

Introduction



The movement towards the development of the Peace River District in the northern portion of British Columbia and Alberta is one that has assumed importance only within very recent years. The Senate report of 1907 may perhaps be credited with first arousing public interest, and the information which was thus rendered available was sufficient to indicate that the District had immense resources, which, however, were of little use to the outside world owing to the then almost entire lack of transportation facilities. It was to supply this obvious want that application was made to the Dominion Government for the Pacific and Hudson Bay Charter, and the route was chosen upon the advice of the Surveyor-General of British Columbia. The charter was granted on May 19th, 1911, and it then became a question of determining as closely as possible the best route from the Pacific to the Peace River country and the resources of the country that would be traversed.

This work was taken in hand in March, 1912, and four different survey outfits were despatched to examine different parts of the route which it is proposed to follow for the first 800 miles from the Pacific Coast.

During the month of July a further party, consisting of Mr. Cartwright, who is in charge of the Company's Survey and Engineering work; Mr. Kyle, the Company's consulting-locating Engineer; and Mr. Harris, left Bella Coola to look over the work that had been done, and confer with the various field parties upon the work that still remained to do.

Towards the end of October the field operations were completed and the report which is here presented represents a condensed statement of all the valuable information which has been obtained by the season's work.

This report may be briefly summarised as follows:—1. The distance from the Coast to the center of the Peace River Country is approximately 200 miles by this route, or about 200 miles shorter than by any other yet surveyed.

2. The cost of the first 800-mile section will be approximately \$36,000 to construct and equip.

3. The construction of this 800 miles will result in the development of