

CLEAR, LEVEL SITE

British Columbia is a very mountainous country and therefore level land, or approximately level land, is more highly appreciated here than in prairie or flat countries. Coquitlam—the Townsite—consists of a level plain flanked by hills, and further back by high mountains, some seventeen miles east of Vancouver, and eight miles east of New Westminster, in the Valley of the Pitt and Fraser Rivers and on the main trans-continental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. About two years ago, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, finding that its Pacific Coast terminal facilities in Vancouver were altogether too restricted and congested, decided to create a supplementary terminus as near as possible to the already existing terminals in the city. The level plain at Coquitlam was found to be the site nearest to the city with the desideratum of level land adjacent to deep water.

GREAT FRESH WATER HARBOR

Deep water was found in the Pitt River, which here joins the Fraser River, and the two rivers together constitute one of the greatest natural fresh water harbors in the world. From Coquitlam to the Straits of Georgia is about twenty miles, and there is throughout this distance today a channel

at low water no less than twenty-three feet, and from thirty to thirty-five feet at high tide. The only exceptions are a bar at the mouth of the Pitt River and another bar at the mouth of the Fraser River, both of which can and will be easily removed by suitable engineering works, and these works have already begun at the mouth of the Fraser River. A hydrographic and harbor survey is now being made of the Pitt and Fraser Rivers, and there is no doubt that as soon as the development at Coquitlam requires deep water transportation, it will be available. At present vessels drawing fifteen feet of water at low tide, and vessels drawing twenty feet of water at high tide, have no difficulty in reaching Coquitlam. The Pitt River is from a quarter to a half mile wide, and the channel depth is from thirty to eighty feet. The river and tidal currents are both very slack in the Pitt River, making it the best harbor along the Fraser River.

The whole Fraser River from Coquitlam to ocean waters is destined to become a great harbor and centre of industry. Just below Coquitlam, on the south side of the Fraser River, is Port Mann, the supplementary terminal of the Canadian Northern Railway, and three or four miles farther down is the city of New Westminster. Between Coquitlam and New

Construction Scene,
Coquitlam Terminals.
Several Trains and
Hundreds of Laborers
have been busy here
for many months.