

SICAMOUS

TO the ordinary individual the name Sicamous Junction conveys but little, beyond the fact that it is situated "somewhere" in British Columbia; but to the man of affairs, whose interests lie along the lines of commerce, it has a far greater significance. It means the entrance to the Okanagan—that famous valley stretching for one hundred and fifty miles to the southward and embracing within its confines thousands upon thousands of acres of orchards, miles upon miles of meadow-lands, farms innumerable, rapidly-increasing townships and budding cities; all pointing unmistakably to the prosperity and welfare of this—the fairest of all British Columbia's valleys.

Sicamous or, what would seem more appropriate, the "Okanagan Junction," is as the gateway of a garden, through which are borne vast quantities of fruit and produce out onto the great highroad beyond; whilst from the outside a constant stream of humanity presses in. Some come to work in the garden, others to view the prospects and, finally, to purchase a portion whereon they may establish a home. Others again—their day's work being completed elsewhere—come to seek rest and contentment in some sheltered spot or to search amongst the timbered groves and in the lakes and streams for such sport as is to be obtained.

Lying at an elevation of 1300 feet, at the junction of the Spallumcheen River with one of the many arms of Shuswap Lake, Sicamous, small as it is in respect to the number of inhabitants, possesses other attractions, apart from its relationship to the Okanagan, for it is a charming resort, and full of interest to the tourist, whom it is our intention throughout the following pages of this Guide to conduct in a faithful manner on his travels throughout the Okanagan, no matter on what errand he comes.

We would first point out the natural beauty of these surroundings which are of a somewhat different character to those of the Okanagan Valley proper. Here, the mountains are rugged and steep, ending abruptly at the water's edge; whereas, there they descend to the lakes in terraces, and often wide stretches of meadow-land intervene. Here, is a sense of wild grandeur rather than the pastoral beauty which there obtains. To the "Old-timer" this cool morning vapour rising from the surface of the deep-shadowed lake; the occasional whistle of the wild duck's wing, as he flights off to the feeding grounds; the play of a stray sunbeam, shot through some far-distant gap; the splash of a fish after an early fly, all bespeak the British Columbia of yesterday; whilst the Okanagan Valley itself is truly the British Columbia of today.

The trout fishing in the lake, both with fly and artificial minnow, or with spoon-bait, is excellent; the same may be said of the fishing at White Lake, near Copper Island, and of Annesley Lake, near the head of Seymour Arm; both of which are reached by boat, and by a short trail cut by the C. P. Ry. Company for the special convenience of tourists. By means of these facilities the hunting and shooting also become a less arduous undertaking. Duck, Geese, and other waterfowl are abundant here in the season, and Blue Grouse, Mule Deer, Bear, and, within a day's march, even Caribou are possible. By these signs we know that we are in the heart of a hunting district.

Since there are no farms of note owing to the confined surroundings, it may be conjectured that Sicamous is not a farming district. But the absence of notable mines does not necessarily imply that the mountains are deficient in mineral; moreover, efforts have been made from time to time to develop various properties in the neighborhood, but the facilities for handling the ore have proved inadequate. Placer mining, however, appears to be entirely out of the question.

So much for Sicamous in its relationship to the Okanagan Valley and as a tourist resort. We will now in conclusion regard it as the junction