
CACHE CREEK.

Cache Creek was my next in order, and, leaving Ashcroft, I drove over to Cache Creek. Between Ashcroft and Cache Creek there is an extensive flat of land known as "Boston's" farm. A ditch was started some eight miles up the Bonaparte river, for the purpose of taking water from the river on to the flat, which must be some four hundred feet above the river. After an expenditure which must have been in the neighborhood of ten thousand (10,000) dollars, the ditch proved a failure, from some mistake in the levelling, and was abandoned.

On this piece of land I am confident that water would be obtained near the eastern end of the valley. There is to the north an extensive range of rocky ridges rising in terraces, and several small lakes; and between this flat and the Thompson River there is a mountain forming a considerable water-shed into the valley in which "Boston's" farm lies.

The valley which branches from Cache Creek is almost a basin, being closed by a slightly rising ridge at its westerly end, and running parallel to the Thompson River is shut off from it by a high ridge of undulating hills, rising to a considerable height.

At the time of my visit (May 9th) Cache Creek was running bank full, as were all the ditches; but Mr. Semlin assures me that during the months of July and August water is much needed. The Harper ranch, at the easterly end of the valley, has to ditch water five miles, and in the light soil of the side-hills the loss is considerable.

A bore on the north-easterly foot-hill beyond this ranch would strike water at a reasonable depth, as near this ranch there is a strong spring, which forms quite a meadow and continues to run all summer. The occurrence of these springs all point to an underground supply which, if tapped at the proper place, will, I feel sure, yield an abundant supply of water.

Before closing this report, I must express my thanks to the farmers and others in the upper country for many acts of kindness received at their hands. Every one appears to be anxious to help the Government to solve this problem. Offers of assistance have been many, and should the boring prove successful the parties benefited have in every case offered to defray the entire cost of the work, if water was struck in sufficient quantities to be useful.

Subjoined, I enclose summary of report, naming district, depth approximately, and nature of soil to be bored through, &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. B. McKAY.

SUMMARY OF REPORT.

THOMPSON RIVER.

The right, or north, bank of the Thompson River, from Tranquille to the junction with the North Thompson, contains much the largest area in block of good land where water is entirely wanting. This flat is from one mile to one and a half miles wide and some five miles long. Boring on this flat would not, I think, exceed over four hundred feet (400). Its proximity to Kamloops and the C. P. R. would make it a good point for a trial boring.

SOUTH THOMPSON.

On the north bank of this river is much good land in extensive flats, ranging from eighty to six hundred acres in blocks, and entirely without water on the lower benches. The higher benches, or terrace flats, have small streams which are used for irrigation, but are not sufficient for both.

South bank of same river has also large areas of good land with, in some cases, water for irrigation, but mostly with but an indifferent supply.

The line of the C. P. R. passes along these flats, and material could be placed on the ground within a short distance of the work.