

You will point out that it is, because we desire to act in good faith towards Columbia, that we at once avow our inability to carry out the exact conditions of the terms of Union. That it would have been an easy matter for us to have said nothing about it, or carelessly to have assumed the task of finishing the road before the month of July, 1881. Acting from a desire to deal frankly and honestly with Columbia, we considered what we could do to afford, at the earliest possible date, some means of travel across the continent preliminary to and in advance of a complete line of railway.

You will point out that, as part of the Dominion, it is as much in their interest as in ours to pursue a careful, judicious policy; also, that in assuming a disposition in spite of all reason to insist on impossibilities they are only setting at defiance all the rest of the Dominion and the laws of nature.

That by insisting on the "pound of flesh," they will only stimulate a feeling on the part of people generally to avoid in the future giving anything but the "pound of flesh."

You will remember that the Dominion is bound to reach the seaboard of the Pacific only, not Victoria or Esquimaux, and you will convey an intimation to them that any further extension beyond the head waters of the Frazar Inlet, or whatever other portion of the sea-waters may be reached, may depend entirely on the spirit shown by themselves in assenting to a reasonable extension of time or a modification of the terms originally agreed to.

You will also put them in remembrance of the terms they themselves proposed, which terms were assented to by their Local Legislature, and point out that it was only the insane act of the administration here which gave such conditions of Union to Columbia; that it could only have been because that administration sought additional means of procuring extensive patronage immediately before the general election, and saw in coming contests the means of carrying the elections, that the Province obtained on paper terms which at the time were known to be impossible of fulfilment.

If you find any favorable disposition among the leading men of the Province towards affording a generous consideration to the obvious necessity of giving a sufficient time for pushing the road through Columbia, you will endeavor to ascertain what value they attach to such consideration.

You will point out that the action of this Government in the matter of the graving dock, and the agreement to advance in cash the balance of the amount of debt with which Columbia was allowed to enter the Confederation, showed that it was not considering itself bound to the exact terms of Union, but was willing to go beyond them when the necessities of the Province seemed to demand such action, and that we not unnaturally expect similar action on the part of the Province.

In the event of your finding that there is a willingness to accept a proposition to extend the time for building the road, you will endeavor to obtain some proposition from them, directly or indirectly, and communicate this to us by cipher telegraph at once.

If, on the other hand, they make or indicate no proposition, you will telegraph to us what you think would be acceptable, but wait a reply before making any proposition.

In the event of the leading men evincing a disposition to negotiate, you will endeavor to secure something like a combination of parties to sanction any proposition likely to be generally accepted.

It will be well that you should take some means of ascertaining the popular view of the Railway question. This may be done by mingling among the people and allowing them to speak freely while you listen, remembering in taking impressions that your audience may be impressed by special local considerations rather than the general question.

It will be well not to confine yourself to the vicinity of the Government offices or Victoria, but to cross to the main land and meet with the people at Westminster and other towns and villages on the lower reaches of the Fraser.

It may be that you will find there is a disposition manifested to negotiate at Ottawa, in which case you will advise us of the existence of such a desire.