

may occur, but as yet none have been discovered. The total product so far obtained has been estimated at \$100,000.

On the 19th May, Mr. Dawson resumed his explorations in the interior of British Columbia. At Quesnel, and northward from it, the climate is moister than further south, and grain may be grown without irrigation. The general level of the plateau between Quesnel and the Blackwater River, is 850 feet above the Fraser, or 2,550 feet above the sea. Terrace flats cease to appear, and are replaced by low rolling hills and hillocks. Half way between Quesnel and Blackwater Bridge is Goose Lake, 1,450 feet above the Fraser. An irregular hilly and rolling country stretches westward from this lake, and beyond the lake is a gently undulating terrace plateau, with an average elevation of 2,700 feet above the sea. Fires have passed extensively and often over this country. Small alders, aspens and scrub pine have come up on the burnt areas, with grass often of good quality and mixed with wild pea and vetch. The vegetation was appreciably behind that of Quesnel, and the land fit for cultivation, very limited in area. From Blackwater Bridge, crossing the Telegraph Range, the Eucheniko valley was reached. This has a general course of N. 65. W., is wide and flat bottomed, and its southern side thickly timbered, except where fires have run. The northern side is generally open, covered with bunch grass, patches of wild onions, and occasional tufts of sage. There is little arable land, but a considerable area suitable for stock ranges. The young grass on the 5th June was well up. Groves of scrub pine were formed in sandy beaches, and the river fringed with dark groves of tall symmetrical black spruces. The valley is a type of many which intersect the northern part of the interior plateau, which must in the aggregate represent a great area of stock growing land. The higher plateaus are covered with a thick growth of scrub pine, or where the timber has been burned, grass, with pea, vetch, &c. in many places comes up in great abundance. The valley of the Blackwater, north of the Cluscus Lakes, much resembles that of the Eucheniko, but on a larger scale. The north slope is covered with bunch grass, vetch, strawberries, &c., and the south pretty thickly timbered. There is abundance of good grazing, and the Indians of Cluscus Lake own a number of horses which live out at all seasons. The river flows somewhat rapidly between long lake-like expansions. It is remarkable that the Blackwater receives no important tributaries from the north, the plateau seeming to slope north from the brink of its valley. On the upper part of the river the country changes for the worse. Broken fragments of basalt strew the surface, and sandy stony soil alternates with swamps. Continuing westward the valley of the Ughnako, a tributary of the Blackwater, was followed 14 miles to Ughnako Lake. Sixteen miles W.S.W. the Salmon River was reached, the head of the Nechacco, Gatcho Lake being crossed. Between this lake and the Salmon, where the general dense forest of scrub pine has been burned, a rank growth of fine grass was found, and some of the swamps were grassy. The Salmon

river has only a moderately rapid current, and is not much depressed below the level of the plateau which slopes gently towards it. There were signs of good soil and more congenial climate, and evidence of greater rain fall. South-westward after crossing the Salmon River, the country is stony and barren, woods mostly destroyed by fire and occasional broad swampy meadows affording good feed for animals. At Salmon House the Douglas fir is again seen as a large tree. Lignite of good quality was found on the Kohasganko, a stream flowing from the Tsitsutl range. From a rocky knoll separated from the main slope of this mountain, a magnificent view was obtained. Eleven miles from this the Tahyesco River was reached, through valleys which were green with well grown grass, giving very nutritious pasture. Ascending to a height of over 4,000 feet above the sea level, beyond the limit of thick forest growth, the northern brink of the great gorge of the Bella Coola Valley was reached. The country south was broken with rocky hills and one remarkable snowy range. North the surface rises in steps to the summits of the Tsitsutl range. The country is lightly timbered with some grass on the slopes and occasional fine meadows. The immense snow-fall on and immediately east of the coast range reverses the effect which the vicinity of the sea might be expected to produce. It is probable the mountains about Dean Inlet receiving the W. and S.W. winds without intervening high islands, have a greater rain and snow fall than usual, even in this range. From the Nacootoon lakes the country descends gradually to the Salmon River, with dry, sandy, gravelly soil, and frequent swampy meadows with good grass. S. and S. E. the whole country appears low and flat, but probably at too great an elevation for agriculture. The river is here at an elevation of 3,400 feet. Going N. E., the long southern slope of the Ilgachuz Range was ascended to the height of 5,200 feet. There was good feed for the animals, large snow banks all around, and mosquitoes very troublesome. Going 13 miles to the north, the main stream of the Blackwater was reached, flowing west, and 4 miles N. E. from this, through a densely wooded country, the Tset-si Lake. Thence the course was west again to Gatcho Lake and 7 miles N. W. to Qualcho Lake, the whole country thickly wooded. The general elevation is about 3,300 feet, the soil poor, with occasional hay meadows. The Gatcho Lake stream is the N. E. source of the Nechacco. Following this 12 miles Euteakwetachick Lake was reached. In the river valleys, and along the lakes and ponds, very beautiful meadows were found, and in the sheltered valleys spruce was found of fair size. The river runs N. E. from this lake by the Tootsi-l or Fawnie's Mountain to Nalal-kuz Lake, from which the main Nechacco River flows out. The greater part of the south bank is densely timbered. The river is a noble stream 200 feet wide, deep, with strong, steady current and deep blue water. The Ched-a-kuz ko enters it from the south, 4 miles from the lake, with a wide, flat bottomed valley, with pretty meadows. East of this the ridges blend into broad sandy flats cover-