

PRICES OF FARMING LANDS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.

With respect to the prices of farming lands on Vancouver Island, other than vacant Crown lands, these, of course, depend much upon the locality, the nature of the farm, and the amount of improvements effected. Near Victoria, prices may be said to range from \$50 to \$120 per acre for cleared and fenced land for agricultural purposes.

COWICHAN AND COMOX.—The price of unimproved timbered land, in private hands, is from \$2.50 to \$15 per acre. Improved farms in these districts may be said to range from \$12 to \$50 or \$60 per acre.

The tendency of prices is upwards. The progress of Victoria of course means the increase of the value of land within easy reach of the capital. Cowichan is centrally situated upon the east coast. Comox is farther away, but the vast coal deposits of that district cannot much longer remain unworked, and there will then be a large local market.

The question may be asked, why, with such advantages of soil, climate, scenery, &c., is there not a country population of twenty or thirty thousand in Vancouver Island? Partly, no doubt, because the Province has been isolated, and also because its varied resources have drawn men into other occupations. The following perhaps in some degree accounts for the matter:—

COST OF LABOR ON FARMS—WITH A FEW WORDS ON THAT SUBJECT.

• All labor is dear in British Columbia.

• An ordinary unskilled laborer, such as one would employ to dig or cut fire-wood, receives 1.50 dollar (6s. English) a day; if he can lay claim to skill enough to qualify him to attend to a garden or an orchard, he readily commands 2 dollars (8s. English) or 2.50 dollars (10s. English) a day.

• Farm servants, engaged by the month, are paid at wages from 20 to 40 dollars (4*l.* to 8*l.* English) per month, with board and lodging, according to the kind of work required of them, and the responsibility of their positions. A few Indians are employed in the seaboard districts, at 15 or 20 dollars (3*l.* to 4*l.* English) per month, with board and lodging, by farmers who understand their character. In the interior, Indians are largely employed as herders and for general farm work. In Vancouver Island and the New Westminster district, it may be said that a dollar (4s. English) a day, with board and lodging, is the pay of the farm laborer. Higher wages are paid in the interior.

• However strong and active a man may be, he cannot expect the highest wages until he knows his work and the ways of the country. At the above high wages, farmers, of course, employ as little labor as possible; indeed, the item of *labor is the great leak* in the farming business in British Columbia, as it is in most young countries.

• The farmer in British Columbia gets as high prices for much of his produce as the English farmer gets. The British Columbian farmer pays no rent, but his labor bill may be set off, to some extent, against the rent of the English farmer.

• If the British Columbian farmer can, himself and

by his family, do a large share of the farm work, he must make money quickly. That is the point." *G. M. Sprout, ex-Agent General for the Province.*

INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS.

The following table gives the distances and rates of fare for all ports in Sandwich Islands, Australia and New Zealand touched at by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamers.

MILES.	VICTORIA, VIA SAN FRANCISCO, TO	CABIN.	STEERAGE.
250	Honolulu.....	15 (1)	40 (1)
630	Auckland.....	23 (1)	110 (1)
737	Wellington.....	24 (1)	120 (1)
755	Lyttleton.....	25 (1)	132 (1)
770	Port Chalmers.....	26 (1)	135 (1)
780	Sydney.....	23 (1)	110 (1)
840	Melbourne.....	23 (1)	115 (1)
880	Brisbane.....	21 (1)	120 (1)
920	Rockhampton.....	25 (1)	127 (1)
995	Adelaide.....	21 75	127 50
1050	Hobart Town.....	22 (1)	128 (1)

The following table shows the distance, fares in American gold, etc., per Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company's vessels, from San Francisco to points named:

MILES.	VICTORIA, VIA SAN FRANCISCO, TO	CABIN.	STEERAGE.
1550	Yokohama, Japan.....	\$20 70	\$95 0
1580	Hio-go, Japan.....	28 (1)	15 (1)
6250	Nagasaki, Japan.....	25 (1)	121 (1)
6750	Shanghai, China.....	32 (1)	132 (1)
7150	Hong Kong, China.....	33 (1)	110 (1)
8800	Singapore, India.....	40 (1)
9400	Penang, India.....	43 (1)
10750	Calcutta, India.....	45 (1)

Children under 12 years, half rates; under 5 years, one-quarter rates, under 2 years, free. Servants accompanying their employers, two-thirds of cabin rates, without regard to age or sex.

MANIFESTS OF VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

"Prince Rupert," from London, cleared 18th Sept. 875 casks beer, in glass, 131 do, 15 casks sailines, 6 do, 6 casks preserved beef, 23 casks oatmeal, 85 casks saucers, 5 casks cocoa, 17 casks ginger al., 4 hbls lime juice, 11 casks confectionery, 10 kegs saltpetre, 26 casks vinegar, 6 pkgs agricultural implements, 1 pkg books, 2 pkgs granite, 1 pkg papers, 1 pkg Chinaware, 1 pkg books, 25 casks furniture, oil stores, earthenware, medicines, piano, plate glass, haberdashery, marble statuary, 3 pkgs machinery, 1 pkg bleached cotton, 1 pkg haberdashery, 1 bl woolen blankets, dyed cotton, 1 bl unbleached cotton, dyed cotton, 1 bl linen sheeting, 2 hls haberdashery linen damask, dyed wool stuff, 1 bl cotton heavy, mats, woolen carpet, cotton mola, 140 tin plates, 2 lxs church ornaments, 3 cks pianos, 3 cks armchairs, 4 cks sofas, 35 cks oilmen stoves, 2 cks earthenware, 1 cks electric plates, 1 cks stone front 1 cks wearing apparel, 10 hbls refined sugar, 3 hls printing paper, 2 hls writing paper, 20 cks candles, 17 miles telegraph cable, 1 iron tank, 7 cks painters colors, 80 cks pickles, 1 cks silk hats, 3 cks matches, 60 cks pickles, saucers, etc, 1 cks brushware, 12 cks plate glass, 20 hls printing paper, 4 cks writing paper, 160 cks brandy, 20 cks brandy, 20 cks brandy, 15 hls brandy, 12 cks brandy, 45 cks brandy, 250 cks Geneva, 12 hls Geneva, 5 pkgs R wine, 10 cks R wine, 15 cks sailines, 1 bl pepper, 45 cks pickles and saucers, 22 cks chisels, 1 cks wine, 15 cks wine, 2 hls wine, 31 cks wine, 25 hls wine, 2 hls wine, 5 cks wine, 20 cks R spirits, 31 cks cordials, 25 cks brandy, 10 cks brandy, 10 packages and 50 hls rum, 15 cks currants, 1 cks silver plate, 6 cks chutney, 21 pkgs medicines, 17 cks pickles and saucers, 2 hls wool carpets, 1 bl print cottons, 8 hls carpets, 31 pkg oilmen stores.

Money Order Office.

In sending money by mail it is always best to transmit by Money Order, if possible. If sent by letter, it should always be registered.

COMMISSION ON MONEY ORDERS.

On Money Orders drawn by any Money Order Office in Canada on any other Money Order Office in the Dominion, is as follows:

If not exceeding \$ 4	2c.	Over \$40 not exceeding \$70 ..	2c.
Over \$ 4	3c.	" 70 ..	3c.
" 10 ..	4c.	" 100 ..	4c.
" 20 ..	5c.	" 200 ..	5c.

No single Money Order, payable in the Dominion of Canada, can be issued for more than \$100, but as many of \$10 each may be given as the remittance requires.

On Money Orders payable in the United Kingdom, Newfoundland or United States and British India:

If not exceeding \$10	10c.	Over \$30 not exceeding \$40 ..	10c.
Over \$10 ..	20c.	" 40 ..	20c.
" 20 ..	30c.	" 50 ..	30c.

Money Orders on the United Kingdom, Newfoundland, the United States and British India, are drawn in Canada Currency, and may be had for any sum not in excess of \$50, but postmasters are at liberty to issue several orders of \$20 each, if required.

Money Orders are issued at this office payable in the following foreign countries and British possessions:

The German Empire, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Jamaica, West Indies, Victoria (Australia), New South Wales, Australia and Tasmania, France, New Zealand and Belgium.