

water close to these bluffs is as deep as in centre of harbour, and land for trackage can only be obtained by removing large quantities of rock.

The average depth of the harbour is 53 fathoms; while too deep for convenient anchorage can easily be overcome by the establishment of moorings for any vessels that may require them. The harbour is well sheltered from any sea that would affect ordinary vessels, the greatest sweep not exceeding five miles.

A map has been prepared to accompany this report showing a series of wharves on the mud flats, railway yards and approaches. This shows a development of seven and a half miles of wharfage suitable for the largest ships. This wharfage is more than three times that at present in the harbour of Vancouver, and equals that of Montreal, the largest port in Canada. An excellent site for large railway yards exists on the land immediately east of the flats, now an Indian Reserve. This land is flat with a gentle slope towards the harbour, and the grading needed would be very light.

A more ideal place for construction of wharves could hardly occur. The entrance of considerable bodies of fresh water by the Bella Coola and Nelectseonnay Rivers will prevent action of teredo on piling, the material in the slips can be cheaply excavated by dredging, and filled in behind retaining walls. Plenty of rock when required can be obtained from the adjacent sides of the harbour, and cedar timber from the valley, or by water. Wharves can be built for about one-third of what the cost would be in Vancouver harbour.

The portion of the valley adjoining the harbour forms an excellent site for a city.

Excellent water can be obtained, and several locations occur where water power can be developed.

No ice forms in the harbour in winter, and the rainfall is not excessive, being less than Vancouver, and very much less than Prince Rupert.

The climate is very good, the mountains sheltering the valley from the rains of the outer coast and also from the north winds, and is equal to that found much further south.