

The Hon. the Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia, Victoria.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the report of your despatch of the 16th ult., enclosing copy of a minute of your Executive Council of 14th ult., authorizing the Hon. A. DeCosmos, M.P., to press upon the Dominion Government the importance of their carrying out their agreement to construct the Island section of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to point out the advantage to be gained therefrom as well as the serious injuries sustained by the Province in consequence of the withdrawal from sale and settlement for the past seven years of the extensive area of valuable land along the east coast of Vancouver Island.

I have, &c.,

J. C. AIKINS, *Secretary of State.*

VICTORIA, B. C., 19th November, 1880.

I am instructed by His Worship J. H. Turner, Mayor of Victoria, to forward you a copy of the resolutions of the British Columbia Board of Trade, and also of those passed by a mass meeting of the citizens of Victoria and residents of Vancouver Island, relating to the default of the Dominion of Canada in carrying out its railway obligations to British Columbia.

The maltreatment which this Province has for so many years received at the hands of the Dominion leads British Columbia to hope that your sense of right and sympathy for an injured people may induce you to use your powerful influence to secure for British Columbia justice from the Dominion or a release from political connection with it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. M. JOHNSON, *Secretary.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA—TREATMENT BY THE DOMINION OF CANADA FROM THE DATE OF UNION IN MAY, 1874, TO NOVEMBER, 1880.

Resolutions passed by the British Columbia Board of Trade, January, 1880:—

1. Whereas by the terms of Confederation between the Dominion of Canada and British Columbia, ratified by Her Majesty on the 16th May, 1871, the Dominion of Canada agreed to commence the construction of a railway from the Pacific towards the Rocky Mountains within two years of the date of the Union;

2. And whereas in furtherance of the said agreement, the Dominion Government of the 7th day of June, 1873, fixed the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Esquimalt, and applied for and obtained from the British Columbian Government the reservation of a 20-mile belt of land along the eastern coast of Vancouver Island for railroad purposes;

3. And whereas the Dominion Government have claimed that a commencement of railway construction was made at Esquimalt within the term of two years agreed upon in the terms of Union;

4. And whereas in the following year, 8th May, 1874, the Dominion Government, through its agent, Mr. Edgar, proposed to the Government of British Columbia "to proceed with the construction from Esquimalt to Nanaimo immediately," and "to push that portion of the railway on to completion with the utmost vigor and in the shortest practicable time," coupled, however with conditions relating to the mainland portion of the railway which were not entertained by the Government of British Columbia, as they conflicted with the terms of Union, and postponed indefinitely the consolidation of British North America, which was the primary object of Confederation;

5. And whereas, in consequence, serious differences arose between the Dominion of Canada and British Columbia, which were referred to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Earl of Carnarvon;