

has caused a strong feeling of anxiety and discouragement to exist throughout the Province.

The Committee advise Your Honor to ask the Dominion Government, through the proper channel, for a decided expression of its policy, with regard to the fulfilment of the 11th Article of the Terms of Union, in order that the information may be given to the Legislature at the opening of the coming Session.

And they request that the decision arrived at be communicated to Your Honor by telegram at the earliest moment possible; and the Committee respectfully suggest, that if the present Report be sanctioned, Your Honor will be pleased to forward the same to His Excellency the Governor General; and also draw his attention to the Minutes of Council, each bearing date the 25th day of July last, on the same subject, one being a protest against the breach of Article 11, and the other a denial of the right of the Dominion Government to a conveyance or reserve of any of the public lands for Railway purposes until the line of Railway should be defined.

Certified.

(Signed.) W. J. ARMSTRONG,
Clerk of Executive Council.

(2.)

(Canada.—No. 370.)

DOWNING STREET,

15th January, 1874.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 301, of the 26th of December, enclosing a copy of a despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, with a copy of a minute of his Executive Council, referring to the non-fulfilment, on the part of the Canadian Government, of the 11th Article of the terms of Union between that Province and Canada in respect to the construction of the Pacific Railway.

I have the honor to be, My Lord,

Your Lordships most obedient humble servant.

(Signed.)

KIMBERLY.

Governor General

The Right Honorable

The Earl of Dufferin, K. P., K. C. B.

&c. &c. &c.

(21.)

(Confidential—Copy 3,494.)

OTTAWA, February 19, 1874.

MY DEAR SIR.—In your conversations with leading men in and out of the Government in Columbia, it will be well to let them understand that in proposing to take longer time than is provided in constructing the railway, we are actuated solely by an urgent necessity. That we are as anxious as possible to reach the object sought by all—the early construction of the road.

We are, however, advised by our Engineers, that it is a physical impossibility to construct the road in that time—that is within the time provided in the terms of the Union, and that any attempt to do so can only result in very great useless expense and financial disorder. You can point out that the surveys for the Intercolonial Railway were begun in 1864, and the work carried on uninterruptedly ever since, and although the utmost expedition was used, it will require still eighteen months to complete it. If it requires so much time in a settled country to build 500 miles of railway with facilities every where for procuring all supplies, one may conceive the time and labor required to construct a line five times the length through a country all but totally unsettled.