

(and no other would be worth a button in competition with foreign lines) at just double that of a similar line to Burrard Inlet, involving, of course, a double charge for interest. In the same report, the cost of *maintaining* the line to Esquimalt is calculated to exceed the same charge on the line to Burrard Inlet, by \$693,000 a year, including an allowance for a ferry, or, say \$600,000 a year for an all rail route. Here, then, we have the line to Esquimalt saddled with an *extra* cost of about \$1,800,000 a year, for interest and maintenance; and for what? In order that passengers and freight may have to travel 150 or 200 miles farther, and arrive at their destination one or two days later! And, as Mr. Cambie justly observes, rates for through traffic will be governed by competing lines, and not by mileage. So far, then, even looking at the line wholly with respect to the through traffic—leaving out of sight the unification of the Dominion, and the colonization of the country, for which purposes the Fraser Route is admittedly unequalled—we find an enormous balance of advantages in favor of the line terminating at Burrard Inlet. Into what is called the military aspect of the question, we have not time to enter now. It can easily be shown, however, that even here the Fraser Route will compare well with its rival. Suffice it, for the present, to say that we have the authority of General Sir Selby Smythe for treating the military objections to the Fraser Route lightly; and, even if it were otherwise, we have the authority of a thousand years of glorious memories for saying that the British Lion is little likely to go skulking up among northern icebergs, with his tail between his legs, seared by the shadowy possibility of future danger.

TABLE OF DISTANCES from Summit of Rocky Mountains to Pacific Ocean Harbors.

	Comparative cost.
Fraser River Route to Port Moody, Burrard Inlet, 489 miles	\$31,000,000
“ Extended to Coal Harbor.....501 “	“
Bute Inlet Route to Esquimalt, including 15 miles ferry from Frederick Arm to Otter Cove.....795 “	52,000,000