~~The Milacoom terminus was selected as the initial point~~

A very careful ~~examination~~ reconnoissance of the country between the Tenalquet ~~river~~ and ~~the~~ Cowlitz rivers was made ~~for the to ascertain~~ ~~if~~ ~~any~~ for a route ~~existed~~ ~~could be found~~, avoiding the detour of the old road and ~~escaping from~~ the ~~so~~ tract overflowed by the Chihalis. ~~& its branches~~ Common report indicated the existence of a practicable one ~~from in~~ near the ~~Land~~ Willamette Meridian, and ~~as~~ upon an even cursory examination a more easterly ~~one~~ point was ~~obviously~~ seen to be ~~deed~~ impossible, ~~by the height of the mountains, the examination Tenalquet~~ A very favorable opening or gap, leading from the Tenalquet valley, to one of the northern heads of the Skookum Chuck was found a short distance from the line, and a general south course pretty direct, obtained without heavy grades across nearly all the sources of that river to the dividing ridge between it and the Nawaukum, ~~a distance of about 8 miles in a straight line~~. The intermediate water sheds between these streams were generally low and the principal difficulties would arise from occasionally overflowed bottoms and very dense timber. The amount of side cutting and embanking along the vallies in order to avoid wet ground would be considerable, ~~and the~~ ~~but had no more serious obstacle intervened, the~~ had no more serious obstacle intervened, the cost of construction per mile would not have much exceeded that on the 5th section, while the saving of distance would have been material. But the ~~dividing~~

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