

lakes, the Upper Mississippi, and Lake Winnipeg, and watered by the Upper Missouri and its tributaries, by the two branches of the Saskatchewan and the Red river of the north—is adapted for the most part to settlement and civilization. It is not simply a grazing country, but all through it are large bodies of arable land, that entitle it to the distinction of being considered an agricultural country.

In my judgment, the time will come when there will be agricultural settlements throughout the whole extent of this country, from the Mississippi to the shores of the Pacific, simply excepting limited extents of country along the higher part of the mountain chains, and in some of the prairie regions, to be referred to more particularly hereafter. As illustrative of the capacity of this country, I beg to refer to a few facts. The Indians of Washington Territory and Oregon, east of the Cascade mountains, are rich in horses and cattle, the former of which have been introduced within a hundred, and the latter within thirty years. Their wealth perhaps is not equalled by any civilized community on this continent. Indians among those tribes own from 1,000 to 4,000 head of horses and cattle each. The Spokanes and Flathead nation have many horses and cattle, which range the winter long without fodder, and, as I know from personal observation, they do not shrink away but very little in flesh. Never have I seen fatter beef than the Indian cattle, in the Walla-Walla, in January. At Fort Benton and Fort Union, where there are large numbers of horses and cattle, they retain their flesh all winter without fodder.

We now come to the development of this great portion of our country, which I shall consider both as regards the agencies actually at work now to develop the region, and the measures which should be adopted looking to the advancement and prosperity of the whole country. Much has been already done. The country has been explored by order of the government. A commencement has been