

British Columbia and the far-famed Peace River country to tide water on the Pacific Coast.

Third—It will compare favorably with existing and proposed railways in British Columbia as to alignment, grades, cost of construction, cheapness of maintenance and operation.

Fourth—The character of the country through which it will run will compare favorably with that of other transeontinental lines in Canada, for the first 100 miles from the coast, and there is probably less waste and unproductive land tributary to it.

Fifth—There will be no especial difficulties in maintaining and operating the road, as there are no bad earth, rock or snow-slides encountered. The snow will not interfere seriously with operation.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The large amount of good agricultural and pasture lands tributary to the line in British Columbia, and especially the Peace River country, which with its millions of acres of wheat and general farming land, is probably the largest body of undeveloped agricultural land on the North American continent, and which will on account of the decreasing quantity and the increasing demand for land by settlers, develop with astonishing rapidity, if properly handled, would alone justify the building of a railroad. In addition to the above, the coal mining industry should develop very quickly into a large traffic producing source. The gold and other mining industries will probably produce a large amount of traffic, while the pulp industry can also be made a profitable source of income. The timber and fish industries, settlers' supplies, machinery, household goods, etc., from the coast will furnish return loads for the otherwise empty cars returning east, and tend to equalize the traffic, and the advantage of the shortest line to tide water, will place the railway in position to dictate rates and force traffic to Bella Coola over its line. The freight rates on wheat to European ports via the Panama Canal will be less than via the present Eastern routes from the Peace River country, as illustrated by the following statement from an eminent authority. Rates are per bushel of wheat: