

Territories, and is also defined on a plan accompanying a further despatch to the Lieutenant-Governor from the said Secretary of State, dated the 23rd day of September, 1871. The grant of the said land shall be subject otherwise to the conditions contained in the said 11th section of the Terms of Union.

2. This Act shall not affect or prejudice the rights of the public with respect to common and public highways existing at the date hereof within the limits of the lands hereby intended to be conveyed.

3. This Act may be cited as "An Act to grant public lands on the Mainland to the Dominion in aid of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 1880."

CORRESPONDENCE

With reference to the transfer of Railway Lands to the Dominion.

By Command.

T. BASIL HUMPHREYS,
Provincial Secretary.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
4th May, 1880.

Mr. Trutch to the Attorney General.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 14th, 1880.

SIR,—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor having referred me to you as authorized to receive, on behalf of the Government of British Columbia, communications, from me, as Agent of the Dominion Government, on the subject of the adjustment and transfer to the Dominion of the lands granted by the Province of British Columbia, under the "Term and Conditions" of Union, in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, I beg to lay before you the following statement of the views of the Dominion Government on this matter, and more particularly in regard to the selection of the lands to be transferred, which views I had the opportunity of verbally submitting more fully for your consideration at the interview I had the honour of having with you this morning.

There is reason to believe that the character of the land for a very considerable distance along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as located in British Columbia, is such as to be altogether unsuited for agricultural purposes, and, therefore, valueless for the object contemplated at the time the Province was admitted into the Confederation, which was, that the lands proposed to be transferred to the Dominion should be laid out and sold to aid in the construction of the road.

The portion of Section 11 of the "Terms and Conditions," on which the Province became a part of the Dominion, which refers to the grant of land to be made by the Province for the purpose of the railway, is as follows:—

"And the Government of British Columbia agree to convey to the Dominion Government, in trust, to be appropriated in such manner as the Dominion Government may deem advisable, in furtherance of the construction of the said Railway, a similar extent of Public Lands along the line of Railway throughout its entire length in British Columbia, not to exceed, however, Twenty (20) Miles on each side of said line, as may be appropriated for the same purpose by the Dominion Government from the public lands in the North-West Territories and the Province of Manitoba.