

"anchorage is said to exist at the mouth of the Noomamia River, about 3 miles down the north shore of the arm." \* \* \*

"To build wharves and perhaps a few sheds on the rocky shores of the anchorage, and thence a road along the mountain sides to the spot indicated in the accompanying plan as suitable for a town site, is the only method I can arrive at by which to meet the requirements of any future traffic that may occur on this route. The site I have selected is, in fact, the only available ground in the neighborhood, a sloping tract of land of about 1,200 acres in extent, covered with a profuse wild vegetation of clover, vetches, or pea-vine, grass, and berry bushes of various descriptions, timbered in many places and generally dry, but breaking up towards the river and the head of the Arm in low swamps and ponds, and damp, grassy hillocks.

"On the north side of the river much of the land is heavily timbered within the line of high-water mark with cedar, cotton wood and some species of fir," &c.

"Half a mile from the mouth, and on opposite sides of the Nookhalk are two Indian villages, &c. Two miles further up is another village, population about 1,200 souls. The natives are physically a fine race, tall, robust and active." \* \* \* Navigation of Arm and river is by canoes. \* \* \* Page 222.

"The Nookhalk Valley, which averages from one-half to one and a half miles in width, opening out considerably," (probably to the extent of five miles as reported by McDonald and Barnston) "at the confluences of the principal tributaries, is walled in by giant mountains of from two thousand to six thousand feet in height, presenting the usual variety of scenery met with in mountain travels in this country." \* \* \* Page 223.

"The valley abounds with the natural features usually met with at low altitudes in this country; tracts of heavy forest and dense underbrush, such as we see in the valley of the Lower Fraser, succeeded here and there by groves of alder, willow and swamp woods, occasional open patches of low berry bushes, forests of smaller timber with a comparative absence of brushwood, large alluvial flats, abrupt mountain sides, poor gravelly soil, patches of swamp land, innumerable brooks and sloughs, and large quantities of fallen, and, occasionally, burnt timber. \* \* \*

"Although the present trail passes through a great deal of swampy land,

"there is nothing to prevent a good bridle path or waggon road being carried the whole way to Shtooiht, &c., (57 miles)." Page 224—"Happily, in this valley there is a comparative absence of rocky bluffs running sheer into the river."

#### "THE GREAT SLIDE" AND MINOR ONES.

"There is an unavoidable slide of fragmentary rock, half a mile in length, at 27 miles from Ko-om-ko-ots, and rock *in situ* would be met with about two miles above Nookkleia, but neither difficulty is likely to prove of a serious nature."

"Atnarko" (river with two tributaries,) Valley is similar in many general characteristics to that of the Nookhalk: as its stream is ascended so do the difficulties of progress increase. The valley, which near its mouth is about one mile in width, gradually contracts, and the mountains, although diminishing sensibly in apparent altitude, become more and more rugged, and frequently jut out in low, broken masses into the stream."

"HERE THE FIRST SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO ROAD MAKING ARE MET WITH. From the crossing of the Cheddeakult" (one of said two tributaries) "to the foot of the Great Slide, mountains crowd closely in upon both sides of the stream; frequent extensive slides of fragmentary trap rocks of all sizes run either directly into the river, or into the low swampy lands bordering it, which are liable to inundation at the freshets, and the Indian trail which winds along their faces is difficult and almost dangerous for travel. These slides vary from 300 to 600 feet in height, and are capped by rugged cliffs extending to an average altitude of 1,500 feet above the river, and since they are unavoidable, the labour of trail making between Shtooiht and the Great Slide" (14 miles) will be considerable, and entail a probable expense of "£1,000" (only one thousand pounds)—"Distance from Bentinck Arm, 57 miles."

"At Cokelin, 1,110 feet above the level of the sea, the trail leaves the Atnarko running about south-east, and strikes to the northward, directly up the face of the Great Slide, at a high angle of elevation."

[Query by myself—Could not a railway line be run *diagonally* across its face, and, if need be, in zigzag?]

"The height of the actual loose rock, as indicated by barometric measurement is about 1,120 feet, the trail barely even winding up this portion,