

the distance is 40 miles, to English Bluff, south of the Fraser Delta, 32 miles, and to Semiamoo Bay, on the Canadian side of the Boundary line just north of Blaine, the distance is 33 miles (geographical miles are meant in all references herein to water distances unless the contrary is stated.) These distances have an important bearing upon railway connection between the Island and the Mainland. From Nanaimo northward the breadth of the channel has no bearing upon this subject, until Seymour Narrows is reached. Some little detail may be given with advantage in regard to this locality, because it may become a very important one in connection with the development of the Island.

I mentioned in the previous article that the great structural valley, of which the Strait of Juan de Fuca forms a part, might be considered as extending as far north as the head of Bute Inlet. This was because a group of islands, the principal of which is called Valdez, almost blocks the channel. Indeed one might almost say that this group is an isthmus, which has been cracked in several places to a great depth. The shore line of Bute Inlet measures somewhat less than 50 miles. Its shores are bold and precipitous and the water is deep throughout. Lying off its entrance are the Valdez group of islands, and the following are the widths of the waterways separating them from each other and from the continental shore on the one hand and the Vancouver shore on the other. The waterways are given in order from the continental shore and are as reported by Marcus Smith in his survey for the Canadian Pacific Railway:

At Arran Rapids.....	1,100 feet
Cardero Channel, 1st opening.....	1,350 feet
Cardero Channel, 2nd opening.....	1,140 feet
Cardero Channel, 3rd opening.....	640 feet
Middle Channel.....	1,110 feet
Seymour Narrows, 1st opening.....	1,200 feet
Seymour Narrows, 2nd opening.....	1,350 feet

These openings are all within a distance of 30 miles.

Lying north of the Valdez group of islands and south of Thurlow Island, is Nodales Channel, which extends without interruption from the continental shore at Frederick Arm to Otter Cove on Vancouver Island. The soundings nowhere show less than 40 fathoms. Of this waterway Sir Sandford