

a doubt of the anxiety of the Dominion Government and Parliament to give the fullest consideration to such representations as may be made on the part of British Columbia, and to deal in the fairest and most liberal spirit with what may be established as being the just claims of that Province.

3. At the same time I am strongly impressed with the importance of neglecting no means that can properly be adopted for effecting the speedy and amicable settlement of a question which cannot, without risk and obvious disadvantage to all parties, remain the subject of prolonged, and it may be, acrimonious discussion; and it has occurred to me that as in the original terms and conditions of the admission of British Columbia into the Union, certain points (as for example, the amount of land to be appropriated for the Indians, and the pensions to be assigned to public officers deprived of employment) were reserved for the decision of the Secretary of State, so in the present case it may possibly be acceptable to both parties that I should tender my good offices in determining the new points which have presented themselves for settlement. I accordingly addressed a telegram to you yesterday to the effect that I greatly regretted that a difference should exist between the Dominion and the Province in regard to the railway, and that if both Governments should unite in desiring to refer to my arbitration all matters in controversy, binding themselves to accept such decision as I may think fair and just, I would not decline to undertake this service.

4. The duty which, under a sense of the importance of the interests concerned, I have thus offered to discharge, is, of course, a responsible and difficult one, which I could not assume, unless by the desire of both parties; and unless it should be fully agreed that my decision, whatever it may be, shall be accepted without any question or demur. If it is desired that I should act in this matter, it will be convenient for each party to prepare a statement to be communicated to the other party, and after a reasonable interval, a counter-statement, and that on these written documents I should, reserving, of course, to myself the power of calling for any other information to guide me in arriving at my conclusion, give my final decision.

5. I request you to transmit a copy of this despatch with the utmost possible speed to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. I have communicated to Mr. Sproat, the agent for British Columbia, for transmission by telegraph to the Government of that Province, the purport of the telegram which I addressed to you yesterday, in order that my offer may come before both parties as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be, my Lord,

Yours, &c.,

(Signed,)

CARNARVON.

(Copy of Telegram.)

VICTORIA, B. C., 4th August, 1874.

My Ministers request me to state for the information of the Governor General that the following message, namely, "Colonial Secretary, London, 3rd August, upon advice of responsible Ministers I accept, on behalf of British Columbia arbitration offered in your despatch to Lord Dufferin 18th June. Please acknowledge. Joseph W. Trutch, Lieut.-Governor British Columbia" has been this day telegraphed to Lord Carnarvon.

(Signed,)

JOSEPH W. TRUTCH,

Lieutenant-Governor.

To the Hon. R. W. Scott,  
Secretary of State.

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