

extremity of the lake for several miles, down to where the Fraser, flowing through a narrow gorge from the south-west, sweeps round into the valley. The road would run for the next 4 or 5 miles along the north side of this stream, between the river and the steep hill sides of the straitened valley, over level but low ground, subject to be overflowed and encumbered with fallen timber; till it reached Moose river, a rapid stream falling in from the north. Two or 3 miles below, the Fraser expands into Moose Lake, 12 to 15 miles long by 2 to 3 wide. The mountains on the south side of this lake rise perpendicularly to a height of 2,000 feet. On the north-side, though less abrupt, they still come down in many places to the water's edge, and close in on the road, thus necessitating several miles of side cutting along the lake. The valley now begins to acquire a more rapid and continuous descent, and changing direction runs nearly due west for the next 30 miles. Four or five miles below Moose Lake, it opens somewhat, after which it is much encumbered by large timber, till the mountains close in once more, and the road between them and the Fraser is obstructed by lofty cliffs of crumbling slate rock, the first met with beyond the Summit. A side-cutting of about 200 yards would be necessary at this point, besides several other smaller ones lower down, where the mountains shut in the valley very closely. Four or five miles below this, or about 15 miles from Moose Lake, a considerable branch called the "Grand Fork" enters the Fraser at right angles from the north, through five separate mouths, which would have to be crossed. At this point the Fraser runs through a narrow rocky gorge; after which the valley, for the next 10 miles to opposite the Indian camp at the "Cache," becomes much more open, and the ground easier, though intersected by several streams from the north, and obstructed by fallen timber of great size. Total distance from the Summit to the Cache

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The latter half of this distance is heavily timbered, and the descent between Moose Lake and the Cache rapid and continuous, but nowhere steep; averaging less than 45 feet to the mile, and probably never exceeding 70. There would also be some considerable side cuttings and embankments, but not a single tunnel in the whole length of the Pass.

The continuation of the road in a straight line to the Pacific is now interrupted by a barrier of mountains, beginning some 5 miles below the Cache, and running north and south. These present the most extraordinary accumulation of mountains behind mountains, as far as the eye can reach; whilst they arrest the course of the Fraser, which turns suddenly north. The possibility of carrying a road or telegraph over them in a straight line from the Cache to William's Creek, one of the principal centres of the Cariboo gold mines, about 80 miles distant and in nearly the same latitude, has been tested by two distinct lines of exploration. These were run from Richfield; the one diverging

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