

places for pleasant homes and for farms on which the three leading lines which have been found here most successful, sheep, fruit and poultry. The forest wealth has been untouched in many sections. We can content ourselves with only a list of the trees native to this part: Maples, arbutus, balsam, alder, willow, elm, oak, dogwood, cherry, crab, spruce, yew, red cedar, firs, hemlock and birch. These varieties make great growth here. The particularly fine woodwork in the interior of the Parliament Buildings, Victoria, is an example of how the trees of Vancouver Island can be used.

Prospects.—The prospects ahead of this neighborhood are of the brightest. While its development has been certainly slow and its industrial life more or less lethargic, there are signs of awakening on every hand. A living has come too easily heretofore and ambition has been lacking. But a change is rapidly coming. Many land sales have been made and subdivisions of the larger holdings is beginning. The residents are coming in and now is the time for new-comers, while land is yet reasonable in price and while bargains may still be had. In a short time it will be hard to get land so near a city for country homes, for small farms and for investment. There is a favorable prospect that the Experimental Farm for Vancouver Island will be located on the Colwood Road. The re-opening of Esquimalt as a naval station by the Canadian authorities will greatly benefit these localities.

Railway.—Last year the Victoria and Barkley Sound Railway was surveyed for over half the route. This charter is soon to be taken over by Mackenzie & Mann, and the road will form part of the Canadian Northern Railway in British Columbia, so that these districts will have all the advantages which a transcontinental line can confer. With the building of the railway (and construction will begin this summer), new activities will come into being, as Mackenzie & Mann are known to push the development of districts in which they become interested. Colwood, Metchosin, Sooke and the districts beyond may therefore expect a new era, and the full development of their many natural resources and encouragement for all enterprises connected therewith. Just beyond Sooke there are iron and coal areas awaiting transportation facilities for their opening up, and one of the largest tracts of uncut timber on the island is there to be found.

Next in importance to the railway project which will be of incalculable benefit to this locality is the development of the Jordan River water power. It is the intention of the B. C. Electric Company to utilize this power for their tramway