

CARNARVON PAPERS

Extracts

(b) General Correspondence, 1874-78, 1885. (Reels B-1066 - B-1067)

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Private

Government House, Ottawa,
Nov., 19th, 1874.

My dear Carnarvon,

There is one little point with regard to which I should be glad to be informed as to your wishes. (~~DEPT~~ sic.

You will have observed that most of my communications except those on current official business are conveyed in private letters, and not in Despatches. I myself greatly prefer this mode of correspondence, as in writing even a confidential Despatch one has to be so much less frank and open. Moreover I am quite convinced that in a country where party spirit runs so high, and is so unscrupulous, the Representative of The Queen should be as reticent as possible, otherwise every sentence that he writes is liable to be twisted, garbled, or interpolated, in the most disingenuous manner, in order that it may be used as a weapon of offence by one side or the other, and in the end he finds himself drawn into the quarrel.

I have duly received your long letter marked "Private and confidential" of the 31st ult. I will give it my most earnest and attentive consideration, but the subject is too serious for me to do more by the present mail than acknowledge it's receipt, and assure you I will maintain the most implicit secrecy in respect to its contents.

Yours sincerely
Dufferin.

(Note on separate page, endorsed "From Lord Dufferin, 19 Nov.1874. As to private Correspondence versus public despatches.")

Private Correspondence.

There can be no doubt that the freer style and freer flow of thought, in Lord Dufferin's private letters are more useful in many cases than formal despatches would be.

But he should go over his private correspondence carefully to see that it is supplemented in all cases when necessary by an official despatch to place on the Records. Otherwise the great inconvenience of private communications will be counter-balanced by the serious defect of a lacuna in the Office registered papers.

R.G.W.H. Dec.2.

G.D.6,

Vol.29 Supreme Court Act - several letters.
1876 (1) Colonel Hewitt.

Gate given by War Office to Quebec.
Prince Edward Island Land Arbitration.
Governor General's salary.
British Columbia Railway question.
Minute of Canadian Council on British Columbia question.
Fisheries arbitration.
Cost of Pacific Railway (also printed article submitted to the
Government) - several letters.
Printed extracts of Pacific Railway Debate in Senate.
Canadian newspapers cuttings on American conduct re Washington Treaty.
Prince Edward Island Land Act.
Indian difficulties as regards United States.

G.D.6,

Vol.30 Account of Lord Dufferin's visit to British Columbia (76 pages).
1876 (2) Memorial by Mr. Blake. Pardoning power of the Governor General.
Mostly correspondence on British Columbia. Map of Railway in B.C.
Case of Mr. Ryland\$.

G.D.6,

Vol.31 British Columbia question.
1877-78 Canadian Guarantee Act.
Great Seal of Nova Scotia.
Changes in Canadian Ministry.
Honours.
Renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty.
Difficulty with British Columbia.
Pacific Railway.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Correspondent</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Duke of Buckingham and Chandos	Governor-General's salary	12 June 1868
Lord Dufferin	Political scene in Canada; Dufferin's return to England	31 May 1878
Lord Lorne	Sir A.T. Galt appointed High Commissioner	20 March 1880