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Ch. p. m. T. d.

*Minute of Council of British Columbia Board of Trade,
re. China-Japan Mail Steamship Service :*

The British Columbia Board of Trade fully confirm the points set forth in their Petition to the Right Hon. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, dated 26th August, 1887, copy of which is attached hereto.

Battery "C" referred to in Clause 3 has since been established.

As an addition to Clause 4, the Board would point out that the Port of Victoria holds 5th position in the Dominion in regard to its Imports, Exports and Revenue.

In confirmation of Clauses 8 and 9 it may be stated that Sir Arthur Blackwood, of the General Post Office Department, has had, by a personal visit to this Province, ample opportunities of testing the accuracy of the statements therein contained.

The Board would further point out as follows, viz.:

1. That Steamers calling at Victoria on outward passage could secure the Mails, of at least 24 hours later date than can be dispatched under existing circumstances, from the Naval Authorities at Esquimalt and Commercial Correspondence from Victoria and other points in Vancouver Island. Also 10 hours later Cable and Telegraphic advices from all parts of the world.

2. That notwithstanding it has been urged that there would be of necessity some delay occasioned by the Steamers calling at Victoria, such delay would be but brief—certainly not more than a few hours. In the opinion of the Board, the importance of Victoria as a commercial centre and the Capital of the Province, and of Esquimalt as Headquarters of H. M.'s Navy in the Pacific, should certainly constitute sufficient reasons for this port not being ignored by any Steamship line receiving an Imperial Subsidy.

3. That a large number of incoming passengers, destined for Victoria, travelling by this route, are put to great inconvenience and delay by reason of their being carried past their destination and then transferred at Vancouver to coasting Steamers by which they are returned to Victoria. Outgoing passengers from Victoria are compelled to proceed by coasting Steamer to Vancouver and there embark on the China-Japan Steamers in lieu of being permitted to join the vessels here. The Steamers in question pass within a mile of the Port of Victoria.

4. Every needful facility in the way of wharf accommodation exists and vessels calling can procure quick dispatch. Should it be made a condition of the Mail Contract that the Steamers shall call here outwards and inwards, all necessary dockage accommodation will be guaranteed and under no circumstances will communication by tug be considered a sufficient substitute.

Victoria, B. C., 6th December, 1888.

W. MONTEITH, Secretary.

ROBT. WARD, President.