

Canadian Pacific railway. He declared it to be approachable from the north side of Vancouver Island by Queen Charlotte Sound and Johnstone Strait and that ocean-going steamers would be able to reach it by open channels in less time than any port within the Strait of Georgia. What follows shows the line of thought pursued by an impartial investigator, when the mainland was practically all in a state of nature: "Waddington Harbor (the head of Bute Inlet), on the one hand would accommodate the traffic centering around the Strait of Georgia; or finding entry by way of the Strait of Juan de Fuca; whilst on the other, Frederick Arm would command the Asiatic trade, and accommodate the traffic of the northern half of Vancouver and of the Queen Charlotte Islands, when in course of time they become settled and their resources developed." The route chosen for the Canadian Pacific has led to the settlement of the region around Burrard Inlet, and consequently created new local commercial and political conditions, but the facts of geography are the same today as they were when Sir Sandford Fleming made his report, and the development of the use of car-ferries has been such that, when once a line of railway was brought as far as Frederick Arm, connection thereby would at once be established with Vancouver Island and the railway would be continued to the ocean ports of the Island, so as to avoid any navigation of the relatively narrow inland waters. Those who desire to see Vancouver Island connected with the Mainland by the Bute Inlet route may rest quite satisfied as to the perfectly feasible character of such a project, either from the standpoint of engineering or transportation.

A New Route Suggested

There is another route to be mentioned in this connection. In the last preceding article I spoke of the narrowness of the channel separating the Island from the Mainland between Loughborough and Knight Inlets, where Johnstone Strait is only about two miles wide. To this I wish to direct special attention. If one looks at the map he will see on the Mainland shore just opposite where the Island shore begins its decided trend to the west a small