

of the country of which he had experience. The minimum estimate seemed to have originated in the condition inserted many years ago in Government leases of pasture lands, no doubt on the best information then before the Government, that the lessees should not keep more than one animal to every ten acres. Whether this condition was observed we do not know, but the fact is patent that the grass is destroyed on some lands that have been leased, and nobody now would take a gift of these lands, if he had to pay the taxes. The truth probably is that the question is one extremely difficult to answer. It cannot be answered off hand even in an enclosed, long-farmed country like England. In the southern interior of British Columbia, stock farmers, owing to the great undefined ranges which their cattle enjoy in common, have not been under any necessity of forming, and indeed, have not had generally the means of forming definite trustworthy ideas on the subject. The matter, in practice, is left very much to the best judges, namely the cattle themselves. When they have thoroughly exhausted one part of the public domain, they go to the next best place. We are inclined to think that, as already said, the natural capabilities of the bunch grass lands are greater in some parts than in others, from the different qualities of the soil; and the snow, it may be added, has different effects in different places upon summer and winter pastures. Local conditions much affect the capabilities of grass lands. We tested the question, practically by "staking out," that is picketing horses, and measuring the area they cropped in a given time, and by judging of the condition the grass was in afterwards, and of the probabilities of its recovery before the animal, within a given area, would have to come round to the same pasture again, but this was imperfect, and only useful from a certain point of view. We should be surprised if in most parts of the Thompson country, an enclosure of 1000 acres of good bunch grass land, say such as is found back from Kamloops on the Nicola road, would not "give out," if continuously cropped by 100 steers.

The hill grazing lands assigned for the use of the Indians are on the average of 24 acres for each animal they now possess.

Within this area summer and winter ranges have to be found, and it is not all No. 1 grazing land—the No. 1 graz-