


Stephen, George

December 9, 1890

"Memo of Mr. Hill to Sir George Stephen re
Western trip - Dec. 9.- 90." [See letter of
Dec. 8, 1890] Copy typed 5 legal pp.

I made the trip to the West Coast during the
Fall and spent about three weeks in examining
the country with a view of determining as fully
as possible, its capacity - present and prospect
ive- from the standpoint of Railway investment".
Takes up: 1 "Location and grades"; 2 "character
of Country"; 3 "Minerals"; "Timber"; ^{Terrace}conclu-
sions. The grades and distances are given in
exact figures from east to west as the "Pacific
Extension" from Fort Assiniboine to foot of
Rocky Mts., to Summit,  Flathead Valley to

Kootenai Range, Bonner's Ferry, Spokane Falls,
Grand Coulee, Big Bend, Columbia River, bridge
at Wenatchee, up Wenatchee R. to Nason's Creek
summit of Cascade range, the tunnel of 10,000
feet to head of Snohomish River, Puget Sound,
and Seattle. Distance to Spokane, 1512 miles
for N.P., 1440 for G. N.; to Seattle 1760 miles;
Tacoma, 1795 miles; Portland via O.R. & N.
1887 miles, via Tacoma, 2055 miles for N.P. and
only 1930 for Gt. Nor. Tells crops raised in
Judith Basin, Flathead Valley, Great Bend Coun-
try, Valley of the Wenatchee (15 to 3 miles
wide. All grain and root crops grow in abund-
ance; peaches, apples, pears, plums, cherries,
grapes and small fruits are grown, although the
valley has only been settled from 5 to 7 years,
Iron, copper, lead & silver found in both the
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main range and along the Kootenai. The silver lead mines in latter only now being opened up owing to the difficulty of transporting output to market without a ry. I have a report from one of the best mining experts in U.S. (Dr. A. R. Ledoux of N.Y.) who personally examined the Kootenai country this Fall. He estimates that this district will produce more silver lead ore than any heretofore worked in this country. Great quantities of Bessemer and Manganese iron ores on west side of Cascade range. Coals lying along west base of Cascade Range are heavy vein resemble best W. Va. coal and is sold all down the Pac. Coast as far as So. Cal. and the demand exceeds present output of mines. Timber of unsurpassed quantity and quality. "It is

impossible to realize the immense growth of these trees without sending them in their native forest, and from the traffic in this lumber alone to supply the markets in the East will come our largest revenue." We already have applications from parties who desire to build mill on our line aggregating an output of 2,000,000 feet per day and amount equal to the entire output of the whole state of Minnesota." "To sum up briefly the traffic from lumber, coal, and ores alone will yield as large a revenue per mile as our entire earnings per mile on our present line. The terminal properties acquired by our Co. at all points reached by our lines on Puget Sound are most ample. Describes the one in Seattle.

General Correspondence by
Date