

State for the Colonies] England—His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin,—His Honor Lieutenant Governor Morris, Manitoba and North West Territories,—The Hon. Hudson's Bay Company, by its Governor and Board of Directors in London—a body not given to such "small-moving," and whose act has, to me, a special value, in that it excuses my apparent violation of much of their traditional esoteric,—The Surveyor General of Dominion Lands [Colonel Dennis]—Mr. Crosby—statistician, and compiler [with much merit] of Lovell's Gazetteer of British North America [a standard work, and in which, under the heads "British Columbia," and "North West Territories," my statements, tabulated, and in descriptive order, as to the economic areas, relatively, of "wheat," and other economic resources, and general geodesy of the whole vast *terrain* in question, are given, in my own words, with due credit, by name, to me, and that with the long list of corroborative authorities consulted on the subject by the compiler.] I might add to the list, the Hon. Mr. Langevin and others. But coming back to the question of route:—

FRAZER BEND TO NORTH ARM, GARDNER'S  
INLET.

From this Fraser River Bend—a hinging point—say Giscome's Portage, to the north-east corner of the head of the northern arm of the Gardner Inlet, a point determined by Vancouver as Latitude  $54^{\circ} 4' N$ , Longitude " $231^{\circ} 19'$ " as he puts it, (in old style), but which, now, may be stated at  $128^{\circ} 41' W$ . of Greenwich,—the distance, in air line, is, I estimate, about 240 miles—assuming Giscome Portage (eastern end) at  $122^{\circ} 35' W$ . Longitude, and, as aforesaid, at  $54^{\circ} 25' N$ . Latitude.

It is, I believe, available throughout, and without "heavy work" or gradients beyond 20 or at most 30 feet per mile at any point, not even in approaching tide-water. The course would be to old Fort Fraser, (50 miles, West by S. from Fort St. James), thence along the south-side—all fine plain and lake country, almost level—of the North-West Branch of the Fraser—thence along a chain of lakes, known to the old Fur Trade as the Nateotain Lakes to a summit lake—reported as of the same chain—whence by a river marked "Salmon River" in the H. L. Co's. charts, as copied by Arrowsmith—see my map to "Peace River"—the water is represented to flow to the Pacific. I refer to this in my pamphlet, page 105, thus, in giving certain extracts from a work,

citing Chief Factor Harmon's Journal, which journal I had not seen, however, at the time I wrote. Extract—"1812, "January 20th, I have returned from "visiting five villages of the Nateotains," (Note by Ed. (i. e. myself) "Tribe between Fraser's Lake and crest of the "Cascade Range, at the head of Salmon "river, which strikes at Hopkins' Point, "the head of the northern arm Douglas' "channel or canal of Gardner's Inlet] "built," says Harmon: "on a lake which "gives origin to a river that falls into "Gardner's Inlet. They contain about "two thousand inhabitants, who subsist "principally on salmon and other small "fish, and are well made and robust. "The salmon of Lake Nateotain have "small scales, while those of Stuart's "Lake have none." [Note by Ed. (myself.) "The only solution of the apparent "anomaly is that the Nateotain, or Nateotum, as I have seen it elsewhere "spelt, salmon is a different kind, probably the powerful *Ekewan*—of which, "more anon, which had taken the short "cut from the sea to the height, *via* the "Salmon River."

In connection with this, in page 99 of my pamphlet, I say, "I refer to all "these salmon streams" (speaking of the Skeena, Fraser and the "Salmon River" now in question) "as being, probably, "possible highways for man as for the "salmon which are found in their source "lakes on the very plateau now marched "on. No salmon has ever been seen or "known to top in its leap fourteen feet in "any British stream. Possibly the '*Ekewan*' (hereafter described) of our Pacific "may, in his special lithe and strength, "do more, but certainly not more than a "foot or two. These facts are measure, "approximate at least, in the question "or problem of feasibilities for railway "or roadway of some kind from this "plateau to the ocean."

The description given in Vancouver's report—page 255 of Mr. Fleming's—represents the point in question at the mouth of the said Salmon River, as one of exceptional features, with a "low "valley, three or four miles wide, forming nearly a plain, covered with tall "forest trees, mostly of the pine tribe, "extending some leagues to where the "distant mountains appear to connect "the two ranges." There, possibly, may be our *Eureka*; but alas! it is a little too far north for our Grand Trunk Road to China. For home service it would, however, answer well—say for our modern Eldorado—richest in the world