

abundantly, and attain large dimensions. The potato disease has never been known. Garden vegetables grow luxuriantly, and equal those of Canada. Barley and oats, when cultivated with care, yield as abundantly as wheat. Of hay the quantity is unlimited, and quality excellent, from native grasses. Tobacco is successfully cultivated. Hops grow wild in great luxuriance. Ale is brewed from them at Red River. Flax and hemp have been cultivated with the greatest success. A variety of fruits grow wild, such as strawberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, wild rice, etc. Melons are very fine, growing in the open air. Sugar is manufactured from the maple tree. The numerous lakes and rivers abound with delicious fish, and game is abundant. Coal and lignite are found in various directions, and salt springs yielding abundantly, also exist. Late and early frosts, wolves and locusts, are the farmer's chief enemies. Exclusive of the fur-trade, with which it is not desired to interfere, the exports, on which settlers may at once depend, are cattle, horses, wool, hides, tallow, flax, hemp.

The Indians show a friendly disposition when properly treated. The Hudson's Bay Company keep them hunters, and prevent their settlement. Rival traders have appeared, who tempt them to trade, with ardent spirits. The Company's officers, to compete with these, everywhere sell spirits, bestow spirits as bribes, and advance spirits to get the hunters in their debt. The drinking of spirits, the hard life of a hunter, and scarcity of food consequent on the neglect of agriculture, are rapidly diminishing their numbers. When visiting the trading posts, intoxication indisposes them to listen. The Company's system therefore destroys the Indians and prevents their settling and becoming Christians.

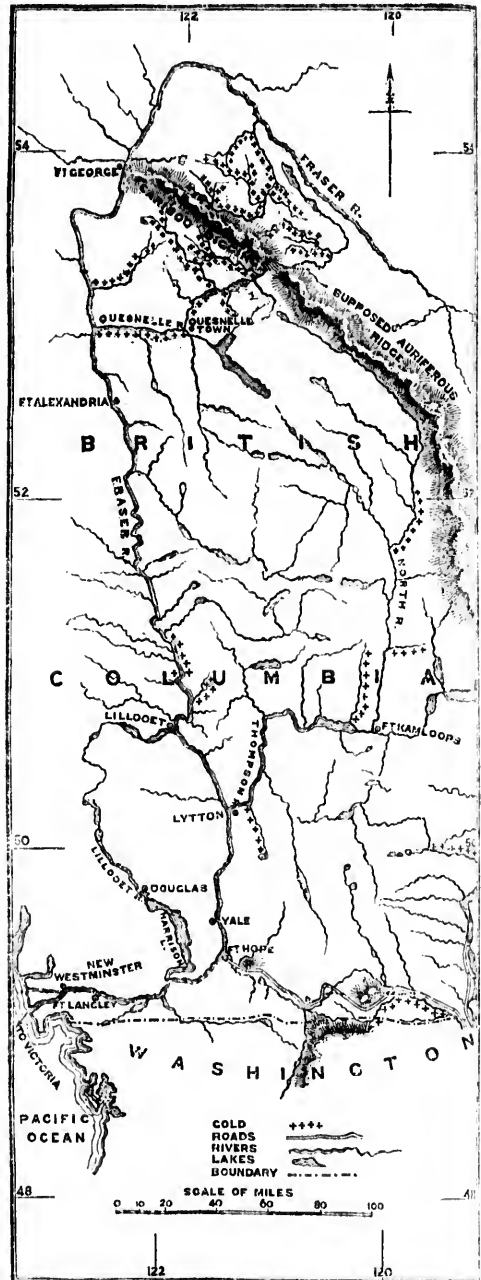
The Company demands one million and a half pounds for abandoning its claims over Rupert's Land. However, as the fertile belt it is proposed to colonize, furnishes but a small proportion of buffalo robes, and a very few other skins, they being found chiefly on the lakes and rivers to the north, and the buffalo to the south, it will be more than compensated, when the territory is colonized, by the cheaper rate at which its posts will obtain provisions, and the advantageous channels opened up for the employment of its capital, free from the grave objections urged against its fur-trading system.

The Red River, now navigated by a steamer, runs from the United States, and sixty miles from the boundary is the commencement of the Selkirk settlement; and commerce flowing naturally in that direction, England is losing all trade with the settlements.

The first step towards colonizing this territory is to open up a direct communication through Lake Superior with Canada. A steamer leaving Liverpool may, with a sea voyage of eleven days, and five days through rivers and lakes, reach Thunder Bay, the west side of Lake Superior. Hence there is a broken navigation, with forty miles of land, and three hundred and sixty of water, to the west side of the Lake of the Woods. This can, it is estimated, be opened up for traffic by roads, tramways, steamers and boats, for £50,000, so as to be traversed in three days by passengers, and with goods in six.

Westward, ninety miles to Red River, and onwards eight hundred miles to the Rocky Mountains, it is proposed to establish a series of posts, or small settlements, through the centre of the fertile belt (on a surveyed line suited ultimately for a railway), about twenty-five miles apart, at each of which about thirty people of different callings will at once be settled. The first care of these settlers will be to establish inns and post-houses, ferries or bridges, to level steep banks, and to throw plank or

corduroy roads over marshes. Regular roads and means of rapid transit will soon follow. Before, however, a first step can be taken, the territory must be erected into a crown colony; and to effect that object, all, both in England and Canada, who desire their country's welfare, who wish to benefit the long-neglected Indians, are urged to employ their united efforts. Ultimately a railway may be formed from the Atlantic to the Pacific.



THE GOLD-FIELDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.