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*Re. China and Japan Mail Steamship Line.*

LETTER FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA BOARD OF TRADE TO THE RIGHT HON. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

VICTORIA, 20th August, 1887.

SIR:—By direction of the President and Council of the British Columbia Board of Trade, I have the honor to transmit under separate cover, a Petition addressed by the members of the Board to the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reference to the subsidizing of a line of Mail Steamers between this Province and China and Japan, and the Board respectfully requests that you may be pleased to direct that the Petition in question be duly forwarded to its destination.

I have the honor, &c., &c.,

(Signed), W. MONTEITH, Secretary.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR HENRY HOLLAND,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
London, S. W.

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*To the Right Honorable George Joachim Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Etc., Etc.*

The Petition of the British Columbia Board of Trade of Victoria, British Columbia, one of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada, having special reference to the application of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for a Subsidy from the Imperial Government for a line of Steamships from Vancouver, the Terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to China and Japan.

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

1. That the Town of Vancouver is not situated on Vancouver Island as the name would indicate, but on the Mainland of British Columbia, and is separated from Vancouver Island by the Gulf of Georgia, about fifteen miles in width.
2. That Victoria, the Capital of British Columbia, is situated on Vancouver Island, and with the Harbor of Esquimalt, which adjoins and forms part of the Port of Victoria, is the first Port on British Territory inside the Straits of San Juan de Fuca.
3. That Esquimalt is the Naval Station for Her Majesty's Fleet on the North Pacific, the site of the recently completed Graving Dock and the proposed Government Fortification, and in the immediate vicinity of where Battery "C" is to be stationed by the Dominion Government.
4. That Victoria since the first settlement of the country has been, and still is, the principal commercial centre for the whole of British Columbia, having regular communication with all other parts of the Province and daily communication by Steamer with Vancouver and the United States of America.
5. That the direct commercial relations of Victoria with Great Britain constitute a very large proportion of the commerce of that Port both in imports and exports.
6. That the Port of Victoria is still deeply interested in continuing its direct commercial relations with Great Britain, and, as the carrying trade to and from Great Britain is principally *via* Cape Horn, it would appear to be antagonistic to the interests of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company that this connection should continue. For this and other similar reasons the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have shown a desire to ignore this Port.
7. That the Canadian Pacific Railway Company since establishing this line of Steamers have so far refused to acknowledge the just claims of this Port and Esquimalt, by declining to allow the said Steamers to call at this Port to land and receive mails and passengers.
8. That the contention of the Railway Company that the transcontinental mails would be seriously delayed by the Steamer calling at this Port is not correct, as the daily Steamer from Victoria makes close connections with the daily trains from Vancouver, and any mails arriving after the departure of the daily train are held for the following day.
9. That if the mails were landed at Victoria, those for the Naval authorities and local districts would be distributed twenty-four hours earlier, and transcontinental mails would be forwarded by first daily Steamer from Victoria, to connect with the first daily train from Vancouver, which would cause no detention whatever in their delivery at destination.
10. That the delay of the Steamers and expenses of calling at Victoria would be inconsiderable as the Steamers pass within a short distance (not exceeding one mile) from the Port.