

up as the Trans-Continental Railway. The Premier and Government of the Dominion have been working energetically to carry out the programme bequeathed to them by their predecessors, Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues, which was to have a rail communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and within a certain time; Sir John's Government, moreover, fixing the terminus at Esquimalt, on Vancouver Island, with a railway thence to Nanaimo, and thence by bridge or ferry to the Mainland.

I suppose, sir, that Sir John A. Macdonald himself would now acknowledge that his proposed road, and the time in which it was to be constructed, and the placing the terminus on an outlying island, involving bridging between Mainland and Island of prodigious cost, are simply impossibilities with the means at the disposal of the Dominion. He would, no doubt, also acknowledge that the route through the Mainland in order to connect it with the bridge or ferry to the Island would of necessity go so far north as to leave the settled and cultivated portions of the Mainland as much out of reach of the benefits to be derived from the railway as if it were made through Alaska. Mr. Mackenzie, who succeeded Sir John A. Macdonald, saw the absurdity of the terms granted to British Columbia, and did the best he could in sending out numerous survey parties all over the continent to discover the shortest and best route to the sea-coast. This, I think I may say, has been accomplished, and a good route has been found, passing through or close to the settled parts of the province, and terminating at the magnificent harbour of Burrard Inlet—a harbour capable of containing all the navies in the world, with plenty of room to spare; a harbour which Victorians in their blind rage stigmatise as difficult and dangerous of access, but into which sailing ships have been brought under sail and without a pilot.

Now, sir, you can understand the bitterness and selfishness of Victorians. They do not seem to care for the benefit of the province at large, their sole idea is to force the railway to the