

therefore the Waddington Inlet, as the

are good harbours, the Fuca straits, the Straits of Juan de Fuca, it is to be remembered not as access-mouth of Bute Inlet, and the Inlet will add set-ups making the world it be ever the Straits of Juan de Fuca harbour of Bute Inlet must be between its lies the Island closes the channels, though practicable would, as following extracts will tell our Pacific the whole trade

les from Waddington the line is to follow chains which extend a great number of 100 feet in length, and be indispensable with unusually sharp

ished the fact that the mainland the following required :

ear span 1100 feet.

- " 1350 "
- " 1140 "
- " 640 "
- " 1100 "

ear span 1200 feet.

- " 1350 "

The length of the section across the group of islands known as the Valdes Islands, lying between the mainland and Vancouver Island, is about 50 miles. The channels to be bridged are of great depth, with the tide flowing at 9 knots an hour.

In crossing the Islands, heavy excavations and probably a few short tunnels would be required.

Taking everything into consideration, the work of construction on these 80 miles lying between Waddington Harbour and Vancouver Island, would be of a most formidable character."

What the inlet is, and what the scenery along a road issuing from it would be, is well described by Mr. Marcus Smith, who, though he failed to survey a practicable line, gathered information which leads Mr. Fleming to expect that such will yet be discovered.

"Bute Inlet is one of those arms about 45 miles long, and between two and three miles wide, its direction is nearly due north, and it pierces directly into the Cascade or Coast chain, between walls of granite rocks, bold and rugged in outline, rising into domes 3,000 to 4,000 feet in height, and solitary snow-capped peaks 5,000 to 9,000 feet high, connected by broken sierras, altogether forming a scene of gloomy grandeur probably not to be met with in any other part of the world."

"The Valley of the Homatheo, where we were now encamped, at the head of Bute Inlet, is about a mile and a half in width, with little variation for about 20 miles, it then narrows as we ascend the river, till at the distance of about 30 miles from the head of the Inlet it suddenly closes in, and the river rushes through a narrow gorge or cañon between walls of granite rising to several hundred feet in height.

"The Waddington Town site is on the left or east bank of the river on a flat near the head of the inlet, covered with spruce, hemlock, and cypress (or cedar) trees of large dimensions and a very fine quality of timber. A few miles up the hemlock and spruce almost disappear from the bottom lands, and cypress trees of enormous size take their place; these measure from five to fifteen feet in diameter at the butt, bell-shaped for twelve to twenty feet up from the ground, then gently tapering they shoot up straight and clear two or three hundred feet, forming perfect models for unconnected columns, such as monuments or light-houses.

"The Homatheo river is a turbid, glacier-fed stream, varying from one to three hundred yards in breadth, frequently divided by numerous small islets. It dashes across from side to side of the valley, striking against the granite cliffs which hem it in. These cliffs rise in places 300 to 500 feet in perpendicular

height, and in steps from 2,000 to 5,000 feet; over these streams tumble in cascades like ribbons of silver, broken into spray in their descent. From the foot of these cliffs, where not washed by the river, the slopes are covered with huge fragments of rock, some moss-covered, others with the fracture quite clear, as if recently detached."

"We traced the line of Mr. Waddington's first attempt at making a trail through the great cañon by the side of the river, to the point where it was stopped by a perpendicular wall of granite; we then ascended the cliffs by a circuitous line to explore a route by which we could find footing to make the survey through the cañon."

"From these heights the scene presented was singularly wild and sublime; from our feet, over cliffs of 400 feet in height, fell in sheets of silver a beautiful cascade, at the foot of which our tent was pitched on a moss-covered stone. A hundred feet below the camp the Homatheo river, then a high flood, rushed out of the cañon with deafening roar; in every direction were grey walls of rock, thousands of feet high, serrated and broken by dark chasms; above all rose peak after peak clothed in snow of dazzling brilliancy, and connected by curtains of glaciers out of which issued torrents that fell in cascades till lost as they descended the gloomy chasms by which they found their way to the river. Nor amongst this wildness were there wanting the softer elements of beauty—in every crevice to the base of the snow-clad peaks, were clumps of evergreens, and lower down wherever a handful of soil could rest, it was sprinkled with wild-flowers, among which bloomed the sweet lily of the valley."

As to whether Waddington Harbour can be united with Yellow Head Pass at a reasonable cost, is undoubtedly a matter of uncertainty. The adherents of the Smoky or Peace River route question it, but propose that Bute Inlet be the terminus of whichever of their favourites be found most desirable. But whether either of them is more practicable is a matter of still more vague speculation. It is certain that by the Peace River the plateau may be reached. Lieut. Palmer ascended the plateau in the same latitude from the Pacific, when he surveyed the Bella Conla for a road to the interior in 1862. From his description of the table land there would seem to be no difficulty in traversing it by a direct and easy line. If this be so, and the country on

the  
adherents  
of the  
Bute Inlet