

one-half inches. At Spence's bridge, on Thompson river, in the center of the inland plateau, the rainfall is about ten inches. The climate of Vancouver island is delightful and invigorating. Snow seldom falls, and lies on the ground but a few hours. For a period of three years, the lowest temperature was eight degrees above zero, and the highest was eighty-three and nine-tenths degrees, the summer heat being tempered by the cool breezes from the Olympic mountains. The mercury has never fallen below zero since observations have been taken. On the mainland coast, in the vicinity of the mouth of Fraser river, the thermometer ranges slightly higher in summer, and lower in winter, than at Victoria. As a general thing, ice forms on the river for a short period, and from January to March, snow falls at intervals, reaching an average total precipitation of fifty inches. Because of its extremely light rainfall, the climate of the interior plateau differs widely from that of the coast, being subject to a greater range of temperature. The thermometer occasionally indicates twenty-five degrees below zero in winter, and rises to ninety-eight above in summer. Snow lies on the ground longer than near the coast, though the snowfall is not heavy. As the mountains on the east are approached, the fall of snow increases in proportion with the rainfall. In the mountains, the winters are severe and the quantity of snow heavy. The climate of the interior varies with the lati-

tude. In the southern portion it is milder in winter than farther north. Though the heat is sometimes great in the daytime, sunstrokes are unknown, and a cool breeze from the mountains renders the nights comfortable. Snow seldom exceeds two and one-half feet in depth, and is frequently removed in short order by the chinook, as the warm ocean wind is called. To the northward, the general surface of the country is higher, and is broken by irregular masses and spurs of mountains. The summers are short and warm, and the winters are longer and colder than farther south, with a heavier fall of snow. In the valley of Fraser river, throughout its entire length, the climate is milder than on the adjacent uplands. Even in the extreme north, the islands along the coast, and that portion of the mainland between the mountains and the sea, have the same mild, moist climate as Vancouver island; and this condition continues far to the north, in Alaska.

Taken as a whole, the climate, differing widely as it does in places, is salubrious and invigorating. No miasmatic infection from ague-breeding marshes taints the atmosphere. Whatever locality one may select for a residence, whether the one of moist air and equable temperature along the coast, or the dryer and more varying one of the interior, he will find the climate healthful, invigorating, and calculated to inspire activity, comparing more than favorably with the same latitude on the Atlantic slope.