

first mosquito on the 20th April, 1873." The mildness of the climate is no doubt due to the influence of the "Japan Sea," the great gulf stream of the Pacific, which tempers it to such an extent, that wheat may be grown at Fort Simpson in lat. 61.5, and barley as far North as Fort Norman, lat. 64.31, or 1,000 miles further North than Quebec. The immensity of this fertile country may be judged from the fact that it embraces ten degrees of latitude and thirteen of longitude, and that the Mackenzie River, discharging in the Arctic Ocean, furnishes 2,000 miles of navigation.

Such is the Central, or Prairie region, of General Hewson's line. We have already described the corresponding section of the Fleming line, which runs for 500 miles of its length through the "American Desert;" we may further add that Captain Butler says "there are ten acres of fertile land lying North of the Saskatchewan, for every one acre lying South of it—" and "the present line is eminently unsuited for settlement, and may be said to lie fully 80 miles too far South."

The Western, or Mountainous region, through which the Hewson line passes, begins where the Peace River flows eastward through the Rocky Mountains, affording a pass only 1,800 feet above the sea, as against 3,800 feet at Yellow Head pass, the point now selected,—and crosses British Columbia through the gold fields to the Pacific coast opposite to the Queen Charlotte Islands, which are very large and are said to enjoy a mild climate, to possess valuable coal and minerals and a much better soil than Vancouver, being described as "rich beyond description." General Hewson says but little about the soil of the mainland. Possibly there may not be a very great choice in this respect between it and the present location; but the country has the advantage of a lower elevation, shorter