

Sproat Lake

ALBERNI, V. I.

(Extract from Provincial Government Bulletin (No. 24) on the Alberni District).

"This beautiful lake may well be called the Lucerne of Vancouver Island—it resembles the Swiss lake in many ways.

"The great majority of the lakes in British Columbia occupy depressions or excavations in a single line of valley. This is not the case with Sproat Lake, which branches from a central point, sending out four arms, like a star-fish, occupying four distinct valleys, exactly as does Lake Lucerne; portions of the latter lake are in four cantons, whilst Sproat Lake is partly in Clayoquot and partly in Alberni Districts. The western arms are bounded by rocky and often precipitous shores, rising up to high mountains, on which the snow stays till late in summer. Some of them are purple with heather towards their summits, whilst others are red with the rust of decomposing mineral."

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"The view of the lake was a scene not readily forgotten. Looking through the trees, this sheet of water appeared as a mirror reflecting the dark hills behind, to which the fleecy morning mists added another element to the charm of the scenery. Then, behind, one could hear the roar of the falls as the lake found outlet in a series of dashing cascades to the Somass River below."