

VANCOUVER ISLAND AND RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

THE ISLAND DESCRIBED

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By CHARLES H. LUGRIN, 1909

VANCOUVER ISLAND has an estimated area of 15,000 square miles, but in this are included the numerous small islands lying near its shore, which, however, are to all intents and purposes a part of the main island. Its dimensions are as follows:

From north to south, that is from Cape Commerell to the Race is, according to the Admiralty chart, 230 geographical miles, or approximately 270 statute miles. The greatest width of the Island is from Estevan Point on the west coast to Chat-ham Point on the east coast, and it is 86 statute miles. The least width is between Rupert Arm of Quatsino Sound on the west and Hardy Bay on the east, and is under 9 miles. The circuit of the Island is approximately 610 statute miles, but so deeply is the coast indented by arms of the sea, and so numerous are the islands, which, as has been said above, substantially form a part of the main Island, that the coast line, measured by all its sinuosities and around the minor islands, is 7,000 miles long, of which 5-7ths are on the West Coast. The indentations are such that it has been said by Mr. W. J. Sutton, probably the best general authority in regard to matters relating to the Island and whose figures for the coast line I have just quoted, that no part of it is more than 20 miles from the sea. Of these indentations the principle are: Barkley Sound and its prolongation, Alberni Canal; the Muchalat Arm and Tlupana Arm, which are extensions of Nootka Sound;