

them by Monday's mail to Victoria (No. 25). On Monday I failed to see him when I called at his office. The next day I was more fortunate, and he was good enough to assure me that no further delay would occur in their transmission. I shortly afterwards left Ottawa, and reached Victoria on the 18th of last month.

Within the last week the several telegrams (Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30), which are appended hereto, have been sent and received upon the subject of the non-arrival of these despatches. The telegram from Lord Carnarvon is especially valuable as containing the only official intimation yet received that the Dominion Government has consented to adopt and follow the recommendations offered by his Lordship in his despatch of the 17th of last November.

Before closing this Report it will, no doubt, be as gratifying to Your Excellency to learn, as it is pleasing to me to state, that I received from Lord Carnarvon and from the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies a full and patient hearing; and every opportunity of placing the case of British Columbia in its true light and in all its bearings before his Lordship was cordially afforded me.

I must also acknowledge, which I do with much pleasure, the able services rendered by Mr. Sproat, the Agent-General of the Province, who upon the railway and all other questions evinced untiring zeal in advancing the interests of British Columbia.

It is worthy of record, that apart from the immediate result of the appeal to England, the Province attracted much attention from the prominence given to the object of my mission. Applications, greatly outnumbering those of any former year, or even number of years, were made at the office of the Agent-General during my stay in London, for full information respecting British Columbia, and its suitability as a home for intending settlers. The interest thus awakened in England has also been extended, in a considerable degree, to the Eastern Provinces; and I can state, from a reference to Mr. Sproat's books, that a number of immigrants, many of whom are in easy circumstances, will arrive here within the next few months.

I may be pardoned for adding that my mission differed but little—if at all—from missions of a similar character. It was not unattended with difficulties, as your Excellency can imagine; nor was my position one of freedom from labor and anxiety in the effort to discharge my duty towards the Province. Questions of a complex and intricate nature were, upon the reference to England of the issues between the two Governments, directly involved in the appeal itself. Further complications on my part would not only have been dangerous but mischievous.

I therefore, during my several interviews in England and at Ottawa, not only refrained from causing irritation between the Dominion and its Province, but endeavored on all occasions to allay it wherever circumstances pointed to its existence. As your Excellency will observe from my last letter to Lord Carnarvon, I labored—I hope not in vain—to convince Eastern Canada that British Columbia, in the advocacy of her rights, only sought to obtain a reasonable measure of justice without unduly pressing upon the resources of the Dominion, of which she forms a part.

Happily, the grave differences which at one time threatened to create a serious breach between the Dominion and her Western Province are now matters of the past.

For my own part, I trust that I may hereafter have cause to look back with satisfaction upon the settlement which has just been effected, and to reflect with sincere pleasure that under your Excellency's directions it fell to my lot in 1874 to be instrumental in promoting the welfare and advancement of the people of British Columbia.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

GEO. A. WALKEM.

*Attorney-General's Office,  
8th March, 1875.*