

Cunningham (a trader of many years experience at Port Essington) informed me that the river was never frozen at Port Essington, but great quantities of ice come down in the spring, as well as immense trees. During the winter months heavy gales from the north are frequent, and, I should think, would completely suspend communication between the shore and vessels in the stream, as there is no shelter from their full force. High water approximate 1-0-0, F. & C. rise 24 feet springs.

Woodcock's landing affords a fair anchorage but is limited in extent (plan annexed), it is more sheltered than Port Essington, and is free from tide rips, although the ebb tide runs between four and five knots at springs; holding ground is good, being mud off the village, H. W. F. & C., 12.15, rise springs 24 feet approximate neaps 17 feet (vessels must moor).

Cardena Bay is the best anchorage in the vicinity, being sheltered from N. and S. E.; holding ground is good; tide sets fairly through the anchorage; H. W. F. and C., noon springs rise 24 feet; neaps, 17 feet approximate.

The prevailing winds in the vicinity of the Skeena are said to be westerly during the summer months, and during the remainder of the year S. E. and N. E., with heavy gales occasionally from the north. Fogs are frequent in August and September. Rain is prevalent in spring and autumn, and during the stay of the "Daring," from 1st to 27th September, the prevailing winds were easterly and south-easterly, with almost constant rain and frequent squalls; during the same time the barometer's lowest was 28° 90'; highest, 30° 30'.

The land about the entrance of the Skeena is mountainous and densely wooded (chiefly cedar and hemlock) and shows signs of a remarkably wet climate, and, I should say, is quite unfit for settlement.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN G. HANMER,  
Commander.

J. H. CLEVERTON,  
Secretary.

*The Earl of Carnarvon to the Earl of Dufferin.*

No. 350.

DOWNING STREET, 17th December, 1877.

MY LORD,—With reference to previous correspondence respecting the selection of a terminus on the Pacific coast for the Canadian Pacific Railway, I have the honor to transmit to you, for communication to your Government, a copy of a despatch received through the Admiralty from Rear Admiral De Horsey, Naval Commander-in-Chief on the Pacific Station, reporting his views upon this subject.

A copy of this despatch has been communicated, by my desire, to Mr. Sanford Fleming, who is in this country.

I have, &c.,

Governor-General  
The Right Honorable  
THE EARL OF DUFFERIN,  
K.P., G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

*Canadian Pacific Railway Terminus.*

"SHAH" AT ESQUIMALT,  
26th October, 1877.

SIR,—I request you will bring under the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the following observations, submitting my opinion relative to the best site for the ocean terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

2. With a view to forming an opinion on this subject, I have carefully perused the reports of exploration of 1874 and 1877, made by Mr. Sanford Fleming, the Engineer-in-Chief, and I have had the advantage of personal interviews with Mr.