

pany in fact had refused to accept lands there because they did not think them any good. Ultimately, however, they agreed to take a solid block of three million acres and install a system of irrigation. It was a great experiment, but purely an experiment, involving the expenditure of five million dollars. But their efforts were markedly successful and the land was being colonized in a rapid way. The result was that in a short time Calgary had been converted from a town into a thriving city.

Victoria occupied a similar position with respect to the E. & N. land grant. Unless this were developed and colonized a great brake would be placed upon the city's prosperity. If, however, the property were developed and settled it would give rise to a great amount of trade. The question that now engaged the attention of the company was "What shall we do?" There was no doubt in his mind that if they had 100,000 acres of cleared land adjoining the E. & N. that could be divided into plots of forty acres he would feel safe in guaranteeing to place a settler upon every sub-division within twelve months.

Mr. Dennis then explained what was being done in

THE WAY OF COLONIZATION

in the vicinity of Bellingham, in Washington. The Board of Trade there wanted settlers on the land in the vicinity. The land had been cleared and an advertising company started which had resulted in an astonishing development in the way of settlement. On this trip, Mr. Dennis continued, he had brought out Mr. Brightman, of Brightman & Brown, of St. Paul, the company's advertising agents. Mr. Brightman understood the conditions of land colonization thoroughly, in fact it was he who conducted the advertising campaign for the Bellingham people. Mr. Brightman accompanied him (Mr. Dennis) to Seattle, and Portland, recently and also took a run up to Bellingham. He had sent the speaker a statement of the results of his Bellingham advertising campaign, which surprised him. At his office he

said from sixty to seventy-five inquiries were received daily with respect to the land in Northern Washington.

Mr. Dennis then described the manner in which land was being settled beyond the mountains and said he would be greatly disappointed if they did not get 100,000 people from the States this year. But in Manitoba and Assiniboia as well as in the States there were people who had accumulated wealth under strenuous climatic conditions. They now

DESIRED BETTER CONDITIONS

in this respect and would willingly come to British Columbia if they could get the kind of land they wanted. This he knew because in the last six months the company had been selling land in the Columbia valley, Kootenay and Okanagan. The climate of this province attracted them. If they had the land there would be no trouble in getting the people. But as yet they didn't have the land on Vancouver Island.

When the C. P. R. acquired the E. & N. land grant comparatively little had been done in the way of exploring it. The company decided to find out what they had and to that end had organized four or five parties to thoroughly explore it. He had brought out the company's chief land examiner, a man of thirty years' experience, and the chief timber cruiser. Parties would be organized with headquarters at Victoria, Nanaimo, Alberni and Comox, and they would be kept busily at work for the purpose of preparing a proper map to show the timber and agricultural areas, and report how to best develop the grant. They would be dispatched on their task at once.

Then as soon as they had located areas suitable for settlement, they would set aside a few thousand acres for

EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES.

That is, they would see what could be done in the way of clearing and rendering it fit for colonization. In clearing very satisfactory work was done in Washington. First a contract was let for clearing, the timber was cut into