

still further up stream, at which point the river navigation may be said to end. The current of the Fraser is very swift, and numerous rapids occur; the rise and fall in the body of water during the freshets being something enormous, and causing in the lower Fraser, below Yale, and in the vicinity of Sumas immense damage, thus forming a grave detriment to the settlement of that portion of the country. Between Soda and Dog Creeks and Yale the mining is chiefly confined to Chinese and Indians, who make out but poorly, but the high benches which flank the course of the river give every indication that gold may be found.

Leaving the river at Clinton we strike across the Bonaparte River, meeting the Thompson at the foot of Kamloops Lake, a sheet of water some twenty-five miles in length by two to five miles in width, bordered by rolling prairie, open or slightly timbered, extending some 130 miles northward. At the head of the lake stands the old Fort, opposite the trading-posts of the H. B. Co., where the horses and brood mares of the Co. were wintered, and which now is the site of the town of Kamloops and the junction of the north and south branches of the Thompson River, which flow directly into and form the lake. So far this is the terminus of contracts awarded by the Government for the completion of the Pacific R. R., as the route from this point to the east of the Rockies, although having been decided upon, has yet to have considerable labor expended upon it. Of course since the advent of the workers on the R. R. new life and energy in the town itself has been evinced, and no doubt but it will become a distributing centre for the mineral, grazing and agricultural districts surrounding it, although for successful farming on the prairie irrigation