

profiles prepared, and approximate quantities computed, with the view of placing a section under contract, had a northern route been adopted.

From Hazelton several practicable routes can be obtained eastward.

No. 1.—On leaving the Forks, this route follows the River Watsonquah to its head, and by a tributary it reaches the main River Fraser near Fort George, whence it follows that river to Tête Jaune Cache, where it intersects the line located by the Yellow Head Pass to the prairie region.

No. 2.—Follows in the same course, the Watsonquah Valley, to Fort Fraser, at which point, deflecting from the route above described, it runs north-easterly, *via* Fort St. James and Fort McLeod, to Pine River Pass, and thence eastward across the Peace River District.

No. 3.—Ascends the Skeena above the Forks about 33 miles; thence by the River Babine and the Kotsine Pass, crosses Driftwood River. It then passes over a second divide and follows the Omenica River to Peace River Pass, and thence pursues a course to join No. 2 on the plateau of Peace River.

Possibly a fourth line may be available by branching from No. 3 a little to the north of Babine Lake, running towards that lake to Fort Babine, crossing over to Tacla Lake, and following the valley of Middle River to Trembleur Lake, from which point it may be carried by the Nation and Parsnip Rivers, or possibly more directly by Fort McLeod, to Pine River Pass.

It is considered that, although the information is of a general character, the three first routes have been established to be practicable. The relative elevations attained on each is shown on the sections (Plate No. 2). The distance by each as compared with the line to Burrard Inlet, is roughly estimated as follows:—

	Miles.
Lake Superior to Port Moody, Burrard Inlet.	1,945 (measured.)
“ to Port Simpson by No. 1.	2,170 (estimated.)
“ “ “ 2.	2,200 “
“ “ “ 3.	2,135 “

Accordingly, the shortest of the three northern routes, is that by Peace River.