

At 1 P.M. on the 3rd, as I have said, we opened the sea about half a mile off, and I found, to my disgust, that I was much farther north than I thought. I had imagined, by keeping easterly from the lake, we should have passed behind (south of) the hills south of Nanoose. At first I attributed it to bad steering since leaving the lake, but when I got bearings on my return journey I found the mistake was on the other side: I had put the lake too far south.

After making the sea we steered south, to avoid Nanoose Harbour, and at 3 came out at the head of it. As I intended passing behind the south Nanoose hills on my way back, I did not press the men, some of whom were showing signs of being knocked up, to go behind them now, as they were very anxious to go round the beach, and then cut straight across to the eastward of the hills. Accordingly we walked along the beach to the long point beyond Entrance Island, and camping there for the night, took to the bush in the morning (4th), and reached Departure Bay at 3, and Nanaimo at 5 P.M. on the same day. I was again misled in steering for Nanaimo, by the two small lakes being marked much too far south. When I reached them I laid off my course for Nanaimo on the chart, and instead of coming out there I came out in Departure Bay, 3 miles north of it. The country between Nanoose and Nanaimo is fairly level; and though in some places there is a good deal of fallen timber and one or two small swamps, a road might easily be made along it.

I remained at Nanaimo two days to recruit the party, and sent from thence the original of the annexed letter and a tracing of my route, approximately half an inch to a mile (nautical), to his Excellency the Governor. My route is a good deal altered in the one I have now prepared, having corrected it on my way back. On my way to Nanaimo, as I have said, the increasing rain prevented my seeing anything whenever I did get on high ground, and I had to be guided wholly by compass course and estimated distance.

When I mustered my party to prepare for return, I found three of the Indians quite unable to go. One had been ill from the first, and was nearly turning back from the first day's walk; the other two had such swollen feet and legs that I saw they would be more hindrance than help if I took them into the bush. These Indians are not used to travelling, as those on the main are; for the difficulties of this travelling are not to be compared to my last trip in British Columbia, when none of the Indians were done up. The only thing to be done was to start with the other three, as we could not then get any Nanaimo Indians to go; and we accordingly prepared to start, leaving everything but the blankets and six days' provisions with the sick, to be brought by them across the Qualicum trail as soon as they were able to move. At the eleventh

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