

examination of the natural flora of the country, and the observed advance of vegetation, which, in the absence of actual experiments, are capable of affording valuable data, I feel no hesitation in stating my belief that such hardy crops as barley, rye, turnips, and flax can be successfully cultivated in the Yukon District as far north as the former position of Fort Selkirk, near the 63rd parallel, or in other words about 1,000 miles north of Victoria. Taken in conjunction with the physical features of the region, this means that chiefly within the drainage area of the Yukon and for the most part to the north of the 60th parallel, there exists an area of about 60,000 square miles, of which a large proportion may and doubtless in the future will be utilized for the cultivation of such crops, and in which cattle and horses might be maintained in sufficient number for local purposes without undue labour, as excellent summer grazing is generally to be found along the river valleys, and natural hay meadows are frequent. I do not maintain that the country is suitable for immediate occupation by a large, self-supporting agricultural community, but hold that agriculture may before many years be successfully prosecuted, in conjunction with the natural development of the other resources of this great country of which by far the most valuable lies east of the line of the Alaskan boundary.

The fur trade is a very important and valuable one; Dr. Dawson reports on it as follows :—

Gold and furs are at present the only articles of value derived from the great region here referred to as the Yukon District. It is impossible to secure accurate information as to the value of furs annually obtained, but sufficient is known to show that it must be very considerable.

We quote his remarks on the economic value of this region as we consider them worthy of notice :—

Without including the northern part of British Columbia, respecting which more has already been made known, but restricting ourselves to the great area of 192,000 square miles situated to the north of the 60th parallel and west of the Rocky Mountains, which I have referred to as the Yukon District, it may be said that the information now obtained is sufficient to warrant a confident belief in its great value. Very much yet remains to