

*By Telegram from Victoria, B.C., to Hon R. W. Scott, Secretary of State.*

OTTAWA, March 19th, 1878.

Pacific Railway.—Government desire to be definitely informed immediately if construction will be commenced in this Province at an early period of present season?

A. N. RICHARDS.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA, B.C., 19th March, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose you, herewith, for the consideration of the Dominion Government, a copy of a Minute of my Executive Council, dated 18th inst., embodying a telegram which I have this day forwarded to you, asking for a definite answer with regard to the early commencement of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. N. RICHARDS,

*Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.*

Hon. R. W. SCOTT, Secretary of State, Ottawa.

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, on the 18th day of March, 1878.*

In a memorandum from the Hon. Minister of Finance, dated 16th March, 1878, reporting that it is desirable that it be represented to the Dominion Government that definite information relating to the commencement of the Railway construction in the Province should be communicated immediately to this Government, in order that before the prorogation of the Provincial Legislature, an assurance may be given of the intention of the Dominion Government to carry out in good faith the intimation of Lord Carnarvon, that the year which has now passed should terminate the delay in beginning actual construction of railway; and recommending that His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, be requested to forward by telegraph to the Hon. the Secretary of State for the Dominion the following despatch:—

“Pacific Railway.—Government desire to be definitely informed immediately if construction will be commenced in the Province at an early period of present season.”

The Committee advise that the recommendation be approved.

Certified,

WM. SMITH,

*Minister of Finance and Clerk Executive Council.*

*Telegram from Department of the Secretary of State to Lieut.-Governor Richards, Victoria, B.C.*

OTTAWA, 27th March, 1878.

Pacific Railway telegram 19th inst. answered by letter to-day.

R. W. SCOTT.

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE, 27th March, 1878.

SIR,—Your telegram of March 19th, stating that your Government desire to be definitely informed immediately if the construction of the Pacific Railway will be commenced in British Columbia at an early period of the present season, was duly received. I have to inform you that the engineers have not yet completed the mapping and calculations of last season's work. As soon as this is done the Government will endeavour to decide upon the best route to be taken through British