

the finances of the country, applicable at best only in old, rich and thickly settled communities; and furthermore likely to imperil the future usefulness of the road. In designing this great work the bitter experience gained in the Grand Trunk, Intercolonial, and other trunk lines, where the fatal consequences resulting from defective locations and excessive costs of construction, are still, and will continue for all time to come, to be felt, should not have been discarded.

And that the present location of the railway—upon which its future depends—has been determined upon an incomplete knowledge of the country—a fact which will produce widespread anxiety throughout all classes of the community—would appear to be admitted from the following extracts from the report of the Chief Engineer for 1879:—

"It will be seen that much yet remains to be discovered respecting large areas, and it is this information which I suggest should be obtained in the coming season by careful explorations of the sections where our knowledge is deficient.

"During last session of Parliament I was called upon to express my views with regard to the question of a terminus on the Pacific coast, and the location of the western end of the line. I submitted the opinion that it would be desirable to gain full and complete information regarding a northern route by Peace or Pine River, and the vast territory through which a northern route has been proposed, with respect to which little is now known. The Government, however, deemed it essential that construction should commence without further delay in British Columbia, and I was directed to state the route, which, under the circumstances, I would advise should be placed under contract. Accordingly I recommended that if no postponement for further examination could be admitted, and if the immediate commencement of the railway was imperative, that the choice should fall on the route by the Rivers Thompson and Fraser to Burrard Inlet. It cannot be said that the selection of Burrard Inlet as a terminus has given general