

# No. 1656 C.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

*The Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlic, Farves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland, Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and St. George,*

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.

Report of a Committee of the Privy Council ON MATTERS OF STATE.

PRESENT :

*The Honourable*

*Sir R. J. Cartwright* in the Chair.

*R. W. Scott*

*David Mills*

*Sir L. A. Davies*

*W. Mulock*

*Sydney Fisher*

*Clifford Sifton*

*Wm. Peterson*

*Sir H. G. Joly de Lotbiniere*

*May it please your Excellency.*



*Approved  
18 December 1897*

*W. Mulock*



connected with the various map publishing departments and Bureaus, formed a voluntary association for the purpose of bringing uniformity into their publications but although some good was accomplished, it was soon recognized that the association would fail in its objects unless executive authority were obtained to compel the adoption in all Government publications of the decisions of the association. The matter was therefore brought to the attention of the President who issued an order making the association a "Board on Geographic Names" to whom are to be referred all unsettled questions concerning geographic names which arise in the departments and directing these departments to accept the decisions of the Board as the

standard

standard authority in such matters. Acting under this authority, the United States Board has been dealing not only with names in the United States, but also with those in Canada, deciding by what names the rivers and mountains of the Dominion shall be known, and the decisions of the Board are accepted by geographers all over the world.

The Minister further observes that in 1892, the Minister of the Interior whose attention had been called to the growing confusion in the geographic nomenclature invited several of the Departments to form a voluntary association for revising the names in the North West Territories but although some of the Departments consulted expressed their concurrence, the

idea

idea seems to have been subsequently abandoned.

The Minister further submits that the matter should no longer remain in abeyance and that the revision of the geographic nomenclature of Canada should not be left in the hands of a foreign body.

The Minister therefore recommends that a "Geographic Board" be created to consist of one member from each of the Departments of the Geological Survey, Railways and Canals, Post Office and Marine and Fisheries, such member being appointed by the Minister of the Department; of the Secretary-General of Dominion Lands; and such other members as may, from time to time, be appointed by Order in Council

and

and of an officer of the Department of the Interior, designated by the Minister, who shall act as Secretary of the Board; that the Board be authorized to elect its chairman and to make such rules and regulations for the transaction of its business as may be requisite; that all questions concerning geographic names in the Dominion which arise in the Departments of the Public Service be referred to the Board; that all Departments be directed to accept and use in their publications the names and orthography adopted by the Board; that the members of the Board shall serve without additional compensation and that its organization shall entail no expense on the Government except for the publication of its decisions.

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The Committee submit the  
enclosed for Your Excellency's ap-  
proval.

J. J. L. [Signature]

Approved

Secretary

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