

favour. They are, however, not indisposed towards whites, and, considerably-treated, will doubtless remain so.

As before mentioned, the upper and lower Indians have a standing feud, which is kept alive by a treacherous murder every now and then, as occasion presents.

The miner visiting these regions will find no native resources beyond what the river supplies. Land animals are scarce, and withal so much hunted as to be extremely shy. Salmon can usually be bought very cheaply; but as there is no salt save what may be imported, there is no way of curing the fish but by the Indian method. At Ska-oose, below the Forks, is a good sturgeon fishery; and elsewhere in the eddies these fish may be caught. A strong line with some large cod hooks might be a useful addition to the miner's equipment. Set lines are an efficient way of catching these fish, the bait a small fish, or what is better, when procurable, a lamprey-eel. There are trout in the streams; and on the Dalles communication grouse of various kinds, sage hens, and other fowl are generally abundant.

In ascending Fraser's River, mosquitoes are very numerous during the summer season, and as the sea-breeze is rarely felt, the air is extremely sultry. Near the Tchaë-tse-sum River, below Fort Hope, the mosquitoes suddenly cease, and thence upwards the river is free of these troublesome pests.

The regular freshets begin at the latter end of April, and last during May and June. About the 15th of June may be regarded as the culminating point; and by the middle of July the waters are generally greatly subsided. There is rarely a freshet of much consequence at any other season, but this sometimes happens, and I have known a sudden freshet from heavy rains in October raise the river beyond the summer limit.

Snow begins to fall in the mountains early in October. In July there is still snow for a short distance on the summit of the Fort Hope trail, but not to impede the passage of horses. From the middle of October, however, to the middle of June, this track is not to be depended upon for transport with pack animals.

The summer climate about the Forks is dry, and the heat is great. During winter the thermometer indicates occasionally from 20° to 30° of cold below zero of Fahrenheit; but such severe cold seldom lasts on the upper parts of Fraser's River for more than three days; the thermometer will then continue to fluctuate between zero and the freezing point, until possibly another interval of cold arrives.

But the winters are extremely capricious throughout these regions, and no two resemble each other very closely. In general the snow does not fall deep enough along the banks of the main streams to preclude winter travelling with pack animals. The quality of the pasture is such (a kind of bunch grass in most places) that animals feed well at all seasons. There are many spots between the Similk-a-meën Valley and Okinagan that are specially favourable for winter ranches. In some the snow never lies, however deep it may be around.

The country, from the mouth of Fraser's River up to the Falls, is thickly wooded, mountainous, and impassable, so to speak, for man or beast. The river becomes more contracted above Fort Hope. Above the Falls, as far as Tquâ-yowm, the character of the country continues to resemble the same distance below. At Tquâ-yowm, however, as already noticed, a change takes place, and the evidences of a drier climate begin to appear. These continue to become more marked as we approach the Forks. At Thlik-um-chee-nâ, or the Little Fork, and upwards, rattlé-snakes, wormwood and the cactus (prickly bear), characterise the scene; and some of these attributes extend thence downward for some distance.

At this point (Thlik-um-chee-nâ, the junction of Nicholas River with Thompson's River), the horse region may be said fairly to commence. Hence, to the frontiers of New Caledonia northward, and southward to the Pampas of Mexico, this useful animal is the best servant of man. Horses, however, are dear luxuries (comparatively speaking) in this quarter. At the Dalles, and around Walla-Walla, they are more numerous, and may be bought at very moderate rates.

In conclusion, I would suggest to every miner, by which road soever he may travel to the Couteau mines, to supply himself well beforehand, as he can depend upon little in that region; save what is imported by himself or others.