

miles over its possible rivals, and to Vancouver via connection with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by 125 to 250 miles.

COMPARISON FROM FORT GEORGE TO TIDE WATER.

P. and H. B. Railway—

Fort George to Bella Coola via branch	382 miles
Fort George to Vancouver via Bella Coola	730 "

Grand Trunk Pacific Railway—

Fort George to Prince Rupert	465 miles
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Pacific Great Eastern Railway—

Fort George to Vancouver	465 miles
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From the above it will be seen that from Fort George via the P. & H. B. Ry. it is 83 miles shorter to tidewater than by any of its rivals.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH WHICH THE LINE WILL RUN.

Mr. Cartwright has described the traffic possibilities of the country between Bella Coola and Fort McLeod and I shall only touch on the main points of interest.

BELLA COOLA VALLEY.

The Bella Coola Valley up to mile 61. where the line leaves it, is from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide with several small side valleys.

There is a heavy growth of timber below mile 40 that extends up the mountain slopes to an elevation of 2,000 to 3,000 ft. Above mile 40 the timber gradually gets to be smaller, less in quantity and of a poorer quality; there are probably one billion feet of merchantable timber in the valley, 50% of which is Douglas fir, 25% cedar and 25% spruce. There is also a large amount of cotton wood and small spruce that will produce a large amount of pulp.

There are at least 50,000 acres of first class agricultural lands in the valley, the elevation of which varies from sea level to 1,650 feet where the line leaves it.

The farmers who live there grow the following crops, viz.:

All kinds of vegetables, small fruit, berries, hops, barley, wheat, alfalfa,