

## 2 TRAILS, TRAPPERS AND TENDER-FEET

Columbia ; and, a few weeks after its publication, I received a letter from an unknown out in the west, which read something as follows :

“ My dear Friend, I seen your good story and I liked it fine. I think me and friend would better go to British Columbia. Could you write me briefly, given me what information you think would be useful about the country, describing in particular the rivers, lakes, flora, fauna, and agricultural features of the country, and anything else that you think would interest fellers who was going out there to settle.”

In reply, I wrote my friend that British Columbia, if taken bodily and set down on the Atlantic seaboard, would have one of its tips resting in Maine and the other end would touch Key West, Florida, and the whole would reach as far west as Detroit, Michigan ; and that its total area was just a shade larger than Germany and Japan combined, and that of all of these 310,391 square miles, there is only about one in twenty that has ever been seen by a white man ; and that, with the exception of the territory immediately adjacent to the lines of the railroad, there was scarcely any population at all worth mentioning. I thought this information would be a good and sufficient excuse for not giving the detailed reply which he had suggested. So much then for the size of British Columbia, except to add