

March  
15th  
Feb Coman RC  
Notes in  
4 mch

F371  
0  
New Westminster  
9th February 1865  
65

Sir,

Having served with the  
British North American Boundary Comm.  
since 1861, for nearly four years, and consequently  
more or less acquainted with the  
country both sides of the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel,  
from Semmiakmoos to the Rocky Mountains.

I beg to suggest to His Excellency the  
Governor the practicability of a new and  
shorter route to the Similkameen  
Valley via Sumass Chilut Riverport -

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> A. N. Bick  
Colonial Secretary

and

and Skagit rivers, not having the means of sending you a proper sketch of my proposed route. I beg to refer you to the cloth tracing in the Lands & Works Department, of a portion of the Boundary line supplied by Colonel Hawkins R.E. Chief Commissioner P.N.C.B.C. - but instead of Cropping over the Skagit - Mountain, I propose leaving the original trail some three or four miles this side of the Mountain and running up a Creek in a North westerly direction until I strike the SimilKameew. This route I believe will avoid all mountains of any magnitude and make the distance between New Westminster and the

SimilKameew shorter and running through a country where a trail can be kept open all the winter.

Should you think favourable of this route I will be most happy to wait upon you at any time and give you any further information.

I have the honor

to be Sir

Your Obedient Servant

Robert C. Cowan.

What do you think of  
this? It is only 5  
minutes. How long  
has it been?

W

18th May 1855

Mary

12  
11  
Mr R. Cowan  
New Westminster

C. S. O.  
4<sup>th</sup> March 1865

~~186~~  
65

Sir

I am directed by the Governor  
to acquaint you in reply  
to your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> Feb  
suggesting that the route  
to Kootenay should be  
carried by way of the  
Chilwayhock Prairie and  
the Boundary Line that  
from the enquiries he has  
made of persons acquainted  
with the line of country his  
Excellency is decidedly of opinion  
that the line by the already  
existing is preferable.

I am to convey to you His  
Excellency's thanks for your  
suggestions.

Copy  
Original in Cde. Sir,  
notes of det. No. 11 Feb

Went. 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1865.

Having served with T. & A. B. Com<sup>d</sup> for nearly 4 years and consequently more or less acquainted with the Country both sides of 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel, from Lemiamor to the Rocky mountains, I beg to suggest to H. G. Major the practicability of a new & shorter route to the Similkameen Valley via Canass, Chilakungah & Skagit Rivers - not having the means of sending you a proper sketch of the proposed route, I beg to refer you to the Cloth tracing in the C. W. Dept of a portion of the Boundary line supplied by Col. Hawkins A. C. Com<sup>d</sup> B. A. R. - but instead of crossing over the Skagit mountain, I propose leaving the original trail some 3 or 4 miles this side of the mountain, running up a Creek in a N. W. direction until I strike the Similkameen - This route I believe will avoid all mountains of any magnitude & make the distance between B. W. & the Similkameen shorter, running thro' a Country where a trail can be kept open all the winter -

Should you think favourably of this route, I will be most happy to wait upon you at any time and give you any further information

I have, &c,  
Sgt Robert Cowan

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
A. N. Birch  
Col. Sec.

13  
1865  
Syracuse, N.Y.  
Dear Mother  
I am well & hope  
you are the same. I  
am writing you from  
Syracuse, N.Y. I hope  
you are well.  
I am  
Robert C. Coman  
May 2nd 1865

a for a  
 F371  
 2  
 New Westminster  
 24<sup>th</sup> June 1865.

Sir,  
 I have just heard that it is the intention of the Government to send out another Exploring Expedition. I take the liberty of applying to you for employment on that Expedition in any capacity you may think me fitting for.

I beg to enclose an abstract of my services while in the Royal Engineers trusting you will have the kindness to lay my application before His Excellency the Governor.

I have the honor to be  
 Sir  
 Your obedient servant  
 Robert Cowan.

The Honble  
 The Colonial Secretary.

Cowan R.C.  
 24 June  
 6 July 1865  
 Applied to

Robert Cowan

Served in the Corps of Royal Engineers for nearly 16 years, the first 4, on the Ordnance Survey, Commission Surveying and Examining, for two years under Major Gwill, the being 12 at the main land Spithead, and superintending the erection of Batteries of the South West Coast of England. Embarked with the 15<sup>th</sup> Division of the British Army for the Crimea, employed in Turkey, surveying, making roads and works of Defense, served during the whole of the Siege in the trenches, Expedition to Kertch and Simkale, surveying the town and lines of Kamush employed on the Bessarabian Frontier Commission Surveyor and Clerk to the Commission, Employed on the Asiatic Frontier Commission, Surveyed the town of Kars, Asia Minor, returned to England in November 1857, Embarked on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1858 for service with the British North American Boundary Commission, Clerk to Col. Hawkins, in the winter months in charge of and issuing provisions stores &c. during the working season. Discharged at Colchester 11<sup>th</sup> March 1862, have been mining on the Salmon and Columbia rivers, served with the Kaitumalet and Bentic's arm Expeditions, under Mr. Brew, in possession of the English and Turkish Crimean medals and two clasps.



Patronage

I should fancy he would do  
very well to go with Mr. Moberly

AM

26 Jan 63

Refer to Mr. Moberly &  
inform him that  
his application

is tender

Considerably

Yours  
26 Jan 63  
R.C.

Cowan  
to  
Wm. G.

Mr R. Cowan

C. J. O.  
6 July

Sir,  
In reply to your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup>  
you inform I am desired by the  
Governor to acquaint you that he  
has been pleased to appoint you  
as a member of the Expedition  
about to be despatched under  
Mr. Innes.

You will do me just yourself  
in communication with Mr  
Innes, who will acquaint you  
with the terms on which you are  
employed and the time when  
you will be required to start.

Copy 80

and that of Mr Wick who had charge of  
the construction of the logel from Sackville  
Lake to the Columbia to \$125 per month  
with Mr Wick but I understand from  
Mr Moberly that the latter was considered  
all Indian Service. I have been of such  
value to the expedition as in January 1806  
to enable him to pay a home  
of \$75 per month. In comparison with the  
wages paid to the Expedition generally  
which is very low considering the past value of the service  
I have been low considering the past value of the service  
In July last I was appointed

The alteration in my pay of the Expedition starting under  
between Mr Moberly and myself as superintendant  
and Mr Cowan as employed under  
him. I was fully satisfied. But, on my return here

after being employed nearly 6 months  
20 Jan 06 Suspecting, Clarking and Superintending  
the packing of provisions across to Columbia  
river by Indians and so doing my duty  
to the Expedition to the best of my ability  
and I believe to the satisfaction of Mr Moberly  
I find my pay as been reduced to \$75 per  
month.

The Honble  
The Acting Colonial Secretary

~~Had I been discharged~~  
~~at Hambrogh, Mr. Spurr would have paid~~  
me at the rate of \$100 per month as a hire  
was he and I too that, that was my pay.

But I had promised Mr. Moberly before  
starting out that I would remain with the  
Expedition as long as my services were required  
and that promise I faithfully kept.

I lay no blame to Mr. Moberly as I  
think the error is in my being appointed  
by His Excellency the Governor, and the  
remainder of the party by the Surveyor-  
General.

I beg most respectfully you will have  
the kindness to lay my case before His  
Honor the Administrator as early as  
convenient.

I have the honor to be  
Sir,

Your most obedient servant  
Robert C. Cowan.

copy

Colonial Secretary's Office  
New Westminster

6<sup>th</sup> July 1865.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of  
the 24<sup>th</sup> ultimo, I am directed by the  
Governor to acquaint you that he has been  
pleased to appoint you as a member of the  
Expedition about to be despatched under  
Mr. Moberly.

You will at once put yourself  
in communication with Mr. Moberly,  
who will acquaint you with the terms  
on which you are employed, and the  
time when you will be required to start.

I have &c.

/Signed/ Arthur H. Birch

Mr R. C. Cowan

Received this the 6th day of the  
of the Secretary for a report

18-1-61

Mr. Brown sent me a copy of the report  
which I have now read. It is a very  
interesting and well written paper.  
I think that the Secretary's report  
is very good and well written.  
I have had it long and I am sure  
it is the best that I have seen.  
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report is very good and well written.  
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it is the best that I have seen.  
I think that the Secretary's  
report is very good and well written.  
I have had it long and I am sure  
it is the best that I have seen.

" I had no understanding with Mr Cowan  
personally as to the rate of wages between  
medicine, nor was I aware that Mr  
Mokherly had any conversation with him  
on the subject. Indeed I did not know  
that he had been appointed secretary of the  
expedition."

In my <sup>own</sup> ~~own~~ general instructions to Mr  
Mokherly, and in ignorance of what had  
passed between him & Mr Cowan on the subject  
I named the salaries I had paid to  
the surgeons from Jamboull at \$25 per month  
to Kirk & Layton at \$100 per month and to Cowan  
and his other assistants I directed to Mr Mokherly  
at \$5 per month. In accordance with Mr Mokherly's  
recommendations the rate of pay of some of the assistants  
Mr Howman has been advanced to \$90 per month

C.S.D.  
Jan 20.

Mr. Brown  
Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 18th Inst and in reply am directed by the O.A.G. that the question of the rate of wages at which you were employed ~~was~~ is a matter entirely between you & Mr. Roberts to whom you were referred as the leader of the ~~petition~~ ~~and I am~~ ~~forwarded~~ as the extract of the letter written by you from this Office will show.

and from the information I can gain from Mr. Roberts, I cannot find any distinct agreement being made with you that your ~~monthly~~ wages should be \$100 <sup>per month</sup>, but on the contrary that it was not decided what wages ~~it~~ would be given but that the rate ~~was~~ not exceed \$100 per month.

Under these circumstances I cannot recommend that the additional \$25 per month should be paid

I have the honor to be

Yours truly  
A. M. B.