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## RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly for copies of all correspondence and documents respecting William Moore's Charter, Stickeen to Dease Lake, Cassiar Mines.

By Command.

ROBERT BEAVEN,

*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

*Lands and Works Office,*

*January 28th, 1874.*

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*Mr. W. Moore to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.*

COPY.

VICTORIA, V. I.,

January 3rd, 1873.

SIR,—I take the liberty of making a few remarks on the Northern mines by the way of Stickeen River, from the Stickeen River to Dease Lake—distance of about one hundred and fifty miles—where there is no road where pack animals can travel, but an easy country to make a road through. As there are a number of men anxious to go into that country, but, as now there is no way of getting supplies in, I would ask Your Excellency for the appropriation of \$500; for that amount a party of ten or twelve men can be got up, and a pack train, on the first opening of the Stickeen River, could go up with the men and animals and a Summer's provisions and tools, and cut a road from Flying Dutchman's Landing to Dease Lake. From there, boats can be used for a thousand miles or more, with the exception of two portages, one of five miles and the other of two miles; can go right from Dease Lake to Fort Simpson, on the McKenzie River. In the enclosed, I send you a sketch. This will also open an extensive fur country.

I remain, &c.,

(Signed)

WILLIAM MOORE.

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*Mr. W. Moore to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.*

COPY.

VICTORIA, V. I.,

February 10th, 1873.

SIR,—As I have been given to understand that there will be no Government aid to open a road from the head of steamboat navigation on the Stickeen River to Dease Lake, I take the liberty to suggest to open that road, if the Government will grant me a Charter; a toll of two cents per pound on all goods passing over the road for a term of five years, and if there is a gold field discovered which will employ three hundred miners and upwards, a bonus of £1,000.

I propose to leave here about the 1st March, go up to the mouth of Skeena on about the 1st April, start from the mouth of Skeena to Stickeen River with a couple of barges, a small train of horses, and ten or twelve men, with a Summer's provis-

ions, tools, and horse-feed, and on the first opening of the Stickeen River," go up to the head-waters of steamboat navigation, start in survey, and open up the most practicable pack-road from there to Dease Lake. I propose to open a good practical pack-trail, where horses or mules can pack their loads. All streams that are not fordable I propose to bridge, and to grade the road so that pack-animals can pass to and fro free of danger. I will make the road this season, so that pack-animals and miners can get in the ensuing Summer; but for the completion of the whole road it would be necessary to have two years' time to do it in, as the seasons in that locality are short. An early answer will be necessary, to complete all necessary arrangements in time.

Yours, &c.,  
WILLIAM MOORE.

(Signed)

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. W. Moore.*

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,  
Victoria, 3rd March, 1873.

COPY.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 10th February last, offering to make a road practicable for pack-animals from the head of navigation on Stickeen River to Dease Lake, in consideration of a privilege to collect tolls, I have the honor to inform you that a Charter will be granted to you upon the following conditions, viz.,—A good pack-trail to be made, suitable for horses and mules; all streams not fordable to be bridged; the trail to be opened so that pack-animals and miners can travel over it this season, and to be kept open and in good repair each year for the term which the Charter is granted.

In consideration of the above work, you will be authorized to collect a toll of two cents per pound on all goods passing over the road, for a period of five years from the date of completion of said trail, but no tolls are to be levied until the completion of the trail.

In event of any of the above stipulations not being carried out faithfully, the Charter will be forfeited, and you will not be entitled to any compensation from the Government for work done.

Upon satisfactory proof to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works that any or all of the above stipulations are not being carried out, he can terminate the Charter and agreement by public notice in the Government Gazette.

Government will have the usual power to redeem the Charter right.

I have, &c.,  
ROBERT BEAVEN,  
*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

(Signed)

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. W. D. Moore..*

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,  
Victoria, 3rd March, 1873.

COPY.

SIR,—With reference to the Trail Charter from Stickeen River to Dease Lake, I have the honor to inform you that the limits of the Charter will extend five miles on each side of the trail.

The Government decline paying \$500 for Exploring purposes.

The Charter will be issued in the name of William D. Moore, as desired.

An early reply is requested as to whether you are willing to take the Charter on those terms, or not, in writing.

I have, &c.,  
ROBERT BEAVEN,  
*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works,*

(Signed)

*Mr. W. D. Moore to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

COPY.

VICTORIA, V. I.,  
March, 5th, 1873.

SIR,—I have concluded to accept the Charter from the head of steamboat navigation to Dease Lake, according to your offer.

(Signed) WILLIAM MOORE,  
for W. M. D. MOORE.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. W. Moore.*

COPY.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,  
Victoria, 5th March, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, and to inform you that, as Mr. William D. Moore is under age, the Government will have the necessary documents made out in your name, if satisfactory to you.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

*Mr. W. Moore to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.*

COPY.

VICTORIA, V. I.,  
March 10th, 1873.

SIR,—I am very sorry to see that the enterprise which I was about to undertake is not likely to be commenced.

As the Charter has got to be advertised, and as I cannot rely on getting it, I could not get the supplies which are necessary to take from here, namely, hay and barley for the horses.

I had every arrangement made, and promised the documents the next day, which would have enabled me to go up on this boat, as the time to get horses up that river is by low water. There are sixteen miners going up on the Otter to Dease River. I had arrangements made with the men to pack their goods from Stickeen River to Dease Lake, while they would help to cut the road through.

In case I should not get the Charter, I would be in a position as I was at the Forks of Skeena, when I arrived there with forty thousand pounds of merchandize in the Spring of 1870.

I think Mr. Beaven is trying to forward the expedition, but Mr. Walkem appears to be against it.

Yours, &c.,  
(Signed) WILLIAM MOORE.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. W. Moore.*

COPY.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,  
VICTORIA, 12th March, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, addressed to His Excellency the Governor. In reply, I would call your attention to the fact that the Toll Charter Act necessitates the Government to advertise for tenders, before granting a Charter, and if not adhered to would, consequently, invalidate any Charter issued under other circumstances.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

*Memorandum of Agreement.*

COPY.

MEMORANDUM of Agreement made the Twelfth day of April, 1873, between Robert Beaven, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, of the one part, and William Moore, of the other part:—Witnesseth, That in and for the considerations hereinafter contained, the said William Moore agrees to make a good pack-trail, suitable for horses and mules to pack over, from the head of steamboat navigation on Stickeen River to the waters of Dease's Lake, and to bridge all streams not fordable crossing said trail. The said trail to be opened so that pack-animals can travel over it by 1st August, 1873, and completed on or before the 1st day of August, 1874, to the satisfaction (to be expressed in writing) of the said Robert Beaven, as such Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, or other officer appointed in that behalf. The said trail to be kept open and in good repair by the said William Moore during the space of five years from the date of completion. The said Robert Beaven, as such Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, agrees, in consideration of the aforesaid trail being made and completed to the satisfaction of the aforesaid Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, or other officer as aforesaid, to obtain for the said William Moore a Charter, empowering him to collect a toll of (2) two cents per pound on all goods passing over the said trail and five miles on each side thereof (that is to say, parallel thereto), for a period of five years from the date of acceptance of the said trail by the Government.

It is further agreed between the parties hereto, that if any of the above stipulations are not performed by the said William Moore to the satisfaction of the said Robert Beaven, as such Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works as aforesaid, the said Robert Beaven, as such Commissioner of Lands and Works, shall be at liberty to terminate this agreement and the said Charter at any time, by public notice in the Government Gazette, and the said William Moore shall not be entitled to any compensation from the Government for work done.

The Government to have the right to redeem the Charter-right at any time, on giving the said William Moore three months' notice and paying him the actual cost of the work, with 25 per centum added; the actual cost to be ascertained and decided, in case of dispute, by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, or other officer appointed in this behalf.

As witness our hands, this Twelfth day of April, 1873.

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN, [L.S.]  
*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

Witness—

(Signed) STANHOPE FARWELL.

(Signed) W. MOORE. [L.S.]

Witness—

(Signed) STANHOPE FARWELL.

*Mr. W. Moore to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

VICTORIA, V. I.,  
December 13th, 1873.

COPY.

SIR,—I have the honor to draw your attention to the agreement of the Charter of the trail from the head of steamboat navigation on Stickeen River to the waters of Dease Lake.

Since I have been exploring that country for the most practicable trail, I find the difficulties are much greater than what I expected. There is a great amount of grading to be done on the first part of the road, also, a large section of the country very swampy, and fallen timber.

As it requires a large amount of capital, I draw your attention to a certain clause in the agreement, where it says the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works shall be at liberty to terminate the agreement and the Charter-right, and that I receive no compensation for work done. This clause should be struck out.

Secondly—Where it says the Government has a right to redeem the Charter-right, I would suggest as follows: The Government should select one person as arbitrator and I or my assignees shall choose another person as arbitrator, to fix and agree upon the price to be paid by the Government to me or my assignees, for the trail; and if said two arbitrators cannot agree, let them call in a third person to be mutually agreed upon by them to assist in finding the price and value of the trail, and the Government shall then pay to me or my assignees the price agreed upon by the arbitrators—any two of them—and 25 per centum of said value in addition thereto, and they receive said trail.

As there was nothing said in regard to horned cattle, hogs, or sheep, or any other animal not employed in packing, they should also pay a toll, as they cut up a trail and bridges more than regular pack-animals. As to the 2 cents per pound charged on all goods passing over the trail, a great portion will go towards keeping the road in repair.

A ferry boat to be allowed in place of a bridge at the first North Fork, if I deem it more necessary, the timber being scarce in that locality, and the stream very wide.

The starting point of the trail to be determined on, as the difference of opinion as to the head of steamboat navigation may raise the question. I would suggest the mouth of Telegraph Creek, about three and a half miles above Buck's Bar; steamboats can run beyond this point seven or eight miles.

An early answer will be necessary.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) WILLIAM MOORE.

*Mr. William Moore to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

I, William Moore, of Victoria, British Columbia, hereby propose to the proper authorities of the Government of British Columbia that I, the said William Moore, will build and construct a trail of sufficient capacity to permit or allow horses or mules with a pack of 250 pounds weight each to pass over with proper facility and convenience, from the head of steamboat navigation on Stickeen River to the waters of Dease Lake, in the territory of British Columbia, and to bridge or ferry all streams not fordable crossing the said trail, and to commence said work on or before June 1, 1874, and continue the same thereafter with all reasonable diligence and dispatch until the same be finished and completed, upon the following terms and conditions, to be granted and extended to me, I, the said W. Moore, in consideration thereof by said Government—that is to say:

The said William Moore to be permitted and allowed to collect and receive tolls of animals and freight passing and travelling over and upon said trail, as follows:

For all freight, two (2) cents per pound.

For each horse or mule, loaded.

Loose or led horse or mule.

Cattle, per head.

Jack or jenny.

Hogs or sheep.

The said William Moore to have the exclusive privilege of the right of way for a distance or width of five miles on each side of said trail for its entire length, to the exclusion of any opposition way or trail, for the term of five years from and after the completion of said trail to be built by him, the said William Moore.

If the Government shall elect to revoke said Licence and grant of right of way to the said William Moore within said period of five years, the same to be only on condition of twelve months' previous notice, to be given to said William Moore or his assignees, and upon the further condition, that if the Government shall so elect to revoke said Licence and take possession of said trail within said term of five years, the Government shall choose one person as arbitrator, and William Moore or his assignees shall choose another person as arbitrator, to fix and agree upon the price to be paid by the Government to said William Moore or his assignees for said trail; and if said arbitrators cannot agree, they shall call in a third person, to be mutually agreed upon by them, to assist in fixing the price and value of said trail, and the Government shall then pay the said William Moore or his assignees the price agreed on by said arbitrators, or any two of them, and 25 per centum of said value in addition thereto, and receive said trail.

(Signed)

WILLIAM MOORE.

*Mr. Joseph Knott to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

COPY.

ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL,  
Victoria, B.C., December 13, 1873.

SIR,—I beg to enclose a rough memorandum of an agreement proposed for the acceptance of Mr. Moore, which he appears not to be satisfied with.

Such is the substance he consented to last evening when in your room. This morning, however, he declines to accede to this arrangement, and I, on behalf of myself and friends, have decided to hold no further intercourse with him on this subject. If you think proper to send for him, and he can furnish the security you require, and are satisfied that he has means to build the road, well and good,—let the matter rest there; if not, I beg leave to tender, on behalf of myself and Mr. George W. Weidler, both of Portland, Oregon, to build the trail in accordance with the agreement for the tolls decided upon last night, furnishing any reasonable amount of bonds the Government may require that the trail shall be completed to your satisfaction on or before the specified time.

I am, &amp;c.,

(Signed) JOSEPH KNOTT.

P.S.—I leave for Portland by the North Pacific to-morrow morning, but have left Mr. James P. Goodhue a Power of Attorney to act for me in all matters connected therewith.

(Initialed) J. K.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between William Moore, of Victoria, B.C., and Joseph Knott, of Portland, Oregon.

In consideration of Joseph Knott's being admitted to share and to be named in the concession granted by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to William Moore, for the construction of a trail from the head of steamboat navigation, Stickeen River, to Dease Lake, it is agreed as follows:—

1st. Joseph Knott is to furnish 50 head of good mules or horses, with aparejos complete, the same to be landed and delivered at Buck's Bar, Stickeen River.

2nd. The sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) to be expended by the said Joseph Knott in the purchase of tools, to be procured in Victoria, to be used in the construction of the trail.

3rd. The sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500) cash to be advanced by the said Joseph Knott, the same to be expended in the purchase of supplies, the payment of wages to men and principals employed in the construction, or while superintending the construction of the trail.



4th. Joseph Knott shall in the expenditure of the moneys required for the purchase of animals, the arrangements requisite for the proper and suitable transportation of the animals, and also for any purpose whatever in connection with the matters under this agreement, at all times consult the said William Moore or his agent.

5th. It is agreed upon by William Moore and Joseph Knott that all mules and horses, with apparejos complete, so purchased by Joseph Knott, and so employed in the construction of the trail or in any service whatever, shall remain the common property of the parties to this agreement.

6th. William Moore shall repay, on the first (1st) day of December, 1874, to the said Joseph Knott one-half (with interest as hereinafter is provided for) of the moneys advanced by the said Joseph Knott and expended in the construction of the trail; the said one moiety of the whole moneys expended to bear interest at the rate of one (1) per cent. per month, such interest to be paid as at and from the day upon which the trail shall be begun to be made.

7th. In the event of its being found impossible to transport by steamer from the mouth of Stickeen River to Buck's Bar the animals referred to in this agreement, the said William Moore engages to supply barges for the purpose of such transportation; the expenses connected with the performance of this service to be charged to the partnership account and to be deducted from the moiety hereinbefore alluded to and made payable on the first day of December, 1874.

And it is hereby also agreed that after payment of all expenses connected with the keeping open of the trail, repairs to same, collection of tolls, wages of laborers employed in repairing the trail, and such like, the residue of the moneys received as toll money shall be divided between the said William Moore and the said Joseph Knott, share and share alike.

#### *Memorandum.*

On the 12th April last an agreement was entered into between Robert Beaven, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and William Moore, granting to the said Moore the right of collecting toll on a trail to be made from Buck's Bar to Dease's Lake; time for completing trail 1st August, 1874—toll, two cents per pound.

Moore having neither capital or security, has surrendered his right to Joseph Knott and George Weidler, both of Portland, Oregon, to build the trail; Knott and Weidler entering into an agreement with Moore that he shall own half of the road, if he can pay one moiety of the half of the expense incurred in construction on the 1st day of November, 1874, (without grace) with interest at one per centum per month; the remaining moiety to be paid on the 15th day of July, 1875, with interest at one per cent. A failure to comply with these terms herein is an absolute abandonment of Moore's claim to the road.

*Mr. Joseph Knott to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

COPY.

ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL,  
Victoria, December 15, 1873.

SIR,—Referring to my interview with you on Saturday evening last, I would respectfully urge a consideration of that subject at as early a time as possible. I would not wish to be considered importunate, but I am satisfied there is no time to be lost. I am therefore anxious to know before I leave for Portland on Wednesday or Thursday next what the intention of the Government may be in regard to the proposition before it. I care not whether the contract be awarded to the present applicants or to any other, all I am anxious for is that the road should be built, and that as soon as possible. I am personally interested with others in putting one or more steamboats on the Stickeen River, but this would be a useless attempt

to develop the Cassiar country, unless there are means of transporting supplies to the mines.

If a favorable answer is received, we contemplate sending by next *California* from Portland a gang of laborers to proceed up the river on the ice with tobogans, carrying supplies, and commence operations immediately.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOSEPH KNOTT.

*Mr. Joseph Knott to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

COPY.

ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL,

Victoria, December 15, 1873.

SIR,—With reference to the matter that you mentioned to Mr. Ward and Capt. Cooper about the date of completion of trail from Buck's Bar to Dease Lake, permit me to state that I could not enter into bonds for the completion of a trail through a country that I have not seen, and my knowledge of which is limited to the information afforded by others; but I should presume that the fact that no tolls would be collected until the said trail is finished, is a sufficient guarantee that the works would be prosecuted with all energy and dispatch.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOSEPH KNOTT.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. Knott.*

COPY.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,

Victoria, December 17, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 15th inst., and to inform you that the Government are quite ready to entertain any reasonable proposition of your own, or in conjunction with Mr. Moore, or separately if mutually satisfactory, in reference to the opening of the trail from the head of steamboat navigation on the Stickeen to Dease Lake, and with that object in view are prepared, in the event of Mr. William Moore surrendering the agreement entered into by him with the Government, dated 12th April, 1873, to enter into a new agreement with yourself and Mr. Moore, or, should you mutually desire it, a separate agreement with yourself, upon the same conditions as contained in the agreement of the 12th April, 1873, above referred to, substituting, however, the following rates of tolls, viz. :—

Freight.....	1½ cents per lb.
Horse or Mule loaded, loose or led Cattle, Jack or Jenny..	\$1 per head.
Hogs or Sheep.....	25 cents per head.

and that the time of commencement be on or before the 1st of June, 1874, and the time of completion 1st November, 1874; that the time of notice be extended from three to six months, and that the valuation of the work be decided by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works as before, and that all Government property pass free of tolls over said trail; that the trail be graded and constructed not less than six feet wide.

The Government also consider that the per centage upon work done in the event of valuation—namely, 25 per cent.—should be reduced.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.



*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Messrs. Moore and Knott.*

COPY.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,  
Victoria, December 18, 1873.

GENTLEMEN,—In reference to your objections to the toll rates to be inserted in the proposed agreement for a charter, in the event of your constructing a trail from the head of steamboat navigation on the Stickeen river to Dease Lake, as contained in my letter of the 17th inst., I have the honor to inform you that the Government are prepared to amend the said rates under the following heads, namely:—

Horses or Mules, loose or led, and Beef Cattle..... \$1 50 per head.  
Loaded Pack Animals, in and out, free (paying tolls only  
upon freight)..... Free.

and that satisfactory security be given to the amount of \$5,000 that the work shall be commenced and finished as agreed upon. If you accept the said terms, it must be in writing, and without delay, and the security furnished and agreement signed within a reasonably defined period.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

*Messrs. Moore and Knott to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

COPY.

ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL,  
Victoria, B.C., December 22, 1873.

SIR,—We, the undersigned, beg to inform you that a perfect understanding and an agreement has been arrived at in connection with the construction of a trail from Buck's Bar to Dease's Lake in the Cassiar country.

We are prepared to furnish bonds, in accordance with your letter, for the faithful completion of contract, and we accept the conditions and rates of toll so far as specified in your letter. We, however, believe that an omission has been made in saddle horses and mules, as well as sheep and hogs, which we presume would be inserted in the contract.

We also beg to request that the same provision should be inserted in the agreement to be prepared by the Government with reference to the boundaries and limits as is expressed in your agreement with Mr. Moore, under date of 12th April, 1873.

Mr. Knott will leave a full Power of Attorney to Mr. James P. Goodhue to act for him in his absence, which we trust will be satisfactory.

We are, &c.,  
(Signed) WILLIAM MOORE.  
JOSEPH KNOTT.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Messrs. Moore and Knott.*

COPY.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,  
Victoria, December 23, 1873.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant, and in reply beg to inform you that the omissions complained of shall have due attention if they exist, but by reperusing my letters of the 17th and 18th of this month, I think the difficulties will disappear.

I beg that you will be good enough to inform me in writing, at once, the nature of the security you are prepared to furnish, together with the names of all the parties, &c.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
*Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

*Mr J. P. Goodhue (per pro Joseph Knott) to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

COPY.

VICTORIA, B.C.,  
December 24, 1873.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23d inst., and to inform you that the names submitted for the approval of the Government as bondsmen in the matter of Moore and Knott are Messrs. Godfrey Oppenheimer, Uriah Nelson, and John T. Howard.

Respectfully,  
(Signed)

J. P. GOODHUE.  
(Per pro JOSEPH KNOTT.)

*Mr. Moore to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

COPY.

VICTORIA, B.C.,  
7th January, 1874.

SIR,—I beg to request that you will, at the earliest moment practicable, inform me of the determination come to by the Government in respect of the charter for the Cassiar Mines Trail.

The steamer Otter is advertised to leave Victoria for the North about the 20th inst.. Certain preliminary arrangements are absolutely necessary, and, before my departure, must be attended to by me without delay. You will therefore recognize how important it is that I should be informed immediately of some definite action in the matter by the Government.

The affair now rests, as far as I know, on the question of security. Should any objection on the part of the Government in this respect exist, I beg that it may at once be communicated to me in order that it may be met and remedied; or, on the other hand, should objection hang on some point not known to me, then that I may (having already surveyed the trail and otherwise performed much labor and undergone great hardships, in part fulfilment of the original agreement with the Government) proceed to complete the trail described in the concession of April, 1873.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Messrs. Moore and Knott.*

COPY.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
Victoria, 7th January, 1874.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day.

The security for the completion of this work first offered by you, consisted of the names of Captain T. Pritchard and Mr. W. C. Ward, upon a joint and several bond for \$5000, or in event of such security not being satisfactory to Government, a special cash deposit of \$5000 in Bank of British Columbia here, payable to my order as Chief Commissioner. Under these circumstances, I must respectfully suggest to you to carry out this proposition or advise me at once that you do not contemplate doing so.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

*Messrs. Moore and Knott to the Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works.*

VICTORIA, B.C.,  
January 8th, 1874.

SIR,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant. In reply, we beg to inform you that so soon as Mr. Knott, who had the honor of an interview with you this morning, can reach Portland, a definite answer shall be forwarded by tender of a deposit note for the security, according to your letter.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. MOORE.  
per pro JOSEPH KNOTT,  
by J. P. GOODHUE.

*Mr. Knott to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

PORTLAND, OREGON,  
January 10, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Joseph Knott requests us to say, in regard to the situation of matters respecting the prospective trail which he had desired to build, in connection with Mr. Moore, from Stickeen River northward to the mines, that he is very much surprised at the attitude the affair has assumed, as appears from yours of 8th instant, by which you demand now, instead of "satisfactory" security, the deposit of five thousand dollars coin in the Bank of British Columbia at Victoria.

In your letter to Moore and Knott of 18th December last, you informed them, amongst other things, that you would require "that satisfactory security be given to the amount of \$5000 that the work shall be commenced and finished as agreed upon." Such security Mr. Knott stands ready to give at any time, with sureties worth, as is known to you, \$50,000, and residing at Victoria.

Then why this change of terms? The matter is difficult to be understood, and therefore Mr. Knott wishes us to say that he peremptorily declines to place himself in the power or at the mercy of any one in such manner, and that he will not make any deposit of money in the case, "subject to your order."

If, on this account, the building of the trail by Moore and Knott falls through, so be it. Mr. Knott is willing to do all that was required of him as inducement to undertake said work, but nothing more.

Should you see fit or desire to communicate further with Mr. Knott on the subject, he will be pleased to hear from you, otherwise he will consider the matter at an end.

Respectfully yours,  
(Signed) DOLPH, BRONAUGH, DOLPH & SIMON,  
For J. KNOTT.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works to Messrs. Dolph, Bronaugh, Dolph & Simon, on behalf of Joseph Knott, Portland, Oregon.*

LANDS WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
Victoria, January 20th, 1874.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant in reference to a proposal from Messrs. Moore and Knott to open a trail to Dease Lake, and in which you on behalf of Mr. Joseph Knott, state that he considers the matter at an end, and in reply I beg to state that as those gentlemen have failed and declined to furnish as agreed, either a joint or several bond for five thousand dollars, signed by Messrs. W. C. Ward and Thomas Pritchard, or a cash deposit in the Bank of British Columbia, Victoria, of five thousand dollars, payable to the order of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works of the Province of British

Columbia, that all negotiations in reference to said trail, must be considered at an end as proposed by Mr. Knott.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works to Mr. William Moore.*

LANDS & WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
Victoria, January 17th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to request you to inform me what work you have done on the proposed trail from the head of steamboat navigation on the Stickeen River to Dease Lake, and if as you stated to me, you have built any bridges, where they are situated, and whether the said trail has been opened by you so that pack animals can travel, and if so at what date it was so opened.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,  
Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works.

*Mr. William Moore to the Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works.*

VICTORIA, B. C., January 19th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of your letter of the 17th instant and in reply beg to state for your information as follows :—

*First*,—In order to comply with the requirements of the concession of the 12th April, 1873, I found it necessary to go and survey three (3) different routes before finally determining upon the suitable one for a trail into Dease Creek Mining ground.

*Second*,—That having selected such route, I set about blazing, and did blaze the trail now actually in use.

*Third*,—That a bridge was built to cross a stream not fordable.

*Fourth*,—That such bridge is situated at or about a distance of three-fourths of a mile from the second North Forks.

*Fifth*,—That all the animals which I took in with me for the purpose of carrying in through the mines, died before I could carry out that project.

*Sixth*,—That large quantities of barley and feed were purchased by me for the purpose of supplying the animals on their way through to the mines. Such purchases having been made by me in the firm conviction that it was quite feasible to carry the animals in.

*Seventh*,—That neither at this time, nor subsequently, were any pack animals ready or prepared to go into the mines.

*Eighth*,—That aware of this, my best energies were then directed to putting the trail in such condition as that foot passengers could have no difficulty in travelling over it on their way to the Dease Creek Mines.

*Ninth*,—That during all the period of such surveys, and while subsequently employed upon the trail, felling trees, bridging, and the like, my three sons were with me doing their full share of labor, and with the Indian laborers, encountering their full share of suffering and privation.

*Tenth*,—That having made all the necessary arrangements for the purchase of animals I shall be prepared on the opening of navigation to proceed to completing work; nay, more, that long before this period I shall already have set about rendering the trail suitable for all and every emergency and fit for whatever traffic over it that may offer.

*Eleventh*,—That I feel perfectly justified in saying that the trail will be so completed and in such order by the 1st August, 1874, the date called for by the concession of the 12th of April, 1873, as that the terms of the agreement shall have been fully complied with, and its conditions carried out to the entire satisfaction of yourself, as Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, or of such other officer as the Government may appoint to report upon the trail.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. MOORE.

# RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly, for a Return shewing Expenditure on Omineca Explorations.

By Command.

ROBERT BEAVEN,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Lands and Works Department,  
28th January, 1874.

DATE.	SERVICE.	AMOUNT.	TOTAL.
1873.			
April.	*William Moore, Explorations, Stickeen District.....		250 00
Nov'r.	Girod & Guichon, Provisions .....	27 00	
	J. B. Lovell, Provisions .....	282 28	309 28
			559 28
	† J. J. May's Expenditure:—		
	Boating up the Omineca River .....	9 00	
	Indian hire, packing from Bear Lake to McKenzie's Creek .....	45 00	
	Mocassins and Buckskins at Bear Lake.....	15 00	
	Indian hire and boating from Bear Lake to Tatlah .....	30 00	
	Clothing at L. B. Lovell's .....	26 63	125 63
			\$684 91

\* Correspondence on this subject has been published in Report of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, with a Map of the District.

† Vouchers have not yet been handed in for these expenditures; Mr. May's certificate was, however, forwarded through the Government Agent, who has been instructed to procure vouchers in a proper form.

*Extract from letter of Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to W. H. Fitzgerald, dated 18th March, 1873.*

The Government are anxious to assist the miners of your section in making explorations in the District, and with this object in view, have placed at your disposal the sum of \$1,250 00, to be expended in assisting explorers; and the best manner of expending this money will be by calling a miners' meeting, and letting them elect their men, and pass resolutions as to how this money can be best expended, and for you to see that their views are carried out.

*Extract from letter from A. W. Vowell to Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, 21st August, 1873.*

A miners' meeting was held yesterday at Dunkeld, to decide upon the manner in which the money allowed this District for exploration purposes is to be expended. I enclose a copy of the Minutes.

(Copy.)

"At a public meeting of the miners of the Omineca District, held at the town of Dunkeld this 20th day of August, 1873, for the purpose of taking into consideration what shall be done with the amount donated by the Government for exploring purposes.