
RETURN

To an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to this House copies of all correspondence respecting the opening of a toll trail from the boundary line of Alaska, at a point north of Lynn Canal, known as the White Pass, to Tacho Lake, lying at the head waters of the Yukon River, in British Columbia.

By Command.

JNO. ROBSON,

Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
Victoria, B. C., 6th April, 1891.*

VICTORIA, B. C., December 5th, 1887.

SIR,—I have a concession from the Provincial Government to make a pack trail from Bennett Lake, in British Columbia, to the boundary line on the Chilcoot Pass, and after duly surveying the ground where the trail would have to pass I found that it could not be used longer than six weeks, and on the American side of the same pass it would be an impossibility to make a trail at all; moreover, the American Government will not build or give a charter for their portion of a trail, their excuse being that it is an old Indian pass, and that they cannot interfere with the Indian rights.

I have surveyed a pass seven miles south of the above present route now travelled, which is of a much lower altitude, where easier grades can be got, and Governor Swineford says that a concession will be issued to open a pack trail through the Alaskan portion of this pass in the coming season.

If the Government will alter the charter to this route instead of the present one, and give me the same toll and a longer period—say twelve years instead of five years—I am prepared to construct a good, practical pack trail, not less than eight feet wide, which will be a sleigh road for winter use, from the American boundary line to Summit Lake, and from Summit Lake to Bernard Lake; thence to Shallow Lake; thence to an arm of the Takoun Lake. An early reply would be necessary, as I will return north again in the first part of February.

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

*Mr. Vernon,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.*

VICTORIA, B. C., 8th December, 1887.

SIR,—I am desired by the Honourable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 5th inst., that the Government are not disposed to alter the agreement of the 2nd August, 1886, as proposed by you.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

Capt. William Moore, City.

[For Mr. Moore's report, dated January 6th, 1888, see Sessional Papers, 1888, p. 495.]

VICTORIA, January 10th, 1888.

SIR,—I joined Mr. Ogilvie at Fort Wrangel, A. T., on the 17th of May, 1887, to help them over the Chilcoot Summit, build a barge and take them below the strong water (the White Horse Rapids and Miles Cañon). My services concluded with him on the 12th of August, twenty miles above the junction of the Lewis and Pelly Rivers, and from that time myself and son went to explore the Takoun Lake and Windy Arm; then went out to Juneau City, where we met Mr. Dawson. We returned again to the White Pass, and I satisfied myself regarding this pass for a route to the interior. I am the only white man who has been through the above pass, which Mr. Ogilvie has stated in his letter to the Minister of the Interior, and has recommended the White Pass as a route to the interior on my representation. My wages while in Mr. Ogilvie's employ was \$1.50 per day. I have applied to the Ottawa Government for \$5 per day, but have had no satisfactory answer on the subject. Enclosed is a copy of a document Mr. Ogilvie gave me when I left him, the original of which I have sent to Ottawa.

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

Mr. Vernon.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 5th, 1888.

SIR,—When I submitted a report and a small sketch of portions of Cassiar District to the Government in 1873, which did not amount to over one-quarter the amount of that which we have submitted to your office, Mr. Beaven gave me for the same \$250, and I trust you will give our work a deserving consideration. My son is going up on Tuesday or Wednesday next to Alaska, through the White Pass, to get some supplies over the summit before the snow disappears, and should the Government come to the conclusion of expending a small sum of money, say about \$500 or \$600, on the trail from the summit of the White Pass to Takoun Lake or Windy Arm, I would offer my services to do that work, as I have been over the ground; therefore I take the liberty of recommending myself as being able to do that work. This work would greatly benefit miners and others going in and out of that country.

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

Hon. Mr. Vernon,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 5th, 1888.

SIR,—I am desired by the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, and, in reply, to inform you that the Government are not prepared at present to make any expenditure in opening the trail to Takoun Lake.

It has been decided to pay you one hundred dollars (\$100) in remuneration for the report and map of the Yukon country submitted to the department last winter.

If you will kindly call at my office I will give you a voucher for that amount.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

Capt. William Moore,
Victoria, B. C.

VICTORIA, B. C., May 6th, 1888.

DEAR SIR,—Myself and son will leave here for the White Pass and vicinity on the 8th inst. My son and Mr. Flannery will construct a wharf and warehouse at Skaguay Bay, at the foot of the White Pass, and I may build a couple of bridges across the Skaguay River, leading to the above Pass.

I take the liberty of suggesting to you that the most practical route be explored from the summit of the White Pass to either the Windy Arm or Takoun Lake, and the one selected to be brushed and blazed out in such a manner so that men can travel with their packs late in the fall and early in the spring. I offer my services to do this work on the trail for \$600 (six hundred dollars).

If you should have occasion to communicate with me, please address your letters to me in care of David Flannery, Juneau City, Alaska Territory.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) Wm. MOORE.

Mr. Vernon.

SKAGUA RIVER, YUKON PORTAGE,
Alaska Territory, May 8th, 1890.

SIR,—I have taken up quite a number of miners this spring from Juneau to the Yukon Portage, some of whom are bound to the headwaters of the Hodelinga River (a large branch of the Yukon which heads towards Cassiar, up which a steamer could run over three hundred miles), most of whom are old Cassiar miners, and who have urged on me to communicate with the Government with regard to having a trail swamped out from the summit of the White Pass to Takoun Lake, in British Columbia, which would enable them to go in earlier and come out later in the fall without being in danger of losing life or limb.

If a small appropriation of six or seven hundred dollars could be made it would prove of great advantage to miners, and would also be the means of bringing many more men into that country, as there is any amount of placer grounds that will pay from five to twenty dollars per day with sluices on the Lewis and Hodelinga Rivers in British Columbia.

I would like to be enlightened whether there will be any arrangements for British goods to pass through Alaska in bond to British Columbia by way of the White Pass. If the Government looks favourably on this matter I would be prepared to do the work.

As I am located here on the line at present, sometimes in Alaska and part of my time in British Columbia, therefore I would like to know your views on this subject, and I trust you will favour me with an early reply.

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

*To the Hon. Mr. Vernon,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works,
Victoria, B. C.*

VICTORIA, B. C., May 28th, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th inst. with regard to having a trail cut out from the summit of the White Pass to Takoun Lake, and in reply beg to say that your letter will be laid before the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for consideration immediately upon his return to the city, from which he is at present absent.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

*Capt. W. Moore,
Skagua River, Yukon Portage,
Alaska Territory.*