

# The Daily Colonist

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B.C. Electric Railway Company takes option on Douglas Street property lying between Discovery and Chatham Streets, to be used as site for Terminals — Means immediate active development of Saanich district.

With a view to establishing terminal facilities for a freight and passenger suburban service opening up the Saanich peninsula, the B.C. Electric Company has under option four lots on Douglas street with frontage on Discovery and Chatham.

The first step in the long looked for extension of electric lines through the territory adjacent to Victoria is thereby taken. The property has a frontage of 240 feet on Douglas, 120 feet on Discovery and 120 feet on Chatham, comprising in all nearly three quarters of an acre.

The land under option is ideally situated for the purpose and the location is central, the grade the same as that of the C.P.R. yard only a block away, while it is within a block and a half of the new V. & S. terminals. It is also immediately adjacent to the present business district of the city. Messrs. Grant & Lineham put through the deal.

## Announcement a Surprise

The announcement comes as a complete surprise to the public of Victoria, as the negotiations were carried on quietly. The rumor that the tramway company had been bidding on the St. John church property has been in circulation for some little time, and since it

became current, buying on Douglas street from Yates to the Fountain has been very active. In fact, deals totaling well up to \$750,000 for property in this vicinity have been put through by various real estate offices during the past week.

Amongst these might be mentioned the Heisterman homestead, the Erb homestead and the whole frontage between Field street and Queen's avenue which has changed hands several times recently. The present owner has purchased with the intention of erecting a modern brick block on this valuable site during the coming spring. It is also understood that the purchaser of the Heisterman homestead intends erecting a block of stores on the corner of Hillside and Douglas street.

The property between Douglas and Government streets adjoining the land under option to the B.C. Electric Ry. Company has been rapidly picked up during the last few days as no doubt all this will be valuable warehouse and wholesale sites when the tramway company's plans have developed.

Active extension by the tramway company will commence, it is stated, with the completion of the plant at Jordan River about next September. With an unlimited

supply of power at the company's command it is only a question of time when the rich Saanich country will be criss-crossed with a network of lines bringing to the door of the farmer the means of conveyance for himself and his products to market in Victoria.

The announcement is also made that within three months' time the Gorge and Esquimalt cars will come in via Douglas street. Work upon double tracking from Pembroke street to the Fountain will have commenced by January 7th.

The importance of the above announcements to Victoria cannot be gauged. With the Barkley Sound division of the Canadian Northern tapping the rich hinterland of the city upon the West Coast, the E. & N., which is already rapidly presenting its extension plans developing the Eastern coast and with an electric suburban system serving the immediate Saanich district, Victoria is hurled at once into a pace of advancement which will astonish not only British Columbia but Canada at large.

The growing importance of Douglas street, it is also pointed out, is emphasised by the tramway company's announcement. The main artery and the widest street in the city, its value must be at once recognized.