

### A few Facts.

Every reader, perhaps, may not be aware that there is a strange contrast between the surface, soil, climate, &c., of the countries on the Atlantic side of the continent, and the countries on the Pacific Ocean side of the continent. British Columbia (English), Oregon, and California (American) are the three principal countries on the Pacific side. These are fine countries, but of course each has advantages and disadvantages. I know all of them, and in my opinion British Columbia, upon the whole, has been most favoured by nature, and is the best of the three countries for securing a homestead in—for the following substantial reasons.

Taking the whole year round, or taking a series of years, the climate is better for farming, and more healthy and enjoyable. The wheat, barley, and hops of British Columbia beat those of California, and her root-crops beat those of Oregon. British Columbia has more coal and better coal, finer harbours, superior fish, sounder trees. It is reasonably believed, and partly proved, that her mineral lands, containing precious metals, are very extensive. The public domain (which is at the disposal of the people of the province) is sold more cheaply; the taxation is immensely less; the laws are better carried out; the people have as much political freedom as men can desire.

These are facts which ignorance only can lead any person to gainsay, and I state them, at the outset, so that they may be examined and appreciated.

### British Columbia not Remote.

Men frequently call at my office in London who, twenty days before, were in British Columbia. The Canadian Pacific Railway will bring the province within a *fortnight's travel* from England.

### The Great Snow Question.

*British Columbia has not a snowy winter.* There is snow, but not much snow. In cold countries they have a saying that snow is "the poor man's manure," because if there is too little of it his wheat may be "winterkilled." Gold miners, also, in some places, find snow so useful in their work that they say, gratefully, "snow is gold." Still, the world in general is prejudiced against snow, and I therefore record here:—

- (1.) That the great mountain ranges in Oregon and California have deeper snow than is found upon the same ranges in British Columbia.
- (2.) That *British Columbia has not a snowy winter such as Eastern Canada and the Northern States of the Union have. The British Columbian winter is the winter of England and of France.* (See "Climate," p. 13.)

### A Foreigner's First Impression on landing in British Columbia.

An American traveller, writing in 1872 to the Boston (United States) 'Globe,' said:—

"Victoria is emphatically a beautiful city, for, unlike the majority of the Pacific Coast towns, it deserves the name. The harbour is the prettiest on the