

mentioned. He also has brought back a large amount of local information, numerous mineral specimens, and an explanatory map of the country he visited.

Mr. Justice Begbie, who had held a circuit in these same districts, and had seized the opportunity of making a reconnaissance of them, also reports the results of his observations as to the capabilities of the country for transit, the ground suitable for cultivation, &c.

In speaking of some mutual complaints between whites and Indians that were made to him at a village on the Upper Fraser, he goes on to say :—

“On the other hand, many cases of cattle stealing were alleged by the whites of all nations against the Indians, and stealing, indeed, of anything which could by possibility be eaten. For even the cattle which Indians stole they did not attempt to sell or make use of otherwise than as food, and it was admitted on all hands that many hundreds of Indians had died of absolute starvation during the winter. The Indians said that the salmon had failed them now for three years together. The whites alleged, what is obvious to everybody, that the Indians are extremely averse to work, except under the pressure of immediate hunger, and that they are so improvident as rarely to look beyond the wants of a day, and never to consider the wants of a winter beforehand. If I may venture an opinion, I should say this is much more true of the savages who have never been brought into contact with civilization than with those who have had even a little acquaintance with the whites. We found almost everywhere Indians willing to labour hard for wages, bargaining acutely for them, and perfectly acquainted with gold dust and the minute weights for measuring one and two dollars' worth. The circumstances are inconsistent with an utter heedlessness for next day's requirements, for in all cases we had to find these Indians in provisions as well as wages; and the amount for the most abject drudgery to which human labour can be put, viz. carrying burdens, being 8s. per day and provisions, pretty uniformly wherever we went, shows of itself a very high average rate of profit as the wages of labour in British Columbia. If this is the average remuneration of the most unskilled, what ought skilled labour, supported by capital, to earn? It was the uniform practice of storekeepers to entrust these Indians with their goods, generally 100 lbs. of flour, beans, or pork, and provisions for their own subsistence. Thefts were said to be unknown, and great care taken of their burthens; and these individuals who work I found extremely fleshy and hearty. My impression of the Indian population is, that they have far more natural intelligence, honesty, and good manners than the lowest class—say the agricultural and mining population—of any European country I ever visited, England included.”

Mr. Justice Begbie's recapitulation of the chief points he observed were :—

“1st. The ready submission of a foreign population to the declaration of the will of the Executive, when expressed clearly and discreetly, however contrary to their wishes. 2nd. The great preponderance of the Californian or Californianized element of the population and the paucity of British subjects. 3rd. The great riches, both auriferous and agricultural, of the country. 4th. The great want of some fixity of tenure for agricultural purposes; and 5th. The absence of all means of communication, except by foaming torrents in canoes or over goat-tracks on foot, which renders all productions of the