

RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly, for a copy of the papers and Correspondence between the Government and settlers of Yale-Lytton District, in connection with Roads, Trails, and Bridges.

By Command.

ROBERT BEAVEN,

Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works.

*Lands & Works Office,
12th February, 1873.*

Mr. Mara M. P. P., to the Surveyor-General

KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

May 18th, 1872.

DEAR SIR.—Mr. Donald McPheeson is willing to undertake the construction of a trail through Eagle Pass, according to your specifications, from the North Fork of Eagle River (to which point it is navigable for large boats all the year round) to the Columbia River, for the sum of four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$84,00).

On the summit Lake he proposes to build a small scow, as advised by Mr. Moberly, the banks being too steep to make a trail, unless heavy blasting were done.

He offers as security for the performance of the work, Mr. W. Chase and Mr. J. Duck, two good men of this place.

Mr. McPheeson is an old contractor and a thoroughly reliable man. I can confidently recommend him to you.

Hoping that his offer will be satisfactory.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN A. MARA.

Mr. Clapperton, J. P., to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

LYTTON, July 22nd, 1872.

SIR,—If I am not mistaken, this Mail bears a Petition, addressed to His Excellency the Governor, and signed by most of the Settlers at Nicola, praying that the money voted last Session for the purpose of bridging Nicola and commencing a new road, be spent in making a road from head of Lake through the Settlement, as far as it goes. Mr. Dalley and myself refused to sign the Petition, as we considered the idea absurd, and entirely aside from the purpose for which the money was granted.

I am told the Bridge is to be built across Nicola, at the mouth, so that it may serve three or four Settlers on Thompson River, as well as the Nicola people. If such is the case, I am sorry to tell Mr. Walkem, that the Bridge would be of no earthly use to Nicola Valley, unless a road or trail was constructed from mouth of Nicola, joining present Nicomen (or Lytton) trail some 14 miles up the river. A bridge across Nicola, to give us communication with Lytton, is at present indispensable for the convenience of Settlers and the public at large, and I think a portion of the present unexpended appropriation would be judiciously spent in relieving that absolute want, than in making a road between a few houses in the interior of the Settlement. A Bridge built about 16 miles up Nicola, connecting Lytton with trail to Settlement would be utilized when new road was opened.

Last week, Mr. Stephens, C. E., came across to my place, from Kamloops, for the purpose of exploring route of contemplated road. Mr. Stephens being ignorant of the country he wished to travel, courtesy and duty compelled me to offer my services. We spent the last three days in the mountains, and I join him again to-morrow, to complete the examination.

The making of a road to Nicola, by the cheapest route, will cost a large sum. I do not expect to see it completed for some years, which makes certain communication with Lytton in summer as well as winter still more imperative.

Presuming that His Excellency will place the Nicola Petition before Mr. Walkem, is my reason for thus intruding on your time and patience.

Hoping the erection of a bridge across Nicola, connecting or rather completing present communication with Lytton, will meet with His Excellency's and Mr. Walkem's favorable consideration.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JNO. CLAPPERTON.

Petition to His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Trutch.

May it please your Excellency.

The petition of the undersigned settlers in Nicola Lake Valley humbly sheweth:—

That whereas, at the last session of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, an appropriation was made for improving the means of communication between Fort Yale and Cariboo.

And whereas, the appropriation so made was utterly insufficient to complete a waggon road for the whole distance.

And whereas, the greater portion of the expense of constructing the said waggon road will be incurred by the building of that portion lying nearest the Yale and Cariboo road.

Your petitioners would therefore pray, that your Excellency would order, that the money to be spent this season should be expended in the settled portion of the district, commencing at the head of Nicola Lake, and extending downwards as far as the money to be expended will allow.

Your petitioners believe that by having the money so expended, they would receive an immediate benefit, while if it were spent on the lower portion it would be absolutely useless to any one until the upper part was completed.

And further your petitioners would pray, that should the money to be expended complete the road further than where the present trail crosses the Nicola River, your Excellency would order that the road should be continued to Nicomen, as they believe this to be the cheapest and most practical route, beside being the most convenient for getting our produce to market.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER ROEB,

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FLORIEN MICKLE,

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J. P. MOORE,

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AND 22 OTHERS.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. Clapperton, J. P.

LANDS & WORKS OFFICE, VICTORIA,

August 15th, 1872.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the road, &c., in the Nicola Settlement, and to the Petition to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, numerously signed by the Settlers; and I beg to inform you that I shall place both the Petition and your letter before the Executive Council, upon His Excellency's return from Skeena.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM.