

on the south, a distance of fifteen miles, is a fine stretch of agricultural land, at present unoccupied, but subject to overflow by the freshets of the Fraser. Timber in plenty for settlers' purposes, cedar, fir, pine and maple of great size, are found on the land, but levees will have to be built before the district becomes an attraction, for the water rushing down, being fed by numerous streams and branches of the different rivers which flow into the Fraser, on arriving at the lower lands or flats form immense basins, sometimes flooding an entire settlement of 31,340 acres; and the districts have been flooded more or less every year since the first attempt at settlement. Another difficulty experienced is that of draining the district when once flooded, for the effect of the ebb and flow of the tide in the Pacific makes the obstacles to be surmounted in reclaiming these districts to be still greater. The flood of 1878 left but two houses out of water, and those were built on the highest points of land. The depth of water in the Sumas lake, that ordinarily is but some four feet, rises at such times to the height of twenty-six to twenty-eight feet. The Indian and Half-breed settlers on the Skow Kale have made several ineffectual attempts to divert the calamity by erecting dykes or levees around their farms, but, until specific action is taken by the Government, settlers cannot be induced to locate towards the mouth of the river, as they would naturally prefer.

Still sweeping westward, through a well wooded district, we pass Langley, a small farming community, who supply the markets of New Westminster and Victoria with their produce. The soil as we near the delta of the Fraser is alluvial, black mould with clay bottom, something like the Mississippi below New Orleans, or the Thames from Greenwich to Southend. Dairy farms, stock farms and market