

## COMOX VALLEY

nor trails through the forest to the south. The sole reason for a settlement in 1862 was the superiority of the soil and the climatic conditions. The undulating country between the mountains and the sea gave a choice of soil and location that no other district on the coast or on Vancouver Island could offer. The records of half a century of successful farming justify the choice of the pioneers.

## CLIMATE

There are no extremes of heat or cold. The mean temperature during the coldest part of winter is about 45 degrees; the temperature falls occasionally to 10 degrees above zero. In summer 90 degrees is considered extreme heat. January is the coldest month. November, December and February are, as a rule, the wet months, and in those months a third of the days are fine. As a rule there are a few inches of snow during three or four weeks of winter, but a prolonged storm is unusual.

The difference in climatic conditions between the shore and foothills is remarkable. This is a point that must be considered in estimating the probability of growing varieties of fruit which are grown to perfection only in districts that have some months of winter cold.

## DAIRYING

Dairying has been the chief agricultural industry of the valley and butter is the only farm product that is shipped to market. In the mild climate of the Comox Valley it is a more pleasant business than in a country of rigorous winters and late springs; and here the Comox Creamery Association relieves the dairyman of the work of butter making and marketing. Although this is a co-operative association, it is not necessary to become a shareholder in order to enjoy the benefits. It was formed to help the dairy farmers of the Comox Valley; the stock bears five per cent. interest, and the patrons receive any additional profit in the prices paid for their produce. Last year the creamery made 118,000 pounds of butter, and paid an average price of 33 2-3 cents a pound for butter fat.

It is impossible to give an exact statement of the average profit of dairying. The value of heifer calves is, of course, indefinite, as