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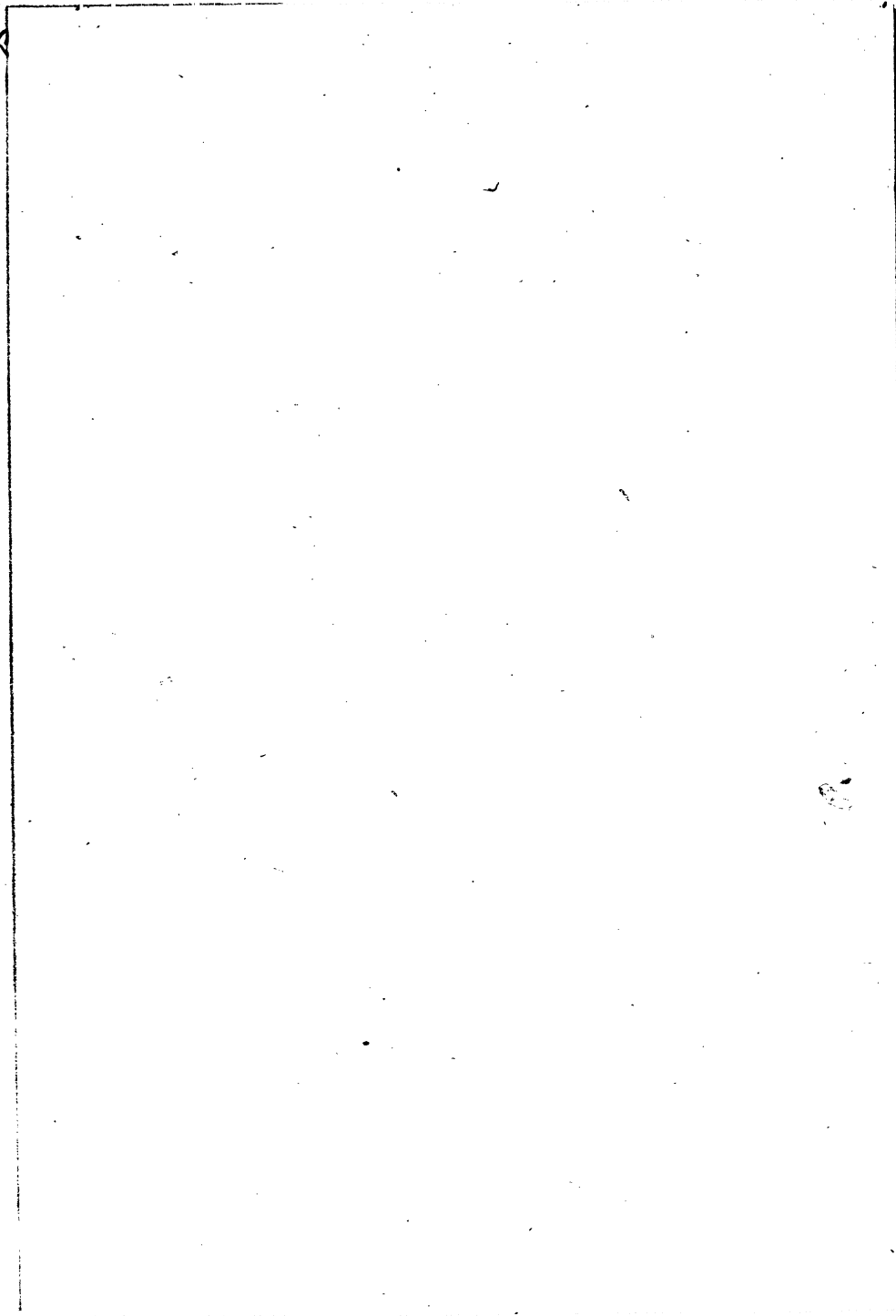
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TESTIMONIALS.

DR. W. F. TOLMIE.

VICTORIA DAILY STANDARD PRINT.

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SECTION 10

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TESTIMONIALS.

(COPY)

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,
August 26th, 1871.

HONORABLE JOSEPH HOWE,
Secretary of State for the Provinces, Ottawa, Canada.

SIR,—I have no disposition to obtrude myself upon your notice or to interfere in matters of policy in a country in which I am *alien*; still, we are neighbors of British Columbia, and, what is still better, friendship exists between citizens of that Colony and this Territory the cultivation of which may tighten the bonds of peace, and therein become the guarantee of mutual progress.

Our inland sea of Puget Sound extends northward by a continuous series of waters, and the Indian tribes in both Territories are fully as much intermingled as are some of our friendships. Indian policy, if I may use the expression, becomes a matter of common interest. I learn with pleasure that my old and valued friend, Dr. W. F. Tolmie, the *avant courier* of the white race on these waters, who did so much to mollify savage dispositions by his able management of the Indians some quarter of a century, thus paving the way for peaceful occupation of the whites, is presented by his numerous friends for the position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs. May I say his long experience, his successful management of our Indians so long, his vast knowledge of that interesting race, their languages, habits, etc., all most peculiarly fit him for the office. He will do credit to the Government, justice to the Indians, honor to himself.

I have known him well since 1851. I know, too, how much our people are indebted to him—more than once for aiding to avert disaster to our settlements when in their in-

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fancy. You may desire to know my means of knowledge, and why this boldness in addressing you. I don't like to herald my own identity, but I have had the honor to hold several official positions in this Territory, and one year acting as its Governor, I had access to the Executive records, which abound in evidence of the usefulness of Dr. Tolmie in our Indian war of 1855-6 in allaying Indian hostility and preserving peace among the tribes on Puget Sound, by his personal exertions and missionary work among them.

You are aware, doubtless, that he had charge of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s Fort, Nisqually, as early as 1834, ten years before the advent of white settlement. His peaceable residence for ten years speaks volumes, and I need add nothing more than that our people, who hold him in grateful remembrance for his valuable and disinterested service in their behalf, will hail his appointment with great pleasure.

I am, dear sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ELWOOD EVANS.

(COPY.)

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,
August 27th, 1871.

HON. JOSEPH HOWE,

*Secretary of State for the Provinces,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

SIR,—Although a personal stranger to yourself and not a citizen of British Columbia, yet my residence and interests in Washington Territory make me an interested observer of the policy and progress of that neighboring Province. The relations between the Indians of British Columbia and this Territory are so interwoven that a judicious system of treatment to the British Indians becomes as important to mutual stability as the conducting our own Indian policy wisely and well. Hence it is quite natural that I should feel a lively interest as to who should receive

the delicate and very important position of Indian Superintendent of British Columbia. I have been advised that Hon. Wm. F. Tolmie, formerly a long and valued resident of this vicinity, is being pressed by his numerous friends for that position.

To sum up his varied qualifications for that office would require more space than I am at liberty to trespass upon you. How truly it might be said, "He would be the right man in the right place." He came to Nisqually, on Puget Sound, in 1843, and continued there till 1859, when he took up his residence at Victoria. In 1850 he saved our American Puget Sound settlements from the horrors of a general Indian war. In our Indian war of 1855-6 he labored disinterestedly and successfully to avert the horrors of Indian warfare, and to his great influence with the Indians and his intimate knowledge of their character, are our people immeasurably indebted for saving life and property and hastening the restoration of peace. I came to Puget Sound in 1851, the first Federal appointee in what is now Washington Territory. I early made the acquaintance of Dr. Tolmie. In 1855-6 I held the position of Quartermaster-General, and speak the above from personal knowledge. I afterward held the position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for this Territory, and I know how great had been his influence and how highly he was still regarded by our Indians, and to me he was then most useful as an adviser, to say nothing of the ease of official duty, based upon the healthful influence upon the Indians of Puget Sound by his efficient charge over them for some sixteen years.

Begging your pardon for this seeming trespass,

I am, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. W. MILLER.

(COPY.)

OLYMPIA, August 23th, 1871.

HON. JOSEPH HOWE,

Secretary for the Provinces, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

SIR,—The undersigned, United States Officers of Washington Territory, beg leave to second the recommendation which they learn the friends of Dr. Wm. F. Tolmie are making for his appointment as Superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia. The Indians along the boundary line between the United States and British Columbia are so intermingled by marriage and association and are so continually moving from one side to the other, that it becomes a matter of great importance to the interests of our people and of the Indians, and to the quiet and welfare of both races, that one so able and peculiarly qualified as Dr. Tolmie should fill that responsible position.

Dr. Tolmie, during his long residence at Fort Nisqually, in our Territory, as Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, commanded the obedience and good-will of the Indians and the esteem of our people. On more than one occasion his influence with the Indians averted serious difficulties, if not actual outbreaks.

From these facts, from the universal testimony of our best citizens and oldest residents, from the feelings manifested by the Indians, and his well known and remarkable control over them, we are convinced that his appointment to this office would be not simply an excellent one, but the very best that could be made, and one calculated to strengthen the good feeling which we trust will ever prevail between the two countries.

Very respectfully, your obed't servants,

(Signed)

EDW. S. SALOMON,
Governor Wash. Ter.,

J. C. CLEMENTS,
Secretary W. T.,

JAS. R. HAYDEN,
U. S. Assessor,

S. COULTER,
Collector Inter. Rev.,
R. G. O'BRIEN,
U. S. Asst. Assessor,
R. S. GREENE,
Asso. Justice Supreme Court,
E. V. P. FERRY,
Surv. General.

(COPY.)

OLYMPIA, August 31st, 1871.

DEAR SIR,—The friends of Dr. Wm. F. Tolmie, I am informed, are asking that he be appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia. Although an American, and strictly speaking without interest in the matter, I cannot refrain from bearing testimony to the truly remarkable qualifications which fit Dr. Tolmie for this position, and which I have had abundant opportunities to observe as an old resident of Washington Territory, as the son of its first U. S. Governor, and having served in the Indian war of 1855-6, and as U. S. Collector for several years. I need not dwell on these qualifications. They are universally known and recognized, and will doubtless be brought to your attention. His great control over the Indians, the respect and esteem with which he is regarded by our people, and his well known ability and firmness, prove him the best fitted to settle those vexatious disputes and difficulties which constantly spring up along a boundary line, and especially so in this instance from the migratory habits of the Indians.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

(Signed) HAZARD STEVENS.

The Hon. Joseph Howe,
Secretary for the Provinces, Ottawa.

(COPY.)

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE, VICTORIA, V. I.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, Sept. 12th, 1871.

HONORABLE JOSEPH HOWE,*Secretary of State for the Provinces, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.*

SIR,—Being informed that a Superintendent of Indian Affairs is to be appointed for this province of the Dominion, and that such an appointment is to be made by the Dominion Ministry, I beg to address you a few lines respecting this most important appointment, feeling as I do, being one of the first colonists on Vancouver's Island, who invested money in a homestead on it in early days, that the prosperity of the province and the security for life and property therein, much depends on our relations with the numerous and powerful tribes of Indians within its limits. As one who had been on the coast since the year 1840, and in other parts of the Indian country previously for some years, held the office of Legislative Councillor for Vancouver's Island Colony for many years, and being now settled here with a large family to bring up. I trust that my recommendation for a fit and proper person to fill this responsible office may have its due weight with your Honor and your colleagues in office.

Understanding that a former colleague of mine in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, Mr. Wm. F. Tolmie, Chief Factor, lately retired, is willing to accept the department of Indian Affairs in the province, I beg to state that I can conscientiously recommend him as the best qualified person I know of in the country for the office, he being well acquainted with the Indians in the neighborhood and along the North West Coast, having been among them studying the character of the tribes, dealing with them for the last thirty-seven years, and consequently has acquired great influence with them. I may as well add that now when the natives feel that they have been in any way unjustly dealt with, they resort for advice to the old officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, with whom they have been acquainted, and in whom

they have implicit faith from a knowledge that they always have been justly dealt with by them.

The appointment of any inexperienced person to fill such an important office as this, might be the cause of involving us at any time in difficulties with the natives, which should above all things be avoided in a small community, such as this is, much exposed to their depredations.

My anxiety for the welfare of this Province of the Dominion, in which I have made my home, and a desire for its prosperity, is my apology for thus trespassing on your Honor's valuable time.

I have the honor to be,

Your Honor's most humble servant,

(Signed) **ROD K. FINLAYSON,**

Chief Factor Hudson's Bay Company,

Lloyd's Agent.

(COPY.)

TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH HOWE,

Secretary of State to the Canadian Dominion.

BISHOP'S CLOSE, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,

September 19th, 1871.

SIR,—I have been requested by Dr. Tolmie to make a statement with respect to his qualifications for Indian Superintendent for this Province.

I gladly bear the testimony of twelve years acquaintance to the high character he has ever sustained in social life and to his active interest in all matters connected with education and improvement.

I know of no one who has a more extensive acquaintance with the Indians of this Province, or who has given greater proof of sympathy in their welfare.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed) **G. COLUMBIA.**

(COPY.)

VICTORIA, B. C., 22nd Sept., 1871.

DEAR DR. TOLMIE,—In relation to your application for the office of Indian Agent for the Province of British Columbia, I may be permitted to state that I have known you personally both here and on the coast since 1838, and by character since, 1833, and can conscientiously testify to your high qualifications for fulfilling the duties of the above mentioned important office; that your conduct towards the Indians has always been firm as well as conciliatory and your long familiarity with their languages, manners, and habits of thought must give you a great advantage over any competitor.

I remain, my dear Dr., your sincere friend,

(Signed) Wm. H. McNEIL.

Late Chief Factor, Hon. H. B. Co.

To Wm. Fraser Tolmie, Esq., ex-Chief Factor H. B. Co.

(COPY.)

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
Sept. 18th, 1871.

WILLIAM FRASER TOLMIE, ESQUIRE,

MY DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in testifying to your long experience in the management of the tribes who inhabit the sea coast of British Columbia. The deep interest you have always taken in their welfare, leading you to enquire into their habits and peculiarities, has given you a more than ordinary insight into their characters and opinions, together with a considerable knowledge of their languages.

The information thus acquired renders you highly eligible for the position of Indian Commissioner for this Province. I trust that the Officer superintending the Indian Affairs of the whole Dominion, taking into consideration your competency for that position, will secure your valuable services for that important office. I am the less diffident in making these statements as my own varied experience with the tribes of this Province in trading with them, employing them as labourers, voyageurs and hunters, securing criminals, treating for their lands, interpreting for Courts of Justice,

and other authorities, has been long and extensive. I am more or less acquainted with every tribe in the Province,
With best wishes,

I am, my dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

(Signed.) J. W. McKAY.

C. T. H. B. Co.

(COPY.)

VICTORIA, B. C., 20th Sept., 1871.

DEAR DOCTOR TOLMIE,—It gives me much pleasure to learn that you are an applicant for the office of Indian Agent for this Province, and reasoning by analogy I think it not rash to predict your success.

The Dominion Government have shown so much generosity in promoting a fellow colonist to the office of Governor and so much judgment in the selection, it seems highly probable that a similar course may be observed in the disposal of an office eminently requiring extensive local knowledge and experience in the management of our fifty thousand Indians.

And where is the happy combination of character required so likely to be met with as among the retiring officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, whose successful rule of the Indians, founded on principles of humanity and justice, has so frequently elicited the admiration of our American neighbors? And now let me add that among those gentlemen I know of no one so well qualified as yourself, on the grounds of personal energy and administrative capability, improved by experience, recent and remote, in dealing with and managing the Indians of British Columbia, of which I may truly say I have been an humble eye witness for the last twenty years, since I first had the privilege of your personal acquaintance in 1851.

I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your sincere friend and well wisher,

(Signed) J. D. PEMBERTON.

Ex-Surveyor General, V. I.

William Fraser Tolmie, Esq., Cloverdale.