

financial state of the colony, it would be advisable entirely to throw away the sum expended on the Harrison Lilloet route for the probable advantages of any road which does not lead higher than Pemberton.

I may here speak of another route to the Upper Fraser, about which my present guides have given me some information, and which I believe his Excellency the Governor has long considered as likely to answer the requirements of the colony in this respect, I mean from Clăhōose, Desolation Sound. The Indians tell me they know the way, and that it is very good, and may be travelled at any season, as the Squāwmisht, Lilloet, &c., &c., are so small where this route crosses them that they are easily forded at all times. They say the country there is clear, but this I do not believe, as at the same time they say it would take two months to go from the inlet to the Fraser. Of course one cannot tell where they would meet the Fraser; but supposing it to be south of Chilcoaten, as I think it must be, the distance in a straight line is only 120 miles, and if they doubled this distance by winding about they would only go 4 miles a day; if this be the case the country cannot be very clear. The time taken, however, to get through the bush, before it is cut, affords no criterion of the value of a route. The most difficult bush in this country to penetrate is a mixture of willow, alder, maple, and raspberry, which is very common; but this is the easiest to clear, as there are no large trees to cut down or stumps to root up. I am inclined to think there is some truth in their information, from the way they gave their account: they volunteered it, and, after expatiating some time on its goodness, they seemed to fear lest it should detract from the value of their own inlet, and began repeating the assurance that the Lă-ă-kine route was very good two months hence, when the snow is hard. What they say of the rivers also seems likely to be true, as, from all we can learn, a north-east line from Desolation must pass near the sources of the rivers which water this part of the country, and I believe this account agrees with the information received by the officers of the Hudson Bay Company.

Of course, should it be your wish, I shall be perfectly ready to endeavour again to ascend the Lă-ă-kine valley later in the year, though I confess I should start with the conviction that my exploration would be valueless to the colony. From Desolation I think it possible there may be a route, and I have no doubt there are one or two farther north, but I feel sure there is none from Jervis Inlet.

Of the geology, Dr. Wood says—"On the right side of the upper arm of Jervis Inlet the mountains against whose sides the sea washes give indications of being composed of porphyritic granite, the granitic rocks generally being deeply imbued with copper oxides; thin veins of white quartz are frequently seen intersecting the granite. The rocks forming the sides of the second inlet, some 6 or 8 miles distant, are more rugged and precipitous, and consist generally of a strongly micaceous quartzose granite. A mountain-stream, which we crossed on the 9th, presented in the granite and trap boulders, which formed its bed, singularly rich specimens of iron pyrites, without any observable indication of other metals. Upon another mountainous stream which we crossed I saw the largest boulder of quartz (transported) I ever witnessed; it must have been 4 or 5 tons weight, and was deeply stained on one side by the oxides of iron." Between Squāwmisht and Lilloet the geological features underwent no change—granite and trap everywhere and a few thin ledges of quartz;—no limestone of any kind. Dr. Wood also observes that "he saw no new specimens of vegetation, which is generally that which prevails along the coast and upon the banks of the Fraser River." Berries, which are such an important article of food with all the Indians, were not at all plentiful between Jervis and Howe Sounds, but nearer Lilloet they became very abundant, and many, especially the raspberry, very fine.