

Francois and Ootsa Lake Country.

From the Nechaco Valley a good trail swings Nor-Westerly thirty miles to FORT FRASER. At this point there is a Telegraph Office and the Hudson's Bay Company have a supply and trading store. Continuing in a Westerly direction we pass Fraser Lake, seventeen miles in length, and seven miles further brings us to the FRANCOIS and OOTSA LAKE country.

This important and most promising section of the province is settling up steadily and at the present time has a population of over a hundred, while there is ample room for hundreds more settlers.

Francois Lake exceeds 70 miles in length while Ootsa Lake is about 45 miles long, paralleling each other and extending from East to West. Both these bodies of water ultimately find their outlet in the Fraser River and form its northwestern source.

This whole country is fairly well covered with a growth of black pine and red and black spruce and is interspersed with hills and some level land of excellent quality for agricultural purposes, while the best of it has a light growth of poplar of both the smooth and rough bark varieties. This poplar, at present valueless, is useful for the manufacture of pulp wood, and is quite easily cleared.

Bulkley Valley.

Still continuing Nor-Westerly and after travelling the trail for some hundred miles we reach the famous BULKLEY VALLEY. The Bulkley is destined to become one of the richest mineral sections of British Columbia. Splendid coal and copper claims have been staked and with the advent of the G. T. P. Ry the vast resources of this fertile valley will be properly exploited. A large extent of these coal lands is held by several Companies and the coal which is used locally for blacksmithing appears to be of an excellent quality, however so far the veins have not been uncovered to any great depth.

Most of the minerals which have so far been discovered in the Bulkley Valley are in the neighbourhood of Copper River and of the Babine and Bear River mountains. But as yet no very considerable amount of work has been done upon the claims owing to the lack of transportation facilities and the practical impossibility of getting in machinery. A small trial shipment has already been made from Hudson Bay mountain to a smelter in the South and the returns for copper, gold and silver proved to be very satisfactory indeed. The ore was taken out on horseback. In four of these districts it is highly probable that successful mining camps will be established. Yellow copper pyrites are found in these localities and practically all big copper mines yield this ore. These mining locations lie between 20 to 30 miles from the G. T. P.

Table of Distances.

With the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway the NECHACO VALLEY, FRANCOIS and OOTSA LAKE and the BULKLEY VALLEY will become known as the "Garden Spots" of British Columbia and will reward the incoming enterprising Settler who doubtless at first has to conquer a few minor difficulties.

Following is a table of distances from Ashcroft, "The Gateway", to above districts.

ASHCROFT	to	QUESNEL		2 2 0	miles
QUESNEL	to	BLACKWATER		4 5	..
BLACKWATER	to	BORTAIL LAKE		4 5	..
BORTAIL LAKE	to	NECHACO		4 5	..
NECHACO	to	FORT FRASER		3 0	..
FORT FRASER	to	FRANCOIS & OOTSA LAKE		2 7	..
OOTSA LAKE	to	BULKLEY VALLEY		1 1 0	..