easterly direction bending however on our right considerably west of South, and uniting with those between the latter and the Columbia where there is apparently a gap —

The only obstacle to a good road, connecting the Bay with the Cowlitz trail, is evidently this range of hills and from the information we received from the Indians as well as our own observation, ~~this~~ it would not be a serious one. After crossing the hills ~~the~~ ~~this~~ ~~the trail would be~~ it remain almost entirely through prairie. ~~to the Cowlitz road~~ —

A good stock trail exclusive of bridges could be cut through such a country for about $15 per mile. —

A wagon road complete would cost $50. —

Several of our crossings could be avoided by keeping a little farther from the river, and points could be selected for bridges beyond the influence of the freshets.

The proper season for an exploration of this district ~~country~~ is at some time during the winter, when not much rain is ~~to be~~ expected. The Indians recommend February.

During the months when the maples are in leaf, it is impossible to see even a few yards in advance. The best course would be for a party of five, packing provisions on a horse, to cut the trail as they go. They can in this way proceed almost as rapidly and with less fatigue than they could, carrying provisions tools and blankets themselves.

The amount of open prairie is not sufficient in this valley to afford stock range, but there is enough for a considerable number of good farms. —

The salt marshes too, are available except during

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