

debilitated, malarial and consumptive patients. The climate is dry, and warm weather, with occasional showers, prevails throughout the year. Sometimes the thermometer goes as high as 90° in the shade, but rarely, but the evenings, without exceptions, are cool and pleasant, with protracted twilight and cloudless nights. There is absolute immunity from summer frosts. In winter, there is a light snowfall and uniformity of temperature, the glass seldom showing below zero. Extremes of heat and cold are not felt to any great degree, and altogether the meteorological conditions are as perfect as they very well can be. The snowfall is never heavy and cattle graze the year round on the hills.

Coming within the dry belt of the Pacific slope the question of irrigation is pertinent, and upon this point has arisen a great deal of misconception. In no place in the district north of Vernon, or in the Coldstream or tributary valleys, is irrigation required, and wherever irrigation is required on the bench lands, the most ample facilities are at hand in mountain streams and lakes. Okanagan may properly be termed the wheat field of British Columbia, and of all the fine crops reaped yielding all the way from 35 to 65 bushels to the acre, not an acre is irrigated, and the most astonishing yields are obtained in oats and barley, roots, vegetables, hay and fruits.

Near the head of Okanagan Lake is situated the townsite of Vernon, holding, it would seem, the commercial key to the whole of Okanagan, and tributary sections, because all lines of communications to and out of them must pass through it. Some seven or eight wagon roads lead out of Vernon in various directions. To reach Vernon from the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway the route will be from Sicamous by rail to Vernon at the head of Okanagan Lake, following mainly the line of the old wagon road.

Tomatoes and cucumbers are grown and ripen fully in the open air, and melons of enormous size, weighing 30 and 40 pounds, are commonly produced, and tons have been sold, although in the past they have gone in a great part to waste for want of a market. This is nature's testimony to the wonderful productiveness of the soil, assisted by the climate. The success of grape culture so far must rather be inferred than otherwise from the favorable conditions previously described. Peaches do well wherever tried, and a tourist writes about them being so plentiful in one or two orchards as to be fed to the hogs. In addition to the fruits already mentioned, pears, plums, cherries, apples and all small fruits are apparently indigenous, and meet with the very best results, equal to those in any part of the province, which is particularly well adapted for their cultivation. The Okanagan valleys are remarkable for the fine apples grown.

In regard to the land available for agricultural purposes, it may be repeated that thorough surveys would disclose considerable extent of land not yet taken up and a good deal not legally occupied, but apart from that altogether there are large tracts of land available at from \$5 to \$50 an acre, according to location and improvements. Heretofore, there has been little disposition to buy or sell. Most of the land was obtained at government prices by the present owners in large tracts, who, have held it until the entrance of a railway would make it valuable, but who, in view of the increase of the wild land tax, are disposed to sell large portions of their holdings at reasonable prices. This seems to be a general disposition. Many of the oldest and most

valuable ranches are now being divided up for sale. Considering the many advantages which this country possesses, already fully pointed out, these lands are relatively much cheaper than farms in any other part of the continent.

Diversification of industry is one of the chief mainstays of a nation and a really prosperous community is one that has many sources of wealth, or in other words, one that does not depend upon one or two things for success. While the Okanagan country has grain, fruit, timber, fish, pasturage, healthful and exhilarating climate, sport, picturesqueness and other advantages, it has also mineral wealth, apparently illimitable—coal, gold, silver, platinum, mica, galena, and iron. At Cherry Creek, Rock Creek, Siwash Creek, Okanagan Lake, Kettle River, Keremeos, Scotch Creek, Granite Creek and elsewhere the mineral indications are most pronounced and hundreds of claims have been recorded.

According to Dr. G. M. Dawson, Canada's greatest geologist and mineralogist, extensive coal beds exist extending throughout the southern portion of British Columbia. On Mr. Connell's ranch, Nichollson's ranch and at other points on Rock Creek, coal of excellent quality has recently been discovered, and an American company has recently taken it in hand. A correspondent on mining in the Inland Sentinel writes:—"A vein of coal has been opened up near the mouth of Rock Creek. The seam is some five or six feet in depth, and the quality of the coal excellent, giving 64% of carbon."

About \$150,000 worth of dairy products was imported in British Columbia last year, and that fact immediately suggests an industry for which Okanagan is peculiarly adapted—dairying. There is no end of rich pasturage, and the clean, healthful atmosphere, pure mountain water and the cultivation of grasses and roots without limit are just the conditions required for the manufacture of condensed milk, creamery butter and cheese of the very first quality. It has not been gone into as yet for the same reason that has kept the country back in other respects, but it could be made profitable beyond peradventure. There is room, too, for a considerable export trade. China and Japan are supplied largely from Europe.

As already intimated, while the Okanagan is not heavily timbered, it has everywhere sufficient timber for all economic purposes and to spare, out of which can be developed an extensive lumbering trade. There are several sawmills at work and others are in contemplation. The timber woods have been categorized according to value as follows:—white pine, fir, yellow pine, tamarac, spruce, cedar, poplar, birch, cottonwood, vine maple and willow. There are some valuable timber limits located and the local demand for some years will be sufficient to meet the supply of lumber, and a good market will always exist in the North West.

From Sicamous Junction to the Pacific coast the road lies for quite a long way close to the Shuswap Lakes with their winds and curves. The scenery is enchanting, although lacking in the rugged grandeur of the Rockies behind. The blend of rugged green mountains and streaks of silvery lake remind one somewhat of the Highlands of Scotland in the most rugged parts, only the view is as a rule vaster and more comprehensive. For three hours the margin of these lakes is traversed. Where valleys are opened to the view they are wider than in the mountains behind, and from the quantities of timber growing in them, it is evident