

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ON THE LINE.

The valley, above described is in general heavily timbered, but studded, as aforesaid, with rich bottoms, capable of producing any kind of crops, and offering open spots for small farms. The plain itself [the only one in British Columbia of any extent] has been admired by all who have seen it, on account of its vast pasturages and park-like scenery. Its width, where it is crossed by the Bute Inlet trail, is about 120 miles, and it stretches from the SW end of the Great Quesnelle Lake and the neighborhood of the Fraser, in a NNW direction, more than 300 miles to the Skeena, beyond which river it has not been explored. It contains millions of acres of good ground, and some of the best along the proposed route, where large tracts of land are sure to be taken up as soon as the first communications are established. Some objections have been raised as to its elevation, which averages 2500 feet above the sea in the southern part, though gradually lowering towards the Skeena, where the climate, in consequence, becomes considerably milder. But this makes it none the less valuable for grazing purposes, which will be by far the most profitable branch of farming in the country, when there are means of conveyance. At present, the cattle consumed in Cariboo, are driven overland some 500 or 600 miles from Washington Territory.

Cereals can also be cultivated with success, as is fully proved by the following list, showing some of the crops which were raised last season on the Fraser route, together with the corresponding latitudes and altitudes :

	Lat. N	Altitude	
			Feet.
Deep Creek	52:17	2255	100 acres of oats
William's Lake	52:12	2135	200 acres of oats, barley and wheat
Cut off Valley	51:10	2973	200 acres oats, barley, potatoes and a little wheat
Mr Cornwall	51:00	1508	70 acres oats, barley, and 300 bushels wheat

But the above localities are all to the East of the Fraser, and it must be born in mind, that as the isothermal lines approach the Pacific, they extend diagonally towards the North, in the proportion of about 1° of Latitude to 2° of Longitude. Thus at Benchee Lake, on the Chilcoaten plain, in the same latitude as William's Lake, and rather more elevated, but 2° more to the west, and therefore very probably identical in climate. I saw in the autumn of 1863 a small crop of oats, barley and turnips, which Mr Manning had raised on trial, and which had perfectly succeeded; whilst some potatoes, which had been planted in an exposed situation to the south, had been frost-bitten. The Indian horses pass the winter out of doors without fodder or stabling; the best proof that the winters are not very severe.

The superiority of the Bute Inlet route [the only one