Nawankum divide is insurmountable except at an ~~cost which cannot be~~ excessive cost, and from its height would expose the road to obstruction from winter snow. The natural grade of this mountain are on the north side from 15 to 30 degrees & on the south the descent to the river is almost precipitous. for some 400 feet, the soil being moreover of such a character as to require walling whereon cut into. In addition the Nawankum bottom which must be followed for several miles is subject to overflow. Between the upper forks of that stream and the Cowlitz landing, the country is more open, the hills lower & nearly divested of timber by fire. ~~Taking~~

The meridian route must consequently be looked on as impracticable, ~~A reconnoissance was also made of the intermediate line country between this line & the old existing road with a view of ascertaining if any intermediate line one could be adopted. The Skookum Chuck was followed down from the meridian to its mouth and~~ and the reconnoissances of the intermediate country demonstrated that no other could be found ~~there~~ between it & the existing road. The country ~~there~~ is exceedingly broken & ~~filled~~ the ~~bo~~ basins filled with ~~almost~~ impassable swamps. No alternative ~~for~~ therefore presents itself. but ~~the~~ to ~~make such improvement on~~ the old route, ~~at least between~~ from the ~~Nisqually to the~~ Cowlitz ~~river~~ to the Nisqually.

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