

The central pass being less precipitous and wider in character, and having a more gradual approach, would appear the most suited to land communications. If necessary or advantageous, the principle of steps and the elevation of freighted carriages might be applied, and, with the farther aid of tunnels, the land transit of the Rocky Mountains does not seem to be attended with the difficulties—far less with the impossibilities—with which it has hitherto been invested.

The fullest examination of the chain has often been advocated on geological grounds alone, on account of their probable immense mineral wealth; such a survey, and the settlement of the eastern slope from the shores of the Atlantic to their base, could not fail to throw much additional light on the various depressions of the range.

It is worthy of remark that the Governor-in-chief of the Hudson's Bay Company's territories overtook a party of poor unaided emigrants on the plains of the central region; but although he had all the resources of the country at his disposal, they had arrived on the western slopes of the mountains, with their waggons and families, before the party travelling by the route through which the Governor conducted his guests and companions. In estimating the practicability of the passage of the mountains, it is important, moreover, to remember that they have been thus traversed whilst entirely without roads. It is only necessary to think what the Simplon would be without a road.

6. The descent to the Pacific would be accomplished by similar means. Every avenue of approach would be soon called into requisition when the great tide of development of colonization and commerce had once reached from shore to shore. Western terminations would possess the same interest that now belongs to those of the East. The similarity of these two grand terminal countries in many respects is very remarkable; the positions, harbours, mineral, forest, and agricultural resources bear a striking resemblance to each other; the seaboard of the Pacific and the whole western side of the mountains is, however, favoured with a far more mild and genial climate. It is true neither Royal standard nor British flag float any longer over the exquisite valleys of the Cowlitz and the Wallamette, of the Kootoonay or the Columbia, but the remnant left of Oregon is still intrinsically agriculturally attractive, independently of the indirect value which it derives from the circumstances of the route, and to which its position within the Empire of Great Britain is essential. This fact is too well known to require to be now dwelt upon; the richness of the soil and the unequalled girth of the forest trees have attested the fertility of the country from its very earliest discovery; and Mackenzie, who was never S. of Point Menzies,

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