

APPENDIX.

NOTES FOR A YEAR RESPECTING THE SETTLEMENTS AT SUMASS AND
CHILLIWHACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA. (See page 50.)

A wearied traveller from Cariboo arrives. He says:—

"The express canoe landed us at Klinset, by the Sumass. What a noble landscape! the grass so green, the earth so cool, the flowers so beautiful, and the supper! such a treat! fresh eggs, fresh butter, real tea, and cream that smacked of mountain thyme. I wished to sleep outside; no! I wanted to lie outside and watch the stars and the river and drink the pure air all night; but the farmer insisted on giving me a bed. I tumbled in, and was nearly lost in the mountains of down. I assure you I was astonished by the sleep I had here."

"January 8th.—The snow has all gone from this neighbourhood, except that which has drifted in low spots. The stock in general are looking splendid; farmers, having plenty of feed, lost none of their animals during the last cold snap."

"Two horses dead from some disease—public meeting about bridges and roads; removing driftwood from river; fences—the following resolution passed among others:—

"That the Government make a survey during the coming summer of the Sumass Valley, for the purpose of making an estimate of the cost of building a dyke to prevent the flooding by the Fraser at high stages, of a large tract of valuable land supposed to contain from 15,000 to 25,000 acres fit for agricultural purposes."

"February.—Bad weather—rains and snow—three calves eaten by wolves, and some lost in quagmires—some weak cattle died.

"March 11th.—Weather changeable; has been raining; cattle doing well; fall wheat looking well, though winter was bad; 80 additional acres to be sown in spring—farmers busy ploughing; fences and improvements going on; two years ago a farm sold for 450 dollars (90l. English), three months ago, 1800 dollars (320l. English).

"New grist-mill arranged for—school flourishing.

"April 15th.—Weather beautiful—a pinch of frost occasionally—new Tariff disliked—800 dollars (120l. English) subscribed for Wesleyan parsonage—camp meeting to be held before 'high water' this year—seeding not yet finished—had a visit from buyers of work cattle—potatoes shipped to Yale sold for 2 cents. (1d. English) a lb. at the landing.

"May 6th.—Another splendid tract of 'alder brush' land, 12,000 to 15,000 acres, found near Matsqui—soil very rich—new road will go near it—80 feet above highest water. A twin heifer, after a bad winter, when slaughtered, yielded 62½ lbs. loose fat. Stock well—new flouring-mill begun—seeding about finished—busy planting wheat—both spring and fall wheat forcing its way out, though the past weather has been bad—delightful weather—bright sun—cloudless sky—balmey air—unwelcome night visitor—a slight nip by Jack Frost—very unusual—mosquitoes not appeared.

"May 18th.—The Fraser rising fast.

"June 25th.—Dry—a few showers wanted—petition about Post-office, and against all liquor-licences—school teacher appointed—will bring his family—hotel to be built.

"June 28th.—Beautiful showery weather—crops well—haymaking will begin in a few days—the place now has a saw-mill, grist-mill, market, school, and church.

"July 3rd.—Too dry—woods seem on fire—water at its height some weeks ago—very few mosquitoes—a farmer 60 acres wheat in one block.

"July 20th.—Haymaking about finished—harvesting commenced—root crops have suffered from want of rain—school opens next Thursday—bush fires raging—smoke annoying.

"August 12th.—Fine weather—crops very heavy—the prairies that were flooded at high water have splendid grass—harvesting drawing to close—good crops—forest burning on American side—annual Wesleyan Camp Meeting to be on 3rd September—new parsonage begun—a farmer who sowed 5 bushels of wheat (Chill Club) got 100 bushels—the heads averaged 70 to 100 kernels each—grist-mill nearly finished—a fine dwelling-house being erected—mosquitoes disappeared—sent 35 dollars subscription to the Royal Columbia Hospital at New Westminster.

"September.—Some farmers not quite done harvest—some still cutting wild hay for wintering—one farmer has 50 stacks up—hay very good, owing to low overflow of Fraser River this year—a marriage—thrashing about to commence.

"September 23rd.—Many farmers busy ploughing for fall wheat—thrashing will be finished soon—another teacher arrived—some frost on night of 19th—heavy rain 21st, and now a gale."