

French beans, beets and barley. These were all planted between the 15th and 24th May. The potatoes, turnips and onions are already a fair size and fit for use. Wheat has not yet reached this part of Peace River, but would doubtless give an excellent crop."

The date when this was written was July 18th. So much for Pine River Pass and its capacity for cultivation. Again, at page 50, he said—and this was a continuation of the same description:

"The trail though rough in occasional spots, carried us over a very fine country, where the excellent soil and large tracts of fine land facing the south, would offer great facilities for farming. There was, however, a scarcity of wood, but the southern banks and the numerous islands being covered with dense forests, afford unlimited quantities of that material for both fuel and manufacturing purposes."

This was the Peace River country, in the direction of and near the mouth of Middle River. Now, Mr. Selwyn made a tour in order to enter this Pass, and here was what he said of it:

"Mr. King and I rode out to a small lake known as Little Lake (see map), about seven miles to the north-west, on the table land. This lake is one of the resources of Pine River North, which joins the Peace about thirteen miles further down, at the site of the old Fort of St. John. After rising 724 feet we come upon a fine level or slightly undulating country, covered with the richest herbage of astonishing luxuriance; I have seen nothing in the Saskatchewan region that at all equals it."

He would call the attention of the hon. the Minister of the Interior to this fact: that, if we could find a road for our railway by Pine River Pass that would enable us to carry our settlements through the fertile tracts of Manitoba into Pine River Pass itself, he could not see how a doubt could arise in anyone's mind as to the route that railway should take. Here was another remark of Mr. Selwyn:

"Similar fine country extends for many miles up and down the river. Professors Macoun and Anderson walked to the nearest point of Pine River North, and passed the whole distance, seven to eight miles, through similar country."

He did not know what more any people could want in a tract of country. He would now draw the attention of the House to the report of the Minister of the Interior, and, in doing so, would specially refer to the Southern route, known as "No. 2"; and in this report of the Minister of the Interior, they

had, on page 68 of the Appendix, a description of one of the Indian Reserves of the country, along the Fraser into the interior. He said:

"The Lower Fraser Valley, extending, say over a hundred miles up to Yale, is not a gorge, but is somewhat opened so as to entitle it to be called a true valley of deposition. The flat land about its mouth rests generally on soft, tertiary formations, but particularly along its low seaward margin, is composed of very modern delta deposits. The greater part of the Lower Fraser Valley is covered with immense deposits, chiefly of Douglas pine. From Yale up to Lytton, which is about 57 miles, the Fraser Valley is a gorge between high, weather-worn mountains, covered with poor timber. Somewhere in the neighbourhood of Lytton, you get through the Cascade Mountains into the arid, interior basin. The *Penus Ponerosa*, growing scattered over the surface, without underbrush, and looking pretty with its red bark and dark, green foliage, takes the place of the Douglas firs, and you see also the prickly pear, or cactus. The Thompson Valley is more a gorge than a true valley for many miles about its junction with the Fraser at Lytton, but the mountains have a softer outline than on the Fraser, and are lower, and for the most part grassy. By-and-bye, after about 100 miles travel, you get to Kamloops, which is at the junction of the north and south branches of the Thompson. Leaving Kamloops, and ascending the South Thompson, and going along the Shuswap Lakes, you leave the Thompson or Shuswap River (otherwise at this place called Spellumcheen) and pass through a short trough, in which is a gently elevated, almost imperceptible height of land, and reach the O'Kanagan Lake, which, unlike the Shuswap Lakes, discharges itself to the southward, by the O'Kanagan River, past Osoyoos on the Canadian frontier, into the Columbia River, on American territory. The line is thus, from Lytton to the frontier, a prolonged cut of about 250 miles, which may be called, at different places, a gorge, a trough, or a valley."

He need not quote further from that report in order to draw the attention of the House to a statement made by an officer of this Government. He would, however, quote from the report of Mr. Macoun, with regard to the Lower Fraser. Mr. Macoun said:—

"The valley of the Lower Fraser, for agricultural purposes, may be said to end at Sumas, but there are numbers of small locations where farming could be done on a limited scale as far up as Fort Hope. Beyond this point, the valley becomes confined between the mountains, and these press so upon the river that, before reaching Yale, the traveller realizes what a canyon is, and the mind is tortured with the thought of what might happen if anything went wrong with the boat or its machinery."

Professor Macoun further added, on page 121: