

estimated at 7,000 acres, and beyond the valley the same plain stretches for many miles, diversified with prairie and woodland, ending in a range of low hills wooded to the summit, beyond which are seen at a great distance the peaks of the Coast Mountains. East of the crossing of the Chilanco River by the railway line, the general aspect of the country changes and becomes diversified with rolling hills. From this point to the eastern base of the mountains there is little land valuable for agriculture, and no great areas fitted for stock raising. Along the E. branch of the Homathco, there is a little good grazing land to the southwest when Talayoco Lake is reached stretching far into the mountains. The lake is 2,747 feet above the sea, clear and very deep, with mountains rising steeply from its edge. At the north end of this lake bunch grass finds its western limit. North of the Chilanco crossing there are some fertile meadows and occasional grassy swamps, but from Temapho Lake to the Tzazate Mountain, across the water shed between the Chilootin and Nazco Rivers, the country is unfit for pastoral or agricultural occupation. Along the valleys of the Nazco and Clisbasco there is some good land, increasing in quantity as the junction with the Blackwater is approached. The valley of this river for nearly 10 miles after the junction, is wide and flat bottomed, generally well timbered but with occasional grassy meadows. Beyond is a range of high hills, and from these an extensive and apparently nearly level plain stretches eastward for 20 miles. Its average elevation is 2,660 feet, the growth of timber is much improved and groves of large Douglas fir are frequent. In passing from Blackwater bridge to Fort George there is continued evidence of a region with greater rainfall, and about the fort is an area of from 2 to 3,000 acres of excellent land. Drift lignite was found in a number of places, some of it furnishing a fuel of very good quality. Beds of it probably underlie a considerable portion of the level country stretching eastward.

In May, Professor Macoun made an examination of the country and vegetation around Victoria, Vancouver's Island. The country was more or less rocky, but without boulders. The oak lands are rocky but make very good pastures. The cultivated lands are low and very rich, but badly cultivated and not drained. The floras indicate dry summers and abundant rainfall, a climate warmer than that of England, and a periodic rainfall corresponding with the increase and decrease of summer heats. Vegetation was three weeks in advance of Ontario. Only a larger number of settlers with more advanced ideas of agriculture is required to make the island the garden of Canada on the Pacific coast. The latter part of the month of May was given to the valley of the Fraser. Vegetation on the Lower Fraser was farther advanced than at Victoria. The whole region is moist, and vegetation of the most luxuriant type. The western hemlock is often more than 30 feet in circumference and over 150 feet high, and the Douglas and Menzies firs and cedar much larger, often 250 feet; even the maple grows in the open woods to a height of 150 feet and diameter of 6 feet. The dog-

wood often attains a height of 40 feet with white flowers expanding to 3 inches broad.

On the borders of the forest, birch grows 70 or eighty feet high, and on the islands in the river, balsam poplar attains a very large size. There are 400 miles of coast line in British Columbia clothed with a forest growth superior to anything else existing in the world. After passing Boston Bar, the plants showed a change in the quantity of moisture, and from Jackass Mountain, a few miles further on, a sudden and complete change occurs. Between the mountain and Spence's bridge there is little cultivable land, and this requires to be irrigated. All trees disappear except on the mountain tops or in sheltered valleys looking north. The benches near the river are nearly bare, and above them are beautiful grassy slopes. From this point the bunch grass country extends east, west and north. The soil of the whole district is of first-class quality, but needing irrigation to make it available for cultivation. Where water can be brought on, the land gives enormous returns. The whole of British Columbia south of 52° and east of the Cascades, is a grazing country up to a height of 3,500 feet, and a farming country up to 2,500 feet, where water can be obtained. To the north and west the country becomes more moist, and on the Nechacco and its tributaries grass has an average growth of three feet. Only a few plants indicative of an alpine climate were observed, and never at a less elevation than 3,000 feet. Between Cache Creek and Clinton the country is generally too elevated for farming purposes. On approaching Bridge Creek there is much good pasture land, and along Lake La Hache and San Jose River the land is fit for cultivation. As Soda Creek on the Fraser was neared, the vegetation showed a warmer region and milder climate than the more eastern country. At Soda Creek, Prof. Macoun joined Mr. Selwyn and Mr. Webster. Between Soda Creek and Quesnel the soil is light and sandy, producing good crops when watered. The hills are covered with bunch grass and sage brush, the former the great food plant of cattle in winter throughout all the dry North West, and said by stockmen to be preferable to any kind of grass or hay—keeping cattle fat and sleek all winter. The party reached Quesnel on the 27th May, and after a hasty visit to Cariboo gold fields, started for MacLeod's Lake, returning to Quesnel on the 20th of October, having travelled 1,700 miles over 3½° of latitudes and 7° of longitude. From Quesnel to the Westroad or Blackwater Valley the country was level or slightly undulating, with numerous small lakes abounding in fish; soil generally light, but with considerable tracts of good agricultural land, on flats and slopes along the lakes and rivers. Between the Nechacco River and Stony Creek are extensive and beautiful prairies of the richest land, and similar land occurs at intervals along the valley to Fraser's Lake. The average elevation between the Westroad and Nechacco is about 2,400 feet, and the valleys of the streams 250 to 500 feet lower, with terraced banks of gravel and sand. These terraces are a characteristic of nearly every river valley on both sides of