

But it is claimed that nowhere else on this continent is there a section of country as admirably adapted in every way to the growing of all kinds of fruit, to the raising of all sorts of poultry and to the breeding and rearing of sheep.



This well-known Photograph was taken in Metchosin, although often credited elsewhere

Photo by Fleming

Sheep.—The history of sheep raising on the end of this Island is full of interest. The first sheep to come into British Columbia were brought here by the Hudson's Bay Company. These sheep of the Southdown breed were placed at Colwood and thence to the Weir Estate at Peddar Bay. In 1858 the well-known family of Weirs, from Scotland, settled at William Head, their property including what is now known as Selsea, Crosby, Glen Weir and Gordon Bush. Mr. Robert Weir, "the old Laird," as he was universally styled, had what was probably the best sheep run in British Columbia. His flock by 1862 numbered 800, and descendants may still be seen in the neighborhood. For forty years this flock fended for itself without being given food or shelter by owners. It is interesting, but not singular, when the peculiar suitability of the land is reckoned with that the first sheep brought into the Province, and for many years its largest flock, should have kept on the same place, where there is now kept the largest flock of pure-