

"As to the period of cultivation (from April to October) it is a fact worth noting that Dunvegan, Toronto and Quebec do not vary more than half a degree in mean temperature, and that as to Halifax, the difference is only 1°69'—not far from two degrees in favor of Dunvegan. As to the winter cold of Dunvegan, its steadiness and dryness are, for both man and beast, better than that of any other place in the Dominion. I never saw any person from that region but who was improved and strengthened in health and body, and I may say mind, by the life; a region of essentially strong life.

"As to the climate of British Columbia, it is to be observed that on the whole, it is moister and warmer than that on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains in the same latitudes, but local causes, viz., the special physical features of the country, with its alternate of rugged mountain range, and comparative level, vary it much. In its southern half, the altitude of the cascade or coast range seems to wall off from the interior the vapours of ocean waters, which waters never vary beyond 50° to 52° Fahr. the whole year through, while on the northern half of it, or at least between latitudes 53° and 56°, there is a freer play of ocean vapour, with its ever-fertilizing influence over the whole breadth of the country to the Rocky Mountains, and even beyond, through the Peace River Pass and other passages in the lowered range in those latitudes.

"Between latitudes 53° and 56°, exclusive of mountain heights, it may be called mild Canadian, and with a greater force of vegetable growth.

" MINERAL DEPOSITS.

"I cannot say much on this head, only that coal "lignite" is reported from the Saskatchewan to the Arctic shore, along the base of the Rocky Mountains, with a varying breadth of from 50 to about 300 miles or more, and that for many years past it has been used, and found good for forge work, at Fort Edmonton. East of the Rocky Mountains, I am not aware of gold or silver having been found in "paying quantities." In the "Smoky River" region—so-called from the constant or frequent smoke of burning coal area (superficial) there—sulphur in abundance is reported; north of Lake Athabasca, salt, pure and merchantable, abounds, and that on the surface. In the Athabasca and Peace River, there is a large exhibit of oozy bituminous substance like coal tar, which very probably may be found of economic value, and which the Company, I am told, use for pitching their boats.

" NAVIGABLE WATERS.

"They abound throughout the whole region and the whole transport in the fur trade, east of the Rocky Mountains, used to be, and I believe still is, by water.

"The boats used by the Hudson's Bay Company are of from four to five tons, and strongly built for haulage over portages and running rapids. The whole transport, in and out of the trade, from Edmonton on the Saskatchewan, from the Athabasca, Peace and McKenzie Rivers, and also from Red River to Norway House, and thence to ship at York Factory, Hudson Bay, used to be by them.

"The aggregate boat navigation of these water highways may be laid at six thousand miles.

"That of other streams, such as Winnipeg, Beaver, and other streams too full of bad rapids for boats, but where canoes are available, may aggregate about half that.

"The Hudson Bay rivers, south of York Factory, in which boats might be used, but are not to any extent, would aggregate about two thousand miles more. Total navigable reaches, say 11,000 miles.

"The whole country is thoroughly traversed by navigable streams.

"I have seen on its way with its picked crew of eight Canadian voyageurs and an Iroquois or two, the bark canoe, which in 1828 carried Governor Simpson from tide-water, Hudson's Bay, to tide-water (Pacific) at the mouth of the Fraser—a trans-continental trip of about 3,000 miles, *via* Peace River. In my book 'Peace River' I give the journal of it.