The upland soils of the great central plateau belt vary considerably and on t whole are exceedingly rich. They are formed chiefly from glacial drift and vary character according to variations in the materials comprising the drift. A large p of the soil is formed from boulder clay and hence is somewhat clayey in charac and is retentive of moisture. The surface soil to a depth of several inches is usua black, showing the presence of a good supply of humus.

Ridges of gravel and small boulders are occasionally found on the higher platea and some of the bench lands are stony. Many of the small tributary valleys are fou to be sandy and stony, while lighter and gravelly soils cover many of the high hencl and lower range of hills.

On some hillsides and low ridges or plateaus are found heavy clayey soils. O certain areas fires have burnt off the humus from the surface soil, rendering it unp ductive and difficult to till in its present condition. Such soils, when treated with fair coating of fertilizer, rapidly regain their fertility and usually prove lasting.

The sandy, gravelly and stoney soils, though not favourable for cultivat purposes, nevertheless produce great quantities of grass and herbage and are w adapted for grazing purposes.

The soils of the area east of the Rocky mountains are similar to the soils o great plains region and are in part prairie soils. For the most part they are clayey character and have a black surface soil of considerable depth th a clay subs underlain by horizontal beds of shale and sand rock. One of principal char teristics of this soil is its ability to retain moisture. This property enables it to fore luxuriant growth of vegetation even when the precipitation is light. Irrigati therefore, is unnecessary in these sections, even though the rainfall only avera from 12 to 15 inches a year.

The prairie soils are also easy to till and do not bake following heavy rai The surface soil is thin or lacking in very small areas, while on the contrary the bl surface soil often extends to a depth of 3 feet or even more. The clay, of course fo l exposed along the cut banks and steep ravines approaching the foothills. Sa and gravelly soils are found in limited areas only. There is no alkali and v little gumbo.

West of the Rocky mountains gumbo is found on some hillsides and cut ban It has given more or less trouble on the grade of the Pacific Great Eastern ab Quesnel and between Quesnel and Prince George. There is very little hard-pan in central belt. Poor and rocky soils are found mainly at the higher altitudes, wh climatic conditions are unfavourable for agriculture.

In general terms, it may be said that the arable soils of British Columbia are r and easily worked and adapted to all classes of farming and fruit growing, accord to the climatic conditions of the locality.