

to the Mackenzie River, I shall now briefly call attention to the easy means this great river affords for crossing the main range of the Rockies. Mr. Sandford Fleming in his report for 1880 says: "The Parsnip and Finlay Rivers are each about 500 feet wide at their confluence, and below that point the united stream is known as the Peace River, and immediately enters the pass of that name. This pass is bounded for thirty miles by mountains, rising from 4,000 to 5,000 feet above the water on each side, leaving a valley about half a mile wide between their bases, through which the river (600 to 800 feet wide) winds from side to side, leaving benches first on one side then on the other. The only place where the actual mountain slopes abut on the river is for three-quarters of a mile at the base of Mount Selwyn, which is there bold and rocky, and rises at an average slope of one in three."

This famous "Pass of the Peace River," which is known to be lower by at least 1,000 feet than any other through the mountains, would then conduct the railway through a region of British Columbia, similar to that which is followed by the C. P. R., i.e., well timbered valleys, whose lumber will yet prove of great value, and whose bordering mountains are known to be rich in metalliferous wealth, such as gold, silver bearing lead, etc., and finally the River Skeena is reached, and its valley would be followed to the upper end of the Simpson Peninsula, at the outer extremity of which is placed Port Simpson, the proposed terminus of the Winnipeg & North Pacific Railway. Port Simpson is reported on by competent observers as being one of the best harbors on the North Pacific coast, and is most advantageously situated as the terminus of a railway desiring to compete for a portion of the Asiatic trade, as it is nearer, as will be seen by the subjoined table, to the chief ports of Japan, China, etc., than any other, while its capabilities as a harbor are succinctly given in the following extract from the report of Capt. J. C. Burridge, in 1888:—

"During a residence of four months in the locality of Port Simpson and Chatham Sound, I did not experience six hours of fog, and during that period there were only four parts of days and nights in which it would have been impossible to see to navigate vessels into port. I have no hesitation in saying that it is one of the best harbors I was ever in. Ships could lie alongside the docks at all times, and would require no towage either in entering or going to sea."

From Port Simpson to say Yokohama is.....	3,850 miles.
" Port Moody to	4,212 "
" San Francisco to	4,170 "

But even when the terminus at Port Simpson is reached, there yet remains to be noticed the valuable region of the Queen Charlotte Islands, which lie almost immediately in front, at a general distance of about 75 miles from the mainland. These islands are at present attracting considerable attention from their value in hard coal, timber and grazing lands, as well as the inexhaustible fisheries of cod, halibut, salmon and other valuable sea products, which will yet make them second only in value to the coasts of Newfoundland, while but a short distance to the north lie the important mining districts of Alaska, where already our enterprising American neighbors are carrying on most extensive quartz crushing for gold, on such a scale that it is said that one party from San Francisco recently paid one million dollars for a property there, and there is no doubt but that when properly explored, as it can only be when the railway reaches Port Simpson, that our own territory, behind the long narrow southerly extension of Alaska, will prove to be equally rich in metalliferous wealth, as it is known to be in the quality and extent of its valuable forests of yellow cedar.

I trust I have now brought before my readers in an acceptable and as short and concise a manner as possible the value of our *New North-West*, a vast country which only requires to be developed by the building of a railway to increase the value of our Dominion in the eyes of the civilized world a hundred times more than it now occupies, and with the certainty of affording to hundreds of thousands happy and contented homes, so that not many years can pass when these now lonely plains will have their towns and cities, and Canada will be numbered among the great and wealthy nations of the earth.