

Stanley Park and Deadman's Island.

land, known as Stanley Park and Deadman's Island are the property of the Crown as represented by this provincial government.

As matters connected with the controversy between the corporation of Vancouver and Mr. Théodore Ludgate over the lease granted by your department to the latter have assumed a serious aspect, and any further delay on the part of this government in asserting what it considers to be its rights of ownership might be prejudicial to the interests of others as well as to those of the province, I beg to inform you that as Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works I have formally taken possession of Deadman's Island on behalf of this government and have instructed my officials to permit no interference with or trespass on the property by any one.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. CARTER COTTON,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

(Telegrams.)

VICTORIA, B. C., 5th May, 1899.

Hon. F. W. BORDEN,
Minister of Militia,
Ottawa.

Provincial government satisfied Stanley Park including Deadman's Island belongs to them. Will Dominion government relinquish their claim in our favour?

JOS. MARTIN.

OTTAWA, 5th May, 1899.

Hon. JOSEPH MARTIN,
Attorney General,
Victoria, B. C.

Impossible to reply until grounds upon which you base your opinion are furnished to this government.

F. W. BORDEN.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,
OTTAWA, 12th May, 1899.

Hon. F. CARTER COTTON,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works,
Victoria, B. C.

SIR,—In reply to your letters of the 22nd ultimo, and 2nd instant, addressed to the Honourable the Minister, I hardly consider it necessary to tell you that all naval and military reserves are now the property of the Dominion of Canada; Stanley Park and Deadman's Island are without the slightest doubt military and naval reserves, and as such are Dominion property.

The Dominion government has been in peaceable possession of that reserve since a great number of years. In 1887, it exercised its rights of ownership in passing an Order in Council, granting to the city of Vancouver permission to use a part of this property for park purposes. This possession has been undisputed for many years before 1887. I am at a loss to understand how you can now claim to be the proprietor and take possession of the same, on behalf of your government, without any legal proceedings.

The Dominion government is the duly recognized proprietor, and it intends to remain in possession and maintain its rights as such.

It might perhaps lead to more speedy and friendly conclusions if you would be good enough to advise us as to the nature of titles under which you lay claim to the property in question.