

whilst, on the bottom lands, this alternates in places with a rich black loamy soil.

The climate also—as elsewhere throughout the valley—is mild and dry. The summers, as the winters, do not show any great and prolonged extremes, owing to the tempering effect of the large lakes. Some years the thermometer may indicate zero, and even fifteen, or perhaps twenty degrees below, but these “spells” are only a matter of hours and are not usual. The hottest days—the ripening days of fruit—seldom reach 100 degrees, and cool evenings afford pleasant hours for rest and recreation. In short, the climate is ideal.

From the sportsman's standpoint the immediate vicinity of Vernon cannot be considered a “happy hunting ground”; for, in common with all thickly-settled districts, the encroachments of the agriculturist have caused the game to retire into the mountains. But if we are prepared to camp out overnight we may find very fair sport amongst the headwaters of the creeks in the neighborhood, or, again, on the west side of Okanagan Lake. Guides and horses may be procured if desired. (See Guides.)

The fishing is very good. Trout, weighing 10 pounds, are often caught in the larger lakes, especially in Long Lake (the summer resort), which is only two and a half miles from the town, and along whose beaches the boat-houses and tents of the summer campers are picturesquely strewn.

Vernon has its full complement of sporting clubs (See “Clubs”), and from time to time interesting matches take place with outside towns. So that the lover of football, cricket, lacrosse, baseball, etc. will find ample scope for recreation. In the winter the spacious skating rink permits the holding of carnivals and curling and hockey matches. Season tickets will here save the skater a journey to Long Lake, on the off chance of finding clean ice.

Vernon was incorporated as a city in 1893, with a mayor (W. F. Cameron, Esq.) and five aldermen. It lies at an altitude of 1258 feet above sea-level, is 1196 miles from Winnipeg, and 382 miles from Vancouver. It is virtually at the end of the S. & O. branch of the C. P. Ry., if we except the short extension to Okanagan Landing. As an instance of the growth of Vernon we may here record the fact that the townsite of the city once sold for forty dollars, and later, changed hands for sixty dollars. At present although cheap properties may be obtained, it is not too much to say that six thousand dollars will not buy some of the business lots. In point of population the census within the city limits showed over 2500 for 1908 as compared with some 700 at the time of incorporation.

The city boasts of shady tree-bordered streets and avenues and has excellent electric lighting and telephone systems. Furthermore, the Council is spending some 60,000 dollars on a sewerage system which will place her to the fore amongst the cities of the Interior as soon as the problem of an increased water supply is settled. The central location of Vernon in the Okanagan Valley accounts no doubt for the Provincial Government Offices and Court House, wherein are held the Assizes semi-annually. The City Hall does duty for minor sessions, and for meetings of the various Civic Bodies, besides embracing within its walls the Police Station, the Public Library, and the Fire Station.

Vernon's hotels are spacious and modern. The new 50,000 dollar Hospital; the branch institution of the Provincial Asylum for the Insane (mild cases only being treated); the Churches and Public Schools (See “Churches” and “Schools”) in most cases re-modelled, or entirely rebuilt, to suit the needs of the rapidly-growing population; the sash and door factories, the steam laundry, two printing and publishing offices, viz., those of the Vernon News (published Thursdays) and the Semi-Weekly Okanagan (published Wednesdays and Saturdays), and a meat-packing factory and a brick yard, both on the outskirts of the town, still further swell the number of local industries and bear witness in other ways to the importance of Vernon as a growing city.

The present Post Office (C. B. Lefroy, P. M.) is situated on the main street (Barnard Avenue), four minutes' walk from the station. Mails may be had during the usual business hours and boxes can be rented at a nominal figure. A new Post Office, which will supplant the present one, is