

Parliament is naturally averse to the increase of the national burdens, and it may be that a money grant might be out of the question; but without adding to the expenditure of the country, there are large resources available in the shape of territory. Would, therefore, the Government, if approving such an attempt, be ready to grant to any sound and sufficient company a considerable tract of land in aid to the construction of the means of communication by telegraph, and the provision of the means of transit across the continent?

Knowing the interest which your Grace feels in the progress of the British empire in North America, we do not hesitate thus to call attention to the subject.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

THOMAS BARING.  
GEO. CARR GLYN.  
R. D. HODGSON.  
GEO. G. GLYN.  
R. W. CRAWFORD.  
WILLIAM CHAPMAN.

To his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.  
&c. &c. &c.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a LETTER from Sir F. ROGERS, Bart., to THOS. BARING, Esq., M.P.

SIR,

Downing Street, July 31, 1862.

THE Duke of Newcastle has received the letter signed by you and other gentlemen, dated the 5th of July, relative to the formation of a company for the purpose of opening a route for passenger traffic, and telegraphic communication across the continent of British North America to the British Colonies on the Pacific.

I am desired in reply to express the Duke of Newcastle's regret that Her Majesty's Government cannot afford any direct pecuniary assistance to this object, and that, except in British Columbia, he has no power to make any grant of land for the purpose. At the same time his Grace fully appreciates the importance of the proposed scheme, and will give it every encouragement in his power. For this purpose he has written to the Hudson's Bay Company, through whose territories any such communication must pass, to enquire what facilities they would be ready to afford to the undertaking; and the Duke of Newcastle would suggest that you, and the gentlemen associated with you, should place yourselves in communication with the chairman of that Company, and in case of any satisfactory arrangement being made with them, his Grace will write to the Governors of Canada and British Columbia, and endeavour to procure for you some concession of land from those Colonies.

Thos. Baring, Esq., M.P.

I am, &c  
(Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a LETTER from Sir F. ROGERS, Bart., to H. H. BERENS, Esq.

SIR,

Downing Street, July 31, 1862.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to request that you will bring under the consideration of the Hudson's Bay Company the enclosed copy of a letter\* from Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., and other gentlemen, relative to the formation of a company for the purpose of opening a route for passenger traffic and telegraphic communication across the continent of British North America to the British Colonies on the Pacific.

His Grace, appreciating the importance of the scheme submitted to him, is disposed to give it every encouragement in his power, and for that purpose intends to invite the co-operation of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.

As, however, the proposed communication could only be carried through the territory over which the Hudson's Bay Company claims rights, his Grace, though not permitting himself to doubt from the tenour of your letter of the 19th of May † that the Company would afford such facilities as are in their power for co-operating in this great public object, would nevertheless be glad to learn distinctly whether they would concede a