

7.—The facilities offered by the Bute Inlet Valley, presenting a level break, 84 miles long, through the Cascade range, and the *only one* suitable for constructing a Railroad to the salt water.

8.—The superiority of the Harbour at the head of the Inlet; its proximity to the coal mines at Nanaimo, and its easy and safe connection with Victoria, Vancouver Island, and the Ocean.

Mr. Waddington gives the distance from Ottawa to Bute Inlet, on the Pacific coast, at 2,885 miles.

He also furnishes the following table of distances between Montreal and Bute Inlet, with the existing modes of travel:—

| | Stage. | Steam Navigation. | Railway. |
|---|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | M. | M. | M. |
| From Montreal to Collingwood, by Railroad | | | 442 |
| From Collingwood to Current River, 6 miles N. E. of Fort William, Lake Superior..... | | 534 | |
| From Lake Superior to Dog Lake..... | 28 | | |
| Up Dog Lake and River..... | | 35 | |
| Portage to Savanne River, easy ground..... | 5 | | |
| Down the Savanne River, the Lac des Mille Lacs and the River Seine to the Little Falls..... | | 65 | |
| Thence along the Seine to Rainy Lake | 66½ | | |
| Through the Lake down Rainy River, and across the Lake of the Woods, to the North-west end of Lac Plat or Shoal Lake..... | | 208 | |
| Thence over the Plains to Fort Garry, Red River Settlement [with 12,000 to 14,000 inhabitants] | 91½ | | |
| Down Red River, to the North-west end of Winnipeg Lake, and the Grand Rapids, two miles beyond, on the Great Saskatchewan..... | | 297 | |
| Portage along the North Bank. Thence up the Great Saskatchewan and its North Branch to below the junction of Brazeau River, 80 miles above Fort Edmonton, and the neighbouring settlements of St. Alban and St. Ann | 5 | | |
| Thence to Jasper's House, lat. 53°12', at the foot of the Rocky Mountains..... | | 952 | |
| Thence South up the Athabaska to the foot of the Yellow Head Pass | 140 | | |
| Through the Pass to the Upper Fraser | | 29 | |
| Down the Fraser to Quesnelle-mouth [road to Cariboo] at the junction of Quesnelle River.. | 90 | | |
| Across the Chilcoaten Plain 187½ miles, and through the Cascade Range, 84½ miles, by a level valley to Waddington Harbour, Head of Bute Inlet | 222 | | |
| Total 3490 miles, requiring from 20 to 23 days travel | 648 | 2400 | 442 |

RECAPITULATION.

| | Stage. | Steam Navigation. | Railway. |
|--|--------|-------------------|-------------|
| | M. | M. | M. |
| Existing Railroads | | 442 | |
| Bute Inlet Road | 222 | | |
| Other portions of Stage road .. | 426 | 648 | 1090 |
| Steam navigation | | | 2400 |
| Total distance from Montreal to Bute Inlet..... | | | 3490 |

Mr. Waddington gives the following Railway distances in his pamphlet, published in 1871:—

| | Miles. |
|---|--------|
| From Montreal to Ottawa..... | 115 |
| “ Ottawa to the Mattawan..... | 195 |
| “ Mattawan to Fort Garry 985 | |
| “ Fort Garry to the Yellow Head Pass..... | 985 |
| Thence to the Limit of British Columbia | 52 |
| | —2,022 |
| Route by the Upper Fraser (British Columbia)..... | 570 |
| Less distance by proposed Short Cut..... | 125 |
| | —445 |
| | —2,467 |

Total length from Montreal to the Pacific..... 2,777
Against 3,205 miles, from New York to San Francisco, or 528 miles less.

And he classes the above distances in three categories, as regards the nature of the soil and country traversed, viz.:—

1. Level, rich, arable country.
2. Rolling country, less fertile.
3. Poor, mountainous, and timbered.

Sections of Country.

| | 1 Level. | 2 Roll. ng. | 3 Poor. |
|---|----------|-------------|---------|
| | M. | M. | M. |
| Valley of the Ottawa | | 70 | |
| Montreal Valley..... | 69 | | 30 |
| Clay Level Country..... | 250 | | |
| Laurentides, north of Lake Superior | 20 | 30 | 63 |
| Neepigon and Black Sturgeon District | 41 | 25 | |
| Height of Land, to White Mouth River..... | | | 335 |
| Great Western Plain | 1012 | | |
| “ “ approach to Rocky Mountains | | 25 | |
| Valley of the Assiniboine | | 30 | |
| Rocky Mountains, to the Cache Bald, or Gold Range beyond .. | | | 80 |
| Along Horsefly Lake and River | | 29 | 15 |
| Chilcoaten Plain..... | 152 | | |
| Cascade Range [the valley itself fertile]..... | | | 84 |
| | 1544 | 200 | 723 |

Recapitulated the case stands thus:—

| | Miles. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Rich and cultivable Territory..... | 1,744 |
| Grazing, timbered, and mountainous.. | 723 |
| | —2,467 |