

ser's river below Fort Thompson. Sir George Simpson, who passed down it in 1828, stated that he found the navigation so dangerous and difficult that it was almost totally impracticable. If it had offered any facilities for navigation, the distance it would have saved in the transportation of their goods for the northern posts, would have caused the adoption of the route. This will readily be perceived by simply estimating the distances. From Vancouver to Okonagan is three hundred miles by water, with four portages; and from Okonagan to Fort Thompson by land, one hundred and fifty miles; thence to Fort Alexandria, one hundred and twenty, and as much more to Fort St. James, one hundred and twenty miles: total, seven hundred and twenty miles, that occupy nearly sixty days in travelling, two-thirds of which time is employed in going from Fort Okonagan to Fort St. James. This distance, without loads, and with expedition, may be travelled in twenty days.

The climate of this northern section of country is unfavourable to agriculture, in consequence of its being situated between two ranges of mountains, the Rocky Mountains on the east, and the extension of the Cascade Range on the west. Both of these are constantly covered with snow, notwithstanding which, the climate is said not to be remarkably severe. Snow, however, lies on the ground from November till April or May, and on an average six feet deep. From the end of May till the beginning of September, fires can be dispensed with; for the rest of the year they are necessary.

There are many spots of fertile land along the rivers, but the early frosts are a great obstacle to agriculture. Potatoes, turnips, wheat, and barley, are, however, raised at Fort Alexandria and Fort George; but at the more northern, as St. James, Babine, and Fraser's, only the two former vegetables can be cultivated. Cattle are now in considerable numbers at most of the posts.

On the 19th, Lieutenant Johnson was prepared to depart, with his party, having recruited his horses and mended his accoutrements. The kindness of Messrs. M'Donald and Maxwell supplied all their wants, and enabled the party to leave Colville in a better state than they had originally departed from Nisqually.

To these gentlemen my thanks are especially due for their attentions to the officers, who all spoke in high terms of the kindness they received. After their departure, they found that the ladies of the establishment had been equally mindful of their comforts, in not only filling their haversacks, but in supplying them with moccasins.

The latitude was ascertained, by observations at the fort, to be  $48^{\circ} 36' 16''$  N., longitude  $118^{\circ} 04' 00''$  W.