

coast, and filled in as much topography as I am able. I have made a tracing of this, according to your orders, for his Excellency the Governor.

I have marked on the tracing the route I think it advisable a road should take if one is cut. I mentioned, in my letter from Nanaimo to the Governor, the advantages the northern, or coast-route, appeared to me to possess over the more direct one, before I knew the direct one to be impracticable; and it is needless repeating them now we know that no direct valley exists, and that, if another way be required, it must be sought for southward of Mount Benson, and towards the entrance, rather than the head, of the Albernie Canal.

I have marked a proposed line nearer the coast than I myself passed. I imagine this will be found preferable, as the river gorges mentioned will probably be found considerably less steep near the shore than higher up, as I have mentioned I found them much steeper, and the streams deeper, when I crossed the second time than at the first. You will see I have drawn the proposed line by two ways from Nanoose to Nanaimo, because as a matter of expense or difficulty in cutting I believe there would be found little or no difference between them, as they would take advantage of all the clear land to the western extreme of Pearse Plain in either. The southern one would open up the largest tract of available land, the other Nanoose harbour, though the southern might by a little deviation be made to do this also. The choice of these, therefore, appears to be entirely a question of colonial policy—whether his Excellency deems it most advantageous to the colony to take it through the valley of the Nanoose River, in which there is considerable available land, or bring Nanoose more prominently forward, and have this magnificent harbour for loading and unloading vessels.

There is one other consideration, which is the line the Colonial Surveyor has determined on for the road between Nanaimo and Victoria. If he intends bringing it into the south-west of Mount Benson, through the valley of the Nanaimo River, as he will probably have to do, the southern road will for about 10 miles answer as the commencement or termination of the Victoria road; and you well know that in this country a mile of road represents a considerable sum of money.

In conclusion, I must thank Mr. Bamfield for the assistance he rendered me by his knowledge of Nootka language.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD C. MAYNE, R.N.

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