But Vancouver Island can have, if ever it is found desirable, an unbroken line of rails to the Mainland. The only question is that of cost, and even Sir Sandford Fleming is on record as saying, in the year 1877, that "the exigencies of the future may render a line of railway to the outer shore of Vancouver Island indispensable." But for present purposes it is unnecessary to discuss the bridging of the seven channels mentioned in the last article, and I do not propose to take that into account at all, but to rely solely upon ferry connection until the demands of traffic necessitate the building of the necessary bridges. I am particular to mention this, because one constantly hears objections raised to the cost of the bridges, whenever the establishment of railway connection is spoken of.

I have frequently been asked by persons unfamiliar with the situation, and even by some residents of Victoria, if the tunnelling of the waterways at some point is not feasible. Such an expedient is wholly impossible. There is only one place where the distance is not too great to be a sufficient barrier to a tunnel, and that is where the tongue of land between Loughborough and Knight Inlets approaches the Island shore, and here the soundings show in mid-channel a depth of from 90 to 150 fathoms, that is from 540 to 900 feet. This of course puts a tunnel absolutely out of the question. If we cannot have a bridge, and this would be too costly to contemplate at present, we must rely on car-ferries, and happily there is no objection whatever to them.

Before dealing with the question of railway connection between the island and the Mainland, it may be advisable to make some observations concerning that part of British Columbia through which a railway, making connection with the Island at some point north of Seymour Narrows, would extend. If we take Fort George, where the Grand Trunk Pacific will cross the Fraser river, as a centre and with a radius formed by the distance from that point to Prince Rupert, sweep a semicircle towards the west, we will find that the line will pass down through the centre of Vancouver Island. The city of Vancouver will lie just within the circle and Victoria just a little outside of it. From this fact it follows that the