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easily utilised." "The character of the soil is almost uniformly very fertile in these valleys. The climate in summer is very dry and warm. It is one of extremes; in winter the cold is considerable; but the cattle still winter out very well, and live all the year round on the natural grasses."

FARMING AND GRAZING CAPABILITIES.

Being asked by Mr. Baker, M.P., to describe the nature and extent of the farm lands on the Fraser, Kootenay and Okanagan districts, Dr. Dawson said:—"I do not know that any precise estimate has been made of the farming land about the estuary of the Fraser, but there is a great deal of flat land there, partly prairie land which has to be dyked to prevent the overflows of the river, and make it useful for agriculture. In 1877, Mr. Dewdney informed me that about 400,000 acres had already been surveyed into townships, of which he estimated about 230,000 as prairie or lightly wooded. To this may be added 10,000 to 15,000 acres, representing good land near the Fraser, between Chillinohack and Hope. I included the Kootenay and Okanagan country in the general estimate for the southern interior. There is a beautiful tract on Okanagan Lake, about the Mission, which is already pretty thickly settled, and has many good farms. Then, on the Spallumcheen, between Okanagan and Shuswap Lake, there is much fine land in a very wide valley, and irrigation here is not necessary. It is easily accessible by water from Kamloops."

Dr. Dawson said in this connection that the farm and stock-raising capabilities of these localities had been very little developed, owing to its being almost impossible to take produce to market, but all that would be changed on the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He added:—"I cannot speak too highly of the grasses and grazing land of the southern part of British Columbia. They are not excelled if they are even equalled by any grazing land I know."

He further explained that horse and cattle could be driven across the passes of the mountains into the North-West Territory.

With regard to the northern portions of the province, Dr. Dawson stated:—"In the northern part of the interior plateau, there is another extensive low country, which I have estimated the area of at about 1,230 square miles. The soil of this is almost uniformly good; but, being to a great extent covered with trees, it cannot be utilised so readily for agricultural purposes, and it lies besides, off the proposed route of the railway, and is not likely to be opened up for some time. Still it is a country which I have every reason to believe will be eventually occupied by an agricultural population. It lies chiefly north of the 51st parallel, and west of the Fraser River in the basin of the Nechaco and its tributaries. The coast region is, of course, not liable to any of those difficulties of drought or occasional summer frost, that some of the higher regions of the interior are exposed to. The climate is exceedingly mild, and in the aggregate there is a large quantity of agricultural land. On the Island of Vancouver, Mr. Joseph Hunter, who prepared a report on this subject for the Canadian Pacific Railway report of 1889, estimated that there are 389,000 acres of agricultural land, of which about 300,000 acres are well suited for agriculture; of this, only about 10,000 are cultivated, but a great portion of the flat country which is suitable for agriculture in Vancouver, is very densely covered with forests, and, owing to the high price of labor at the present time, and comparatively small number of people in the country, it is not yet economically advantageous to clear these forests or bring these lands under cultivation."

"On the Queen Charlotte Islands there are some 700,000 acres of low land on the north-east coast, a great part of which may eventually be brought under tillage, but it is also covered densely with forests at present, of very fine trees, and its immediate value is a timber producing region.

"At the mouth of the Fraser River the flat land probably amounts to more than the whole in the Island of Vancouver, and some of it is of very excellent quality. Generally, the soils of British Columbia, where they are cultivated at all, are exceedingly fertile, and the crops produced on the mainland and on Vancouver Island are very large. Wheat, as an example, averages 30 to 40 bushels an acre on land at all well cultivated."