

Department of the Interior.

The work of the seven Canadian parties included a very thorough photo-topographical survey of the country around Lynn canal, the Muir glacier, the great glacial system to the west thereof, and the high range known as the Fairweather range, being the easterly extension of the St. Elias Alps, as far as cape Fairweather. A large tract of country was also covered between the Stikine river and Stephen's passage, and on the peninsula between Portland canal and Behm's canal.

The commissioner reports that as a result of the operations of the two seasons' work, the whole coast strip from Behm's canal to cape Fairweather has been covered by a connected photo-topographical survey, and that the office work of delineating the results of this survey upon paper—as a contour map on a scale of $\frac{1}{80000}$ with contour lines 250 feet apart—is well advanced. He states that but little further work is required in order to obtain all necessary information with regard to the coast between cape Fairweather and Yakutat bay, a distance of 70 miles, and to supplement the information obtained by the United States party in the vicinity of mount St. Elias and the 141st meridian, which is the western terminus of the work of the commission.

Mr. William Ogilvie, D.L.S., who had charge of the northern section of the field work during last summer, was again sent out in the winter to obtain further information as to the region lying in rear of the surveys made in 1893 in the Taku district.

The marking of the boundary line between New Brunswick and the state of Maine in Passamaquoddy bay, under the second article of the convention of 1892, is in the hands of the same two commissioners. In my last report I expressed my expectation that the work in this quarter would soon be completed. The commissioners, however, having found that additional information was required by them before they could render their final report, Mr. King in August last had some further surveys made of the bay. The matter is still under consideration by the two commissioners, and no agreement has so far been arrived at between them.

IRRIGATION.

In my report for last year, under this heading, I pointed out the conditions which had led up to the proposal to reclaim parts of the arid portion of the Northwest Territories by the construction of systems of irrigation.

This opportunity cannot be allowed to pass without recording the extent to which the energetic and intelligent researches of Mr. William Pearce have contributed to bring this subject to the attention of the government and the public. Mr. Pearce has for several years been devoting much of his time and his great abilities to the consideration of this question as it affects the region of country lying along the eastern base and slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and during that period he has faithfully put the department in possession from time to time of the results of his researches and the conclusions which he based upon them. I take this opportunity also of stating that Mr. Pearce would have brought this question more prominently before the public through the medium of the annual report of the department and in other ways several years before he did, but for my own fear that the discussion might lead intending settlers to imagine that the conditions requiring the artificial application of water to farming lands extended over a fa