

Sound (W.T.) country examined for a pass through the Cascade Mountains, and for a good terminal harbour on the eastern shore of the territory, Holmes Harbour, sixty miles south of Port Angeles, was so much talked of as the terminus that land there and in the neighbourhood greatly rose in value. It was at this time proposed to carry the line from Snoqualim Pass by a long circuit north to opposite Fidalgo Island (see map of W. Territory), thither by bridge, thence south, and by bridge across Deception Pass to Whidbey Island, and on to Holmes Harbour, which opening on the east shore of that island would have had to be connected by a ship canal of a few miles in length with Admiralty Inlet, the straight and safe southern furcation of De Fuca.

Although, north of Holmes Harbour, on the east coast of Washington Territory, there are other harbours, and amongst these Bellingham Bay, whence coal is exported in sailing vessels, the above-mentioned capitalists held distinctly in view the adopting a terminus of comparatively easy access from the ocean, and considering the expensive operations proposed, it is a fair inference that they regarded this as a point of primary importance. The sending a branch railway line into British territory was then and has been since talked of.

A hope is evidently entertained that with such a branch, and after the occurrence of vexatious delays and marine disasters on the passage to a terminus at Burrard's Inlet, the Canadian P.R.R. would become secondary and subsidiary to the American Railway lines hereafter to terminate on Admiralty Inlet and the Fucan Straits. What is plainly a hope for Americans is a great dread to Victorians, and for most other British Columbians who give attention to these matters.

Fogs occasionally prevail on this coast every season from August until November, being in dry seasons lengthened by forest fires. During mild winters real fogs occur much later, but do not last long. In September, 1868, coasting steamers were for ten days delayed by fog in Victoria Harbour. On