

a distance of approximately 62 miles, making a total of 799 miles of railway to be built.

BELLA COOLA HARBOR.

By referring to exhibit (c) it will be seen that Bella Coola harbor is situated on the head of the North Bentinck Arm, and is approached from the sea, a distance of about 80 miles, by Fitzhugh Sound and Burke Channel. It is 350 miles north of Vancouver via the inside channel route usually travelled by ships going north, and 200 miles via the same route south of Prince Rupert (see exhibit (a).) For vessels taking the regular ocean route to Japan and China the distance is 350 miles less than from Vancouver, but 130 miles longer than from Prince Rupert, probably not enough to effect freight or passenger rates.

For vessels to Southern ports and England via the Panama Canal, the distance will be 170 miles longer than from Vancouver, and 150 miles shorter than from Prince Rupert, which would probably not affect freight or passenger rates from England or remote distances.

APPROACH TO HARBOR.

By referring to exhibit (c) it will be seen that vessels approaching the harbor from the open sea first enter Fitzhugh Sound, which is a part of the inside route for vessels from Vancouver north to Prince Rupert and Alaskan points, is about 5 miles in width, from 25 to 139 fathoms in depth, is well lighted and presents no difficulties to navigation. After passing through Fitzhugh Channel vessels enter Burke Channel and the North Bentinck Arm, both of which are about the same minimum depth as the above channel, from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles in width, free from islands, shoals, or tide rips, and present no difficulties to navigation; and although there are at present no lights, the coast steamers navigate them on the darkest nights. When Bella Coola is made an important port the Marine Department of the Canadian Government will undoubtedly establish sufficient light to safely navigate these channels. Therefore the approach to Bella Coola from the sea seems to be remarkably free from dangers to navigation, in fact the captain of the S.S. Venture stated that he always figured on a good rest after entering these channels. The harbor is free from ice the whole year, perfectly land-locked, being surrounded by mountains from 3,000 to 5,000 feet high, the longest reach of water does not exceed five miles. The average depth is 53 fathoms, which is too deep for good