

LECTURE II.

**On the Agricultural, Commercial, Geographical, Political
and National Resources, Advantages and Aspects of the
Country.**

MR PRESIDENT:—Having in my previous address substantiated, I believe, beyond all question the mineral wealth of the country, which in the natural course of events must attract the attention of the world to a large extent, in spite of all the prejudice and misrepresentation of those who judged the country, not from its merits so much as their own incapacity to ensure success, the next question that presented itself to my mind was, whether in case of a sudden influx of people drawn to it by sudden discoveries which are certain to be made, the agricultural capacity of the Colony would be equal to the emergency. Instead, therefore, of finishing my travels with an examination of the mines, I found, in order to ascertain this fact, I had still an irksome, laborious and important duty to perform, and I went through with it with care, because few people, unacquainted with mining countries, have any idea how closely the production of gold and the production of flour are connected. My impressions of the agricultural character of the Colony, I am free to confess, by being obtained from false authorities, were about the same as my impressions of its mineral wealth, altogether wrong and unjust. It was necessary, in this case, to examine the districts lying adjacent to the main thoroughfare of the mines, the product of which could be brought into immediate use if required to feed and sustain a mining population; so it must be understood all the rich tracts of land extending along the banks of the Fraser to its mouth, and also on Vancouver Island, are not included. I am merely speaking now of the Upper Fraser from Yale to Quesnelmouth. It has always been maintained that British Columbia is not an agricultural country, the same thing that was said of California in early times by men about as foolish as those who spoke of that country without any real knowledge of its merits. In order to prove the vitality of this country, it is not necessary to prove it an agricultural country in the strict sense of the term—that is, like California, capable of exporting grain; all that appears necessary to me, is to show she can, as early Cali-