

(Copy of No. 53.)

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 3rd August, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, a copy of a despatch addressed by me to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressing the acceptance by this Government of the offer made by his Lordship in his despatch of the 18th of June, to the Governor General, to arbitrate in the difference existing between the Government of Canada and this Province in relation to the railway article of the terms of Union, together with a copy of the minute of the Executive Council of British Columbia therewith enclosed, expressing the opinions and advice of my responsible Ministers upon Lord Carnarvon's proffered arbitration, and in accordance with which my said despatch to his Lordship, and the telegraphic message therein referred to, and of which a copy is appended, as well as this communication and the telegram to you of this day's date, a copy which is also attached hereto, are at the same time despatched.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed,) JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

(Copy)

Lieutenant-Governor to Earl Carnarvon.

3rd August, 1874.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to state that on the 28th ultimo, I received and laid before my responsible advisers a copy of your Lordship's despatch, of June the 18th, to Governor General the Earl of Dufferin, upon the pending difference between this Province and the Government of Canada, in relation to the railway article of the terms of Union, which despatch was transmitted to me by Lord Dufferin on the 3rd ultimo, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions.

I now enclose a minute of the Executive Council of this Province on your said despatch, and upon the advice of my Ministers thereon expressed I beg to signify my cordial acceptance on behalf of the Government of British Columbia of your Lordship's proffered arbitration in accordance in all respects with the conditions laid down by you in your said despatch: and to state that I have to day despatched a telegraphic message to you to this effect of which a copy is appended.

A copy of this despatch and enclosures therewith will be sent by this mail to the Secretary of State for Canada, for the information of the Governor General of Canada.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,) JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.

COPY of a report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the 3rd day of August, 1874.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration the proposal for a reference to arbitration of the question between the Province and the Dominion Government respecting the fulfilment of the terms of Union contained in the despatch dated 18th June, 1874, from the Right Honorable the Earl of Carnarvon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency the Governor General, a copy of which has been transmitted for the information of Your Excellency and referred to them for report.

In this despatch the Secretary of State observes that he is strongly impressed