REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

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WITHDRAWAL OF OCEAN MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN VICTORIA AND SAN FRANCISCO.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee appointed to draft and submit an Address to His Excellency the Governor-General, beg leave to submit the following:

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SIMEON DUCK,
Chairman.

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May it please Your Excellency:

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, beg leave most respectfully to draw your attention to an important breach in the "Terms of Union" under which British Columbia became a Province of the Dominion of Canada.

The 4th clause of the "Terms of Union" reads as follows:—

"The Dominion will provide an efficient mail service, fortnightly, by steam communication, "between Victoria and San Francisco, and twice a week between Victoria and Olympia; the "vessels to be adapted for the conveyance of freight and passengers."

We most respectfully submit that the "Terms of Union" are in the nature of a Treaty, and should not be altered without the consent of all the contracting parties.

The mails between San Francisco and Victoria have not been transmitted for some months by the ocean route. This withdrawal of mail service by the Government of Canada has been made without our sanction.

The mails between the points mentioned are now solely transmitted overland to Puget Sound and thence to Victoria.

This service, whilst being partly in accordance with the agreement, is not fully so, and does not meet all the requirements of commerce, as letters forwarded by this route, in many instances, take longer to reach their destination than merchandise shipped direct by steam-vessels, thus putting merchants and others to great loss and inconvenience by the non-arrival of their invoices.

We therefore most respectfully protest against the discontinuance of an efficient mail service as provided by the "Terms of Union," and request that Your Excellency may be pleased to move the Dominion Government to an once restore the same in the interest of trade and commerce.

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