

in this discouraging language: "British Columbia probably equals California in mineral wealth; but being as it were a mere continuation of *the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific*, a sea of hills, a land of mountains and forests, or shingly swells and terraces covered with bunch-grass, the farmer looks in vain for rich alluvial valleys." When Milton and Cheadle got through the Pass, they undertook to reach the Cariboo mines, and came very near starving to death in the endeavor, what time they dodged drowning in river torrents and dying of exhaustion from a struggle with the difficulties of the way. Here is their description of the country that finally beat them out: "No one who has not seen a primeval forest, where trees of gigantic size have grown and fallen undisturbed for ages, can form any idea of the collection of timber or the impenetrable character of such a region. There were pines and thujas of every size, the patriarch of 300 feet in height standing alone, or thickly clustering groups of young ones struggling for the vacant place of some prostrate giant. The fallen trees lay piled around, forming barriers often six or eight feet high on every side; trunks of huge cedars, moss grown and decayed, lay half-buried in the ground on which others as mighty had recently fallen; trees still green and living, recently blown down, blocking the view with the walls of earth held in their matted roots; living trunks, dead trunks, rotten trunks; dry, barkless trunks; and trunks moist and green with moss; bare trunks and trunks with branches —prostrate, reclining, horizontal, propped up at different angles; timbers of every size, in every stage of growth and decay, in every possible position, entangled in every possible combination. The swampy ground was densely covered with American dog-wood, and elsewhere with thickets of the azalea, a tough-stemmed trailer, with leaves as large as those of the rhubarb plant, and growing in many places as high as our shoulders. Both stem and leaves are covered with sharp spines, which pierced our clothes as we forced our way through the tangled growth, and made the legs and hands of the pioneers scarlet from the inflammation of myriads of punctures."

I have somewhere in my Notes called British Columbia "a tributary of the Northern Pacific Railroad." It is worse for Mr. Bull than that. The entire British Possessions between Lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean are a *dependency* of this railroad. Great Britain can't get into or out of this territory by rail save over American soil. That makes the region dependent on the Northern Pacific.

Divers engineers have put on sorrowful record their conclusions that the country between Canada and the Pacific was, in two points, impracticable

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g.	Alt.
	Feet above sea.
4	6,030
57	5,960
48
31	5,985
15	4,947
32	5,420
07	6,347
33	3,760

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