

No. 2.

DOWNING STREET, 31st July, 1862.

SIR,

The Duke of Newcastle has received the letter signed by you and other gentlemen, dated the 5th 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 would write to the Governors of Canada and British Columbia, and endeavour to procure for you some concession of land from those Colonies.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

FREDERIC ROGERS.

THOMAS BARING, Esq., M.P.

No. 3.

DOWNING STREET, August 18th, 1862.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 31st ultimo, I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Hudson's Bay Company, stating the extent to which the Company will be willing to co-operate with yourself and colleagues in establishing telegraphic communication with British Columbia across British North America.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

FREDERIC ROGERS.

THOMAS BARING, Esq., M.P., &c., &c.