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Dear Sir,—

During the past season the country between Bella Coola and Fort McLeod has been thoroughly covered by reconnaissance surveys, and 52 miles in Bella Coola Valley by preliminary. The Preliminary survey has covered this portion of the Bella Coola Valley thoroughly, so that the final location can be projected, and construction commenced at short notice. The Reconnaissance survey has been carried out in a more thorough manner than usual for this work, over most of the route a system of triangulation being carried through, and levels having been obtained from old C. P. Ry. and Grand Trunk surveys at numerous points, so that the intermediate levels are more accurate than if obtained by Barometer alone; sufficient information has been obtained to construct a contour map of the country traversed on a scale of 2 miles to an inch; on these maps preliminary survey lines can be projected on the Route adopted. In addition to enabling the general route to be decided upon, these maps will save a large expense when actual location is undertaken by saving running miles of preliminary line that would otherwise be necessary. The reconnaissance party was large enough to divide in three parties for side exploration, in this manner every possible route through the country has been examined, and has developed the fact that between Bella Coola and Fort McLeod there are two main routes for consideration. A route to a terminus at Kimsquit instead of Bella Coola has also been examined. A comparison of the several routes determines that the route from Bella Coola to McLeod via Upper and Lower Neelacoo Rivers, Stuart River and Upper Salmon, with a branch into Fort George, to be the most economical in first cost, as well as the most direct practicable route from the Peace River Country to tidewater, and by means of the Fort George connection affording also the most direct route to Vancouver.

The following statement of distances will show the comparative shortness of the proposed route from Peace River to tidewater, and also to Vancouver,