Leader.

By far the most important announcement forthcoming during the present election campaign, and, so far as the interests of British Columbia are concerned, the most important for many years, has just been made by Mr. Borden, leader of the Liberal-Conservative party in Canada. It effectually puts at rest the statements circulated among the electors that if the Conservatives were elected the new transcontinental would not be built or would be indefinitely delayed; and, also, in that event, that the claims of British Columbia for increased recognition at the hands of the Dominion would have no greater hopes of consideration than at the present time under the Liberals. In response to a telegram from Col. Prior to Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper for an explicit statement on these two matters, he received the following despatch:

"TORONTO, ONT., OCT. 10TH

"HON. SIR. CHAS. HIBBERT TUPPER, K. C.,

"President Conservative Association, Vancouver, B. C.:

"In reply to your enquiry, permit me to outline the salient features of our transportation policy. We will immediately undertake the construction of a transcontinental railway to the Pacific as a Government work. To this end we shall vitalize all the powers of Government and the financial strength of the Dominion. For obvious reasons, the utmost expedition will be employed. In the first place to satisfy without delay the need of our Great West, in the second place to curtail cost in the important matter of interest upon outlay during construction. To ensure early completion, every section of the railway will be undertaken as rapidly as, with all the resources of Government, surveys can be made and contracts entered into. Wherever it may be to the public interest, we shall not hesitate to exercise for the acquisition of existing railways the same powers of compulsory purchase which are possessed and exercised by railway corporations for acquiring the property of individuals. We shall supplement our railway policy by such improvement of our canals and waterways and of our harbors as will bring all up to the highest standard of the day and to the full needs of the