

capabilities of the country, to say that its metalliferous capabilities are greater. *I do not hesitate to assert that British Columbia contains sufficient arable soil to sustain a population of many millions; besides, the large and profitable markets furnished to agricultural producers by mining and trading settlements, are unequalled in any part of the world.* He considers it strange "that farmers, skilful and respectable, but not rich, in England, and also in other parts of the British Empire should be content to struggle on, with high rents and low prices, while so tempting an opportunity invites them to become owners of land at a small figure, with the assurance of a superior market for their produce. For the class of farmers to which reference has just been made (he adds), I know of no field of agricultural enterprise offering advantages to be compared with those found in our Pacific Colonies." (pp. 173, 285.) With regard to the climate, he says: "The climate of Cariboo (the principal mining region,) is severe, there the winters are long, lasting from November till the end of April; yet the weather is usually clear and calm. \* \* \* But with the exception of Cariboo, the climate of British Columbia is universally regarded as one of the finest in the world. Nor can the fact of its extreme healthiness be too much insisted on. Cases of sickness are rare, and many who suffered at home from feeble health, have here inhaled new life from the bracing mountain breeze." (p. 284.) With regard to the mildness of the climate of the Pacific Colonies, it is a fact well known to meteorologists, that the isothermal line (or line of equal temperature) trends to the Northward as it crosses the continent to the West, thus rendering the climate of Fort Simpson, on the Pacific (in lat. 55°), equal to that of New York (in lat. 40°).

With advantages of soil and climate such as these,—with a large and increasing mining population, affording a sure market for agricultural produce within the Colony,—why is it that the toil-worn agriculturists and yeomen of the old country, who can barely meet the rent of their farms from year to year, have been slow to seize the opportunity of achieving for themselves a comfortable independence on the virgin soil of a new country? The answer is simple;—want of capital. The distance of the Pacific Colonies from Great Britain and the continent of