

between these mountains and Snake river, is an arable country, and nearly one half of it is adapted to small farms. This valley, or rather re-entering of Snake river, is the great key of our interior, and can subsist a farming population of 100,000 souls.

The country west of the Bitter Root, and north of Snake river, and thence extending westward nearly to the meridian, passing through the mouth of the Palouse, has a fertile soil, adapted to wheat, cereals, and vegetables. As regards the portion west of this meridian, it is somewhat affected by drought, and is more of a grazing than an agricultural country. On the line of the Columbia, on the shores of many of the streams and lakes, and in many intervening swales and valleys, tracts will be found where there is land enough to supply the grazing population, which that country is able to support.

The country north of the Spokane, and thence to the 49th parallel, is wooded, and a very considerable portion of it is arable. The Bitter Root mountains are covered with heavy timber—pine and fir, and larch and cedar. I do not wish to be thought to speak as a sanguine man, when I dwell on this country between the Bitter Root and the Rocky mountains, known as the Flathead country. If you look to the isothermal lines which are drawn on this map, you will see that there is nothing in the condition of the temperature to prevent the raising of crops. But we have the practical experience of the few settlers, and of the Jesuit missionaries in that country, to establish the fact both of the certainty and of the goodness of the crops. I estimate that in the Flathead country, and along the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains, the amount of arable land is at least one-third of the whole, and that it will be found to exceed 12,000 square miles. The country from the Rocky mountains to the great rivers running to the Gulf of Mexico and Hudson's bay—I refer to the country stretching to the great