

"private enterprise, upon the attention of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, in furtherance of views already expressed to you by Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, and Mr. Pope, and which are referred to in your letter.

"3. I trust that the explanations which I have given you, will prove sufficiently satisfactory to you to render unnecessary your proposed mission to London.

"4. In any event, Her Majesty's Government can only be approached by you through his Excellency The Governor-General.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"Hon. A. De Cosmos,

"Ottawa."

"S. L. TILLEY.

Mr. DE COSMOS TO SIR S. L. TILLEY.

"Ottawa, 18th May, 1881.

"Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on the 17th instant, of your letter of the 16th instant, in which you inform me, that Sir John Macdonald had desired that my letter of the 18th April on the subject of the construction of a Railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo should be submitted to the Committee of the Privy Council; and that you had done so on that day.

"In reply, I have the honor to state that there is a manifest misapprehension, on your part, as to the contents and object of my letter of the 13th ultimo; and in proof of this statement I refer you to the letter itself.

"The following extract from my letter of the 13th ultimo to Sir John A. Macdonald, makes it perfectly clear what was my paramount object in addressing it to him, viz:—

"I am, however, authorized to proceed to London to support the Prayer of the Petition; and unless it is your desire to consider here, without undue delay, the questions raised in it, with a view to their final and satisfactory settlement, it will be necessary for me to complete my preparations to proceed to London at an early day. In case you should decide to consider, here, the Prayer of the Petition, of course, it will be understood as being done without prejudice to Petitioners."

"Not having replied to the real object of my letter, you leave me no other course open, but to proceed to London.

"At a future time I may reply to the other statements in your letter.

"I have the honor to be

"Sir

"Your most obedient Servant,

"A. DE COSMOS.

"To the Hon. Sir S. L. Tilley,

"Minister of Finance, &c., &c., &c.,

"Ottawa."

2. The Report further states:—

"1. One of the terms upon which British Columbia, in the year 1871, entered into the Union of Her Majesty's North American Provinces was as follows:—

"The Government of the Dominion undertake to secure the commencement simultaneously within two years from the date of the Union, of the construction of a Railway from the Pacific towards the Rocky Mountains, and from such point as may be selected, east of the Rocky Mountains, towards the Pacific, to connect the Seaboard of British Columbia with the Railway System of Canada; and further to secure the completion of such Railway within ten years from the date of the Union."

The points in this Section of the Report that deserve special notice are:—

(1.) That "one of the terms upon which British Columbia, in 1871, entered into the Union of Her Majesty's North American Provinces" was the first Clause of the 11th Section of The Terms of Union, providing for the construction of a Railway connecting the Pacific Ocean with the Railway System of Canada.

(2.) That the words, "one of the terms," imply that there were other terms of Union.