

REPORT

On the subject of the promise of the Imperial Government to contribute £50,000 towards the construction of the Esquimalt Graving Dock.

By Command.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
15th March, 1875.*

JOHN ASH,
Provincial Secretary.

To His Excellency the Honorable JOSEPH WILLIAM TRUTCH, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

I have the honor to submit the following report with respect to the promise of the Imperial Government to contribute £50,000 towards the construction of the Esquimalt Graving Dock.

As Your Excellency is aware, the promise in the first instance was limited to a contribution of £30,000, payable upon the satisfactory completion of the work by the Province, and upon condition that Her Majesty's ships of war should have the preferential use of the Dock without charge, beyond actual current expenses, for a period of fifteen years from the date of its completion.

The annexed correspondence also shows that in the early part of last year, the Admiralty were strongly disinclined, and in fact refused, to advise any increase upon the £30,000 promised. Your Excellency, therefore, deemed it unnecessary to instruct me while I was in England upon what may be termed the Railway Mission, to open any negotiations in relation to the Dock, nor is it likely, I respectfully submit, that even under more favorable conditions Your Excellency would have authorised me to enter into such negotiations pending the consideration of the Railway question, as they would, in all probability, have prejudicially interfered with its settlement. I accordingly made no movement with respect to the Dock until this settlement had been effected. This settlement took place on the 17th of November last. Subsequently I found upon enquiry that the importance of the Dock in an Imperial point of view was fully recognized. Hence I concluded that the Admiralty would favorably entertain any application for such assistance as would ensure its construction, especially as the commencement of the work had, even with the Imperial aid promised, remained so long in abeyance.

I therefore applied on the 19th of November to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, for permission, in the absence of official authority, to apply personally and on behalf of Your Government for an increase of the contribution promised by the Imperial Government, and for a revision of the terms attached to that promise. Permission was at first refused, unless I could show a strong exceptional case in favor of a suspension of the rule that such applications should be formally authorized by Your Excellency in Council, and afterwards sanctioned

by the Government of the Dominion. Upon my stating, however, that an official application had already been made by the Provincial Government through Mr. DeCosmos, and that I was merely renewing the request then made; and upon further showing that it would be nearly impossible for me to obtain this authority, if the point were insisted upon, and enter into and complete negotiations in time to place their result before the Provincial Legislature during its present session, the Under Secretary was pleased to relax the rule. Leave was moreover given me by the Under Secretary to confer with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty directly, instead of through the Colonial Office, which in all such cases is the usual channel of communication. In consideration of this favor, the only condition imposed was that I should forward copies to the Colonial Office of my correspondence with the Admiralty.

Between the 19th and 25th of November, I had interviews with some of the Lords Commissioners and with the Secretary of the Admiralty, which resulted in my addressing them by letter of the 25th of November (No. 6). This letter applies for an increase from the £30,000 promised to the sum of £50,000, and requests that, instead of this sum being paid upon the completion of the Dock, it should be advanced from time to time on certificates of progress of the work. A copy of this letter was forwarded in a covering letter of the same date to Lord Carnarvon.

At the end of November and at the beginning of December, I had some three or four interviews at the Admiralty. I considered it advisable from what took place on these occasions, to supplement my first letter with a second, which I addressed to the Admiralty on the 2nd of December (No. 8).

On the same and following days I was favored by the first Lord of the Admiralty with two interviews. At his request I fully explained all matters connected with the proposed construction of the Dock. He promised to consider my application favorably, but informed me that the Treasury, under any circumstances, would have to be consulted.

On the afternoon of the 5th, and again on the 8th of December, I saw the Under Secretary of the Treasury, who was good enough to assure me that when my application reached him through the Admiralty he would favorably entertain it, as he regarded the Dock of great value to the Imperial Government. He, however, considered my proposed change in the mode of payment objectionable, as the Imperial Government, after the expenditure of the £50,000, might hereafter be called upon to advance a further sum, should the Dock be unfinished.

On the 7th of December, I received from the Admiralty an acknowledgment of the receipt of my two letters, and an assurance that my application would receive careful consideration from the Admiralty and Treasury.

On the 9th, I again saw the first Lord of the Admiralty, and he informed me that the application had been forwarded by the Admiralty to the Treasury. On learning that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be in London on the 11th, I made arrangements for an interview with him on that day. After his arrival in London, I saw him at his office on the day appointed, and after an interview of some length he promised on behalf of the Government to give the increase asked for, or in other words, to grant £50,000 towards the construction of the Dock; but he declined to advance this sum by instalments or pay it except upon the completion of the work.

As I left London on the 17th of December, the Admiralty officially communicated their decision to the above effect to Mr. Sproat, who as Agent-General of the Province had been authorised by your Government to act in this matter (No. 12).

Annexed is a Telegram of the same date and to the same effect, from Lord Dufferin to Your Excellency (No. 13). A like Telegram was at my request sent by the Premier of Canada to Your Excellency on the 23rd of January last (No. 14).

As appears by the annexed letter, the Imperial Government have now agreed

to contribute towards the construction of the Dock, a sum of £50,000, payable when the work is completed to the satisfaction of the Admiralty. In consideration of this bonus, Her Majesty's ships of war shall be entitled to the preferential use of the Dock without charge, beyond actual current expenses, for a period of fifteen years from the date of the completion of the work.

I have much pleasure in respectfully acknowledging the courtesy and attention which I received on every occasion from the Colonial Office, and from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and of the Treasury. I am also happy to be able to state that a great part of the success attending the above negotiations, is fairly attributable to the active assistance of Admiral the Earl of Lauderdale, Rear-Admiral Richards, Sir John Rose, the Honorable Mr. Fitzwilliam, Mr. Southgate, and Mr. Sproat.

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

GEO. A. WALKEM.

Attorney-General's Office,
15th March, 1874.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS.

No. 1.

The Secretary of State for Canada to Lieutenant-Governor, British Columbia.

OTTAWA,
21st May, 1874.

29th April, 1874.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit to you herewith, for the information of your Government, a copy of a despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with its enclosures, respecting the proposed Imperial contribution towards the construction of a Dry Dock at Esquimalt, British Columbia.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. J. LANGEVIN,
Under Secretary of State.

No. 2.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor-General.

DOWNING STREET,
29th April, 1874.

Mr. DeCosmos, 3rd Dec. 1873.
(See *Sess. Papers*, 1873-74—*Mission of Mr. DeCosmos.*)

Colonial Office to Mr. DeCosmos,
5th Dec. 1873. (See *Sess. Papers*, 1873-74—*Mission of Mr. DeCosmos.*)

Colonial Office to Admiralty,
5th December, 1873:

Mr. DeCosmos, 8th Dec. 1873.
(See *Sess. Papers*, 1873-74—*Mission of Mr. DeCosmos.*)

MY LORD,—With reference to your Lordship's despatch (No. 272) of the 17th November last, I have the honor to transmit to you for your information and for that of your Government, copies of the correspondence noted in the margin, respecting the proposed Imperial contribution towards the construction of a Dry Dock at Esquimalt, British Columbia.

2. From the letters from the Admiralty of the 17th January last and 16th instant, you will perceive that Her Majesty's

Colonial Office to Admiralty,
9th December, 1873.

Mr. DeCosmos, 18th Dec. 1873,
(See *Sess. Papers, 1873-74—*
Mission of Mr. DeCosmos.)

Admiralty, 17th January, 1874.
Colonial Office to Admiralty,
27th January, 1874.

Mr. Sproat, 2nd April, 1874.
Colonial Office to Mr. Sproat,
7th April, 1874.

Colonial Office to Admiralty,
7th April, 1874,
Admiralty, 16th April, 1874.

Government are prepared to contribute £30,000 towards the proposed Dock on its satisfactory completion, provided that the work is constructed by the Province, that its dimensions and character are agreed on before hand, and that in consideration of this contribution Her Majesty's ships have the preferential use of the Dock without charge beyond actual current expenses, for a period of fifteen years from its completion.

3. In compliance with the request made by Mr. DeCosmos in his letter of the 13th December last, I communicated the decision of Her Majesty's Government to the Provincial Secretary of British Columbia, by a telegram of to-day's date.

4. I will request you will communicate the full details of the conditions imposed by Her Majesty's Government to the Governor of the Province.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CARNARVON.

Mr. Herbert to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

DOWNING STREET,
6th December, 1873.

17th November, 1873.

SIR,—I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, introducing the Honorable A. DeCosmos, President of the Council and Premier of the Province of British Columbia, who has been authorized to negotiate with Her Majesty's Government in reference to the construction of a Graving Dock at Esquimalt in that Province.

3rd December, 1873. (See *Sess. Papers, 1873-74—Mission of Mr. DeCosmos.*)

I am also to enclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. DeCosmos on this subject, and I am to state that Lord Kimberley would be glad to receive the views of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty generally in regard to the proposed undertaking, and to be favored with their opinion as to whether it is one of such importance to the Naval interests of the Empire as to justify an application to the Treasury for a considerable Imperial contribution.

I am to request that the pamphlet enclosed may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) R. G. W. HERBERT.

Colonial Office to the Admiralty.

DOWNING STREET,
9th December, 1873.

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 6th instant respecting the proposed construction of a Graving Dock at Esquimalt, B. C., I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a further letter from Mr. DeCosmos on this subject.

Lord Kimberley desires me to request that he may be favored with an early intimation of their Lordship's views in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

Admiralty to Colonial Office.

ADMIRALTY,
17th January, 1874.

SIR,—I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Kimberley, that my Lords have carefully examined the question raised in his letter of the 6th instant as to the construction of a Graving Dock at Esquimalt, for a contribution towards which the Honorable A. DeCosmos, President of the Council and Premier of the Province of British Columbia, has been authorized to negotiate with Her Majesty's Government.

The general plan of the work proposed by that gentleman has been referred by my Lords to the Hydrographer of the Navy and to the Director of Works, who have expressed themselves in favor of the scheme being entertained on certain terms, relating principally to the details of construction to which Mr. DeCosmos, on the part of the Provincial Government, had in his interviews with those officers expressed himself willing to agree.

The construction of a Dry Dock at Esquimalt of sufficient dimensions to take in large ships of war would tend to remove the objections which now exist to the employment of iron built ships on the Pacific station, and would thus be of very great service in time of peace as well as of war.

My Lords consider, therefore, that it would be sound policy to forward by means of pecuniary assistance the object in view.

Mr. DeCosmos proposes that the Dock, of which the cost has been estimated at about £112,000, should be constructed either by the Provincial Government assisted by a contribution from the Imperial Treasury, or by Her Majesty's Government with a contribution from the Province.

My Lords think that the former of these courses is the more desirable of the two, and they would not recommend that the alternative proposal should be entertained.

Treating the question on the former basis, my Lords gather from the communications made to them by Mr. DeCosmos that the Provincial Government would not require any sums to be paid to them until the Dock is finished, so that no risk would be incurred in contributing towards a scheme which might fail; and on this understanding they propose to offer the Colony a subsidy of £30,000 to be paid on the completion of a Dock of dimensions and character to be agreed upon beforehand.

Should the Earl of Kimberley concur in this view, my Lords will place themselves in communication with the Treasury, with a view to obtaining their opinion on the financial aspect of the question.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Colonial Office to the Admiralty.

DOWNING STREET,
27th January 1874.

SIR,—I have laid before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of the 17th inst, relating to the question of a contribution from Imperial funds towards the construction of the proposed Graving Dock at Esquimalt.

I am to express his Lordship's concurrence in the proposal of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to recommend to the Treasury, that a contribution of £30,000 should be offered, payable on the completion of work.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Mr. Sproat to Mr. Herbert.

LONDON,
April 2nd, 1874.

SIR,—Having to send a telegram to the Government of British Columbia through Mr. DeCosmos, Special Agent to the Home Government on the Esquimalt Dock proposal (who is now obliged to be at Ottawa as a member of the Dominion House of Commons), I shall be obliged by your enabling me to state the present position of the application which has been made to Her Majesty's Government for supplementary aid, to enable the Province to build a Dock that will be suitable for the purposes of the navy.

The Provincial Parliament has authorized the acceptance, from Canada, of £50,000, in lieu of the guarantee of interest provided in the Terms of Union with respect to the construction of the Dock, and it is therefore probable that work will be commenced as soon as possible, and the kind of Dock which will be built will largely depend on the amount of aid which may be granted by the Home Government.

The Province thus having, under many difficulties, brought the matter to a definite stage, it is hoped that a good and useful Dock may be constructed by means of the money which is at the disposal of the Provincial Government, and of a grant from the Home Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GILBERT MALCOLM SPROAT.

Mr. Meade to Mr. Sproat.

DOWNING STREET,
7th April, 1874.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 2nd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to acquaint you that the question of the proposed contribution by the Imperial Government towards the construction of a Graving Dock at Esquimalt is under the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

I have &c.,
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Mr. Meade to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

DOWNING STREET,
7th April, 1874.

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a letter from Mr. G. M. Sproat, Agent for British Columbia in this country, making an enquiry in regard to the proposed Imperial contribution towards a Graving Dock at Esquimalt.

Mr. Sproat has been informed that the matter is under the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

I have &c.,
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Admiralty to Colonial Office.

ADMIRALTY,

16th April, 1874.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, and former correspondence on the subject of an Imperial contribution of £30,000 in aid of the construction of a large Dry Dock at Esquimalt, Vancouver's Island, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have signified their assent to the payment of the above sum to the Government of British Columbia, on the satisfactory completion of the work.

In consideration of this contribution I am to add that Her Majesty's ships are to have preferential use of the Dock without charges beyond actual current expenses, for a period of fifteen years from its completion.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

ROBERT HALL.

No. 3.

TELEGRAM.

Lord Carnarvon to the Provincial Secretary.

29th April, 1874.

Admiralty will contribute thirty thousand pounds towards Esquimalt Dock. Terms by despatch.

No. 4.

Mr. Sproat to the Colonial Office.

LONDON, E. C.,

29th May, 1874.

SIR,—I am directed by the Government of British Columbia to enquire whether the loan of £20,000 at four per cent. for twenty-one years, which is, I believe, obtainable from the Home Government under an Imperial Act (the Colonial Docks Act) by the constructors of docks in the Colonies, can be obtained by the Province of British Columbia, separately from and in addition to the grant of £30,000 lately promised by the Home Government to the Province for the Esquimalt Dock.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

GILBERT MALCOLM SPROAT.

No. 5.

Colonial Office to Mr. Sproat.

DOWNING STREET,

27th June, 1874.

SIR,—I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to whom a copy of your letter of May 29th asking whether a loan of £20,000 can be obtained under the Colonial Docks Act, in addition to the contribution of £30,000 already promised, has been referred, have

stated that they are not prepared to recommend to the Treasury the application of any further sum beyond the £20,000 towards the construction of a Dry Dock at Esquimalt.

I am, &c.,
(Signed)

H. T. HOLLAND.

No. 6

The Honorable Mr. Walkem to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

LONDON,

25th November, 1874.

SIR,—On behalf of the Government of the Province of British Columbia, I have the honor to respectfully apply to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for an additional contribution from Her Majesty's Government towards the construction of the Esquimalt Dock, and also for the revision of the terms upon which Her Majesty's Government have promised the contribution of £30,000.

I greatly wish before leaving England to place matters on a footing that will permit the early preparation of the working plans for a Dock that shall suit the wants of Her Majesty's Government. These have not yet been ordered to be prepared as the Provincial Government have not before them sufficient information for that purpose.

An Engineer, however, has been employed to survey a site and to make a preliminary report, and considerable quantities of cement have been shipped, so that no delay may take place in beginning in spring or early summer the construction of such a Dock as may be finally decided upon.

The desire of the Provincial Government is, as above said, to construct a dock that shall be useful to the Navy, and they hope to effect this by means of the contributions of £50,000 from Canada and what may be given by England, without unduly pressing on the limited resources of the Province. The necessity of taking action with respect to the proposed Dock, more or less in reference to their limited resources, cramps the Provincial Government in the instructions which they would gladly be in a position immediately to give for the preparation of the working plans.

The Lords Commissioners are aware that owing to the extreme irregularity of the tides in that part of the world, some uncertainty exists still as to the requisite depth of the Dock to make it really useful for the Navy, and in so large a work there are many contingencies which make it desirable that a Government which is not financially strong should see their way as to money matters with reasonable clearness, so far as circumstances permit.

I beg to enclose the Report to the Provincial Government of the Honorable A. DeCosmos, who was here on the Dock business last year, showing the correspondence which took place between him and the Lords Commissioners, and I also enclose extract from a despatch of the Earl of Carnarvon to Earl Dufferin (29th April, 1874), showing the contribution proposed to be given, and the terms upon which it was promised.

I have now the honor to request that the Lords Commissioners will be good enough to revise the terms already decided upon, and that they will be pleased under the circumstances to recommend that the £50,000 originally asked for be granted, and that the same be paid as the work progresses, instead of upon its completion.

I may state that the Provincial Government will not require any portion of the contribution from Her Majesty's Government until the grant from the Canadian Government has been expended.

I shall be glad to be favored with the views of the Lords Commissioners on this matter as soon as possible, as I propose leaving England within a week from this date, and as I much desire to be placed in a position before my departure of consulting with and giving instructions to our Engineer on the subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

GEO. A. WALKEM.

No. 7.

The Honorable Mr. Walkem to Lord Carnarvon.

LONDON,
November 25th, 1874.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Admiralty, asking on behalf of British Columbia, for further aid than that already promised for the construction of the Naval Graving Dock at Esquimalt.

I trust that your Lordship, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, will be pleased to waive any objection which might be made by reason of the application not having been officially made through the Governor-General of the Dominion.

I have &c.,
(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM.

No. 8.

The Honorable Mr. Walkem to the Admiralty.

LONDON,
2nd December, 1874.

SIR,—Since the two interviews with which you were good enough to favor me on the subject of the proposed construction by British Columbia of the Naval Dock at Esquimalt, I think it desirable to supplement my letter of the 25th ultimo, with a few observations which are respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration of the Lords Commissioners.

The new arrangement under which the bonus of £50,000 has been offered to the Province by Canada is, as to the class of Dock, wholly unfettered by any conditions; hence the Province is without Imperial aid at liberty to construct such a Dock as would accommodate only the smaller class of vessels resorting to the waters of the Northern Pacific, and thus in fact, satisfy strictly Provincial requirements.

The above sum with a very small addition would, so I am informed, be sufficient for the construction of such a work.

This being the case, if the work is extended beyond these limits to meet Naval wants, it becomes of a strictly Imperial character.

Owing to the stipulation at present made with Her Majesty's Government in respect to the promised grant of £30,000 that Her Majesty's ships shall have free dockage for fifteen years, on payment only of actual current expenses, it will be apparent that no profit can accrue to the Province for such dockage.

I would also beg to remind the Lords Commissioners, that the cost of pumping out and working the larger Dock in order to accommodate any small mercantile craft, will be nearly the same as for the largest ironclad, hence there will be but little gain to the Province from the dockage even of merchant ships, as the charges must be so regulated as to compete favorably with the Dock at San Francisco.

Not to speak of larger motives, British Columbia is of course desirous to see a Naval Dock at Esquimalt, as indirectly the Province will reap many advantages from the presence of Naval establishments and of Her Majesty's ships.

In the event of the Lords Commissioners being pleased to recommend that the £50,000 originally asked for be granted, I beg respectfully to suggest that the money should be paid by instalments as the work progresses, after the Canadian grant of £50,000 shall have been exhausted.

The fact that the Canadian grant of £50,000 will have been expended by the Province upon the Dock before any Imperial aid whatever is required, is, I submit, one of the strongest guarantees that the further prosecution of the work will be rapidly pushed forward by the Province in order to make this expenditure reproductive.

As an additional security for the construction of the work to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government, the working plans for the larger description of Dock will, in the event of the aid now sought being granted, be submitted for the approval of the Lords Commissioners, and the work be carried on from the outset according to these plans.

I respectfully submit that it is undesirable that any arrangement with respect to the Dock should be made, to necessitate the borrowing or expenditure of money by the Provincial Government to construct a work which, upon the larger scale, would be really Imperial in character, and the expenditure on which should not therefore be allowed to interfere with the pressing claims upon the Provincial Government for improvements necessary to open up a young country.

May I request that, if possible, I may be favored with an answer before next Wednesday, as I intend leaving England on the following day, having already deferred my departure in hope of a favorable arrangement being come to with respect to this matter.

I have &c.,

(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM,
President of the Executive Council, British Columbia.

No. 9.

The Secretary of the Admiralty to the Honorable Mr. Walkem.

ADMIRALTY,

December 7th, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your two letters of November 25th and December 2nd, on the subject of the proposed Naval Dock at Esquimalt.

The requests therein made on behalf of the Colony for an increase in the amount of the proposed grant from the Imperial Government, and an alteration in the terms of payment require, and will certainly receive, careful consideration from the Board of Admiralty and the Treasury. No decision has as yet been arrived at; but I can assure you that, inasmuch as the importance of the construction of the proposed Dock has been fully recognized, no unnecessary delay shall take place in sending an answer to your application.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ALGERNON EGERTON.

No. 10.

Honorable Mr. Walkem to Private Secretary of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

LONDON,

December 10th, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—I learn that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will probably arrive from Dublin to-morrow. Will you be good enough to request the Chancellor to

favor Sir John Rose and myself with an interview, say at 2.30 P.M.? I shall, of course, be happy to wait upon him at any other hour he may suggest, but the time named will best suit Sir John Rose. Our business concerns the Esquimalt Naval Dock at British Columbia.

Yours, truly,
(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM.

No. 10A.

Reply to above.

11, DOWNING STREET, WHITEHALL,
December 10th.

DEAR SIR,—I have heard nothing from Sir Stafford, and I suppose therefore he will be here to-morrow. Mr. Smith thinks it would be most convenient if you could call here at about 2.30 P.M., for the purpose of seeing Sir Stafford. If I should hear anything that would disturb this arrangement, I will of course send you word at once.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. NORTHCOTE.

No. 11.

Hon. Mr. Walkem to Lord Carnarvon.

LONDON,
December 12th, 1874.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of my second and final letter (Dec. 2, 1874) to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, upon the subject of the increased Imperial aid sought by the Government of British Columbia to enable them to construct the proposed Naval Dock at Esquimalt.

As the Legislature of the Province is now, or very soon will be, in session, and as it is very important that orders for the plans, plant, and machinery should be given and the work be commenced as soon as possible, I have respectfully to request that your Lordship will be pleased to direct a telegram to be sent to the Provincial Government informing them of the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the application sent in. To await the receipt of the usual official intimation of the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject would, I beg leave to suggest, entail a loss of many valuable weeks and undesirably postpone active operations, at a period of the year most favorable in the Province to the successful commencement of the work.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM.

No. 12.

Admiralty to Mr. Sproat.

ADMIRALTY,
22nd December. 1874.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Walkem's letters of the 25th ultimo and 2nd inst., requesting an increase in the amount of the contribution from Imperial funds in aid of the proposed Dock at Esquimalt and a change in the period of payment,

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Government of British Columbia, that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have sanctioned the increase of the amount to be contributed from Imperial funds to £50,000, in lieu of £30,000, but the conditions as to payment of the money are to remain as before.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

ROBERT HALL.

TELEGRAMS.

No. 13.

The Governor-General to the Lieutenant-Governor.

OTTAWA,

22nd December, 1874.

The Imperial contribution towards Esquimalt Dock has been increased to fifty thousand pounds; terms and period of payment to remain unaltered.

(Signed)

DUFFERIN.

The Lieutenant-Governor to the Governor-General.

VICTORIA,

27th December, 1874.

Your telegram of 22nd instant received yesterday.

(Signed)

JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.

No. 14.

TELEGRAMS.

The Honorable Mr. Mackenzie to the Lieutenant-Governor.

OTTAWA,

January 23rd, 1875.

A telegram recently received from Lord Carnarvon, informs this Government that the Imperial Government have agreed to give twenty thousand pounds additional to Graving Dock.

(Signed)

A. MACKENZIE.

The Lieutenant-Governor to the Honorable Mr. Mackenzie.

VICTORIA,

January 26th, 1875.

Your telegram of 23rd received and communicated to Ministry.

(Signed)

JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.
