

17  
New Westminster  
7<sup>th</sup> March 1862

Sir,

I have just rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> letter of 4<sup>th</sup> March 1862 and to which it will be my duty to reply more at length; but in the meantime I hasten to state it makes no alteration in the request made by me in my letters respecting the North Bentinck Arm + Bute Inlet, the town sites at the other terminus of the roads from thence, and more especially I ~~beg~~ particularly beg it may not make any alteration nor be taken to <sup>meet</sup> my request addressed to H.E. this day & signed by me as [illegible word] H.M. Troops.

I am, [illegible word]  
Sg'd R.C. Moody  
Col. R.E. C.C.L.W.

The Col Sec<sup>y</sup> [underlining appears in original document]

[Marginalia: there is a large stamp in the middle left of this page. It reads:

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Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the [illegible number] past, conveying instructions to me.  
v In these instructions, the duties of selecting sites for Towns, Reserves for military purposes, + those of a miscellaneous nature, and marking them out on the ground; also exploring for and determining lines of roads are to be carried out by the Magistrates of the <sup>different</sup> Districts, and not by the L + W Dept. Observations in my letters, referred to in your communication, are taken to coincide in the necessity for this arrangement on the ground of economy. It is not improbable there may be some mistake in my taking these instructions so literally, but as they involve expenditure of money for which I have to ask a subsequent sanction, my desire for such instructions to be rigidly explicit is evidently only proper.

The

New Westminster  
10<sup>th</sup> March 1862

[Marginalia: the following appears along the left edge of the page:

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V”]

[Marginalia: a short, vertical line runs down the right side of the marginalia described immediately above.]

The observations in my letter only referred to such localities as the Mining villages I mentioned, which are of uncertain duration of existence and hastily selected by miners themselves from causes of local expediency; also to the temporary and inexpensive branch communications to them from the main lines of roads. –

I avail myself of H.E. invitation in your last paragraph and state, as follows:-

I congratulate myself in having been brought into connection with Gentlemen of such high stamp of character and such general intelligence as characterize the Magistrates of B.C. – I have served in several Colonies, I gladly seize this opportunity of stating that the Colony of B.C. may be considered fortunate in having such men on the roll of its Govt – I know by personal communication with them at times, with what deference they express opinion, + how reluctant they are to take upon themselves action in matters of which they have had but little or no experience. – I also know how willing (so far as authorized) they are to communicate with me direct on all “L+W” matters, + how very readily and cheerfully they receive instructions from me + carry out what I desire to the best of their ability.

But it is assumed in the instructions I have rec<sup>d</sup> that the Magistrates of the Districts are one + all possessed of Civil Engineering qualifications.

I must therefore repeat, what I have at different times before urged, I cannot, nor would they (I fully believe) coincide in the view that they are so far qualified in Civil & military Engineering, as to supersede the necessity of employing R.E. in the Colony, in the selection of sites of the more important towns,

nor

nor in surveying (I don't mean in Lots for sale, for that they could soon qualify themselves – it is a simple matter) such sites that they may be embodied in Plan in such manner as to mark “their position in all case as accurately as possible upon the official map of” my “Department”. – The Official map on which the above would have to be placed is only progressively made being in fact built up from time to time by means of these very positions being scientifically ascertained. –

[Underlining appears in original document.]

The same objection exists to their determining the direction of the main lines of roads out the ground.

With respect to the selection of Town sites on the Coast, each officer under my command feels with me that if Naval advice is at all to be had, it is of the utmost importance – to avail ourselves of it by requesting cooperation.-

You mention that I am to instruct the Magistrates to make, among other reserves, those deemed necessary for military objects. – But to select sites for military purposes requires the presence on the ground of myself, or such military officer, duly qualified by experience + education, as I may entrust with this duty. – I clearly could not transfer these military services to any one. –

[Marginalia: there is a small check mark along the left margin of the page.]

In your letter the Magistrates are termed “Ass<sup>t</sup> Com<sup>rs</sup> of Crown Lands”: – May I ask whether they have all been officially appointed as such from H.E.? They have not been gazetted, + I am under an impression some misapprehension exists. – Their duty, however, under such designation so far as they have been in communication with me, has been simply in matters of Sale of Lands previously selected & surveyed by R.E.

You also mention that they are to act under my instructions, but no instructions can supply the requisite specialité & experience.-

I have

I have already requested the magistrate to mark out on the ground Indian Reserves, throughout their districts – These can be conveyed afterwards. They can also mark out on the ground, for survey afterwards, School Reserves & sundry other miscellaneous matters of general Public interest, now, or likely to become so, upon which they will be instructed from time to time by the C.C.L.W.-

Under the same instructions also they can + will regulate the occupation of Town Reserves, previously marked out on the ground by L+W Dept., if there be no time for previous survey + sale at Auction.-

It will also be well for them to regulate (so far as they can by their influence over the miners) convenient arrangements in what may be called Squatting Mining Villages, to be surveyed afterwards, if need be.-

Very many of these places will be ephemeral, but should any mining district present a prospect of extensive Quartz mining, the selection of such Town site + its arrangement should be made, if practicable, by the L+W Dept.-

In carrying out the above, or in any matter relating to the L+W Dept., it is most desirable, indeed necessary, the Magistrates should receive their instructions solely from or through the C.C. L.W.-

The L+W Dept. alone, not the Magistrate of the District, should select + mark out on the ground in Block, all Reserves for sites of what the C. Com<sup>r</sup>. may in his judgement consider likely to become important Towns, including all Coast Towns in good Harbours, and all Towns or Posts along or near the Frontier Line.-

The above, tho' marked out on the ground in Block, do not necessarily require to be surveyed in detail for Town Lots, tho' their position on the general map should be determined very accurately by the ordinary process of observation.-

The

The L+W Dept. also, + not the Magistrates of the Districts, should explore for + mark out on the ground all main lines of communication, as well as examine, modify if necessary, and finally approve those proposed and marked out on the ground by Civil Eng<sup>rs</sup> under contract with the Gov<sup>t</sup>.

With the office of L+W also, should be deposited invariably, all Plans, Sketches, Reports or Proposals, or duplicates thereof, that may be submitted to H.E. by any person, on subjects in any way connected with "L+W" or with the Topography of the country, and it would be of material advantage, if the C.C.L.W. receive them as early as they can be spared.-

In all the above I have simply recommended that the L+W Dept, + not the Magistrates, should carry out the legitimate duties of the Dept., according to the spirit as well as the letter of the instructions, the Gov<sup>r</sup>. is aware, I rec<sup>d</sup>. from H.M. Govt.; and in this I feel persuaded H.E. will entirely concur.

The C.Com<sup>r</sup> could always be in communication with the Gov<sup>r</sup>, receiving authority for every service to any degree of detail. – I would respectfully submit also to H.E. that he would find matters simplified, expedited + economized, if he would do me the honor to inform me always (confidentially if he think proper) of his views as long in advance of the execution of them as possible:- Data could then be obtained, judgment matured, + fit preparations made.-

Frequent postponements of a service, or even [illegible word] changes of plan will necessarily occur here as elsewhere but still the time will not have been thrown away.-

In conclusion I would refer to my letters of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. '61 – 15<sup>th</sup> + 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and 4<sup>th</sup> + 7<sup>th</sup> March '62, in reference to the selection of the Town Site at North Bentinck Arm.-  
In the above letters I request naval advice in cooperation  
with

with R.E. in making such selection. The observations + requests made therein apply equally to Town sites Reserves in Bute Inlet + Howe Sound. – At all three places Reserves should be made as early as possible. Naval aid would be productive also of considerable economy in conveyance + other matters.-

I request also to be informed who + where is the Magistrate for the District in which are embraced the above named Ports. – Hitherto pre-empted Lands there have been recorded with the Police Magistrate, M<sup>r</sup> Brew, at New W<sup>r</sup>. – Your letter seems to imply they are for the present included in the Cariboo District, M<sup>r</sup> Nind, Magistrate.-

In the coming season it is also important for the L+W Dept., + not the Magistrates, to select the sites of Towns at the termination on the Fraser of each communication from the Coast. Also in course of the summer, the L+W Dept should select & mark out on the ground the Town site at or near Kamloops – also one on the Frontier Line, combining, as far as practicable, Military considerations with the latter, - and also with the main communications across + along the Frontier Line. – This is the more important at this time on account of the Political events around us.-

I have to apologize for the lengthy way in which I have availed myself of H.E. invitation in your last paragraph, to repeat what I have submitted in sundry previous communications, but really it appears to me only right + my duty to be very explicit.-

Do me the kindness to submit all the above points to the Gov<sup>r</sup>. + inform me whether I have his authority to carry each one into execution in the manner recommended by me.-

I have, +c. –

sig<sup>d</sup> R.C. Moody

Col. R.E. + C.Com<sup>r</sup>.

The Col. Sec<sup>y</sup> }