

British Columbia Crops and Experimental Farm.

Phenomenal mining developments have created a veritable boom for the Pacific Province during the past six months, and to-day it is more conspicuously in the public eye than any other portion of the Dominion. While its greatest possibilities doubtless exist in mineral wealth, lumbering, and salmon fishing, it is certainly making good progress in general farming, stock-rearing and dairying throughout its famous fertile valleys. Fruit-growing, of course, ranks foremost among its capabilities, equalling portions of California in that respect. The mining industry and a rapidly growing population will create a great demand for food products of all kinds.

The accompanying illustration gives a fine general view of the Experimental Farm established by the Dominion Government at Agassiz, in the valley of the Fraser River, some seventy miles east of Vancouver. It is under the superintendence of Mr.

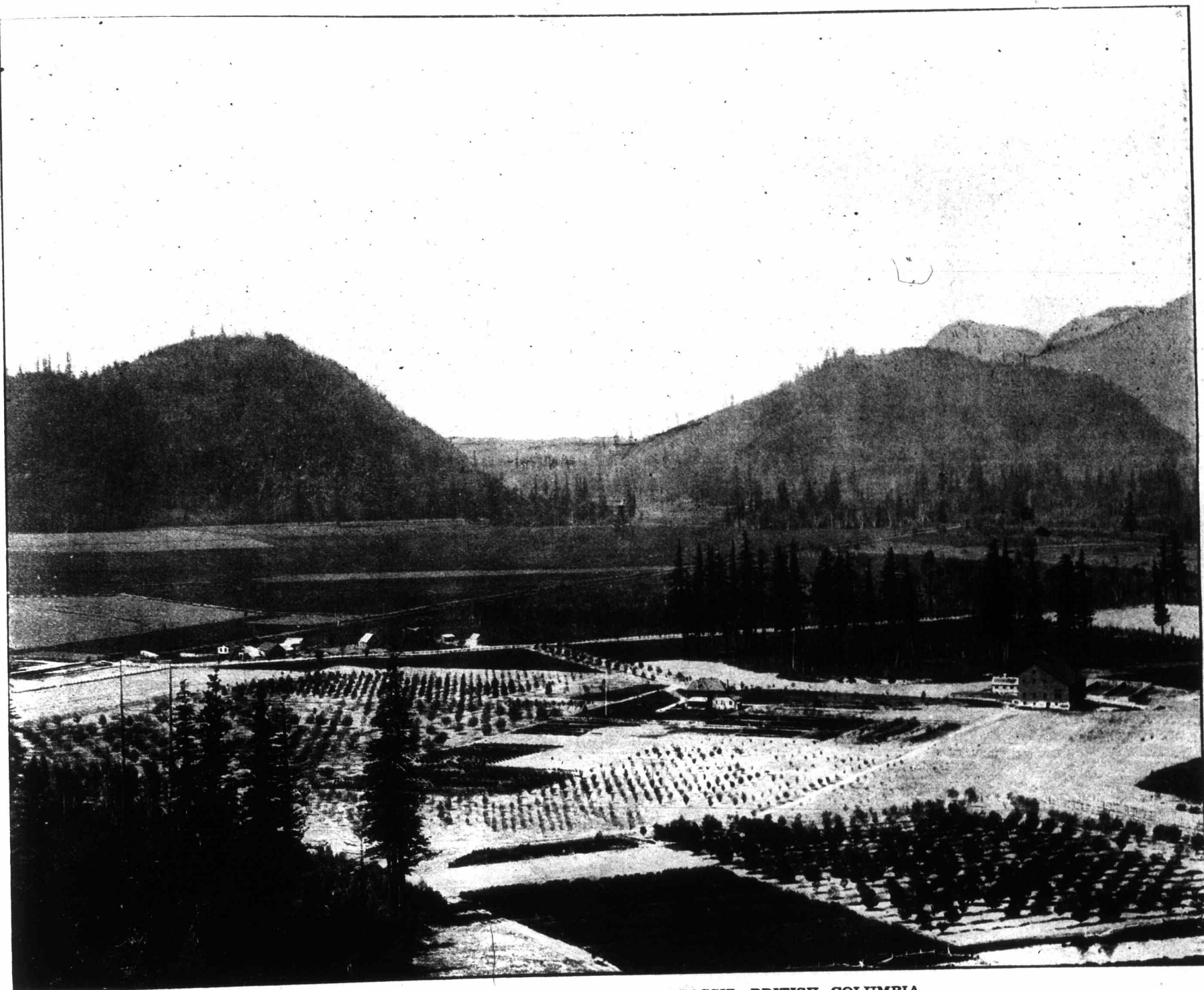
small fruits will be lighter than usual, but the growth of wood in both fruit and forest trees has been exceptionally strong.

With regard to this season's crop in the Province generally, he reports that the spring opened well, with timely rains, which gave the crops an early start, but the cold, wet weather and lack of moisture which prevailed from the middle of May until near the middle of June had the effect of stunting the growth. After the middle of June the weather was unusually hot, with an almost entire absence of rain, which hurried the grain crops along and, in some instances, lessened the yield by a premature ripening. The hay crop was a very fair one. Clover on the Experimental Farm averaged over two tons of cured hay per acre. Fall wheat was well headed and had made a good stand before the hot weather came, and the yield was very fair. Spring wheat and barley are yielding less than the average, but the oats promised well. Root crops and potatoes suffered from the long-continued drought, but turnips promise better than other roots, and with timely rains may

Promotion of Agricultural Science.

There convened in Buffalo, N. Y., on the 21st and 22nd of August, a meeting of America's foremost agricultural scientists, representing the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science. It was the seventeenth annual meeting, and had President W. R. Lazenby, of Maine Experiment Station, in the chair, with Prof. C. S. Plumb, of Indiana Experiment Station, as secretary.

The Relation of Science to Agriculture was the subject of President Lazenby's address, in which he explained that science is simply truth or fact classified and systematized. Agriculture is both a science and an art, particularly the latter. Science deals with causes and effects, and nearly every known science is connected with agriculture. Just here the Professor illustrated the difference between agriculture conducted by the application of science



VIEW OF THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM AT AGASSIZ, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Thos. A. Sharpe. Although fruit is the most important branch of work carried on at the British Columbia Experimental Farm, grasses and roots receive a considerable degree of attention. All the new varieties of barley, oats, spring and fall wheat, field and garden peas are tested alongside of and under the same conditions as the older varieties of these grains, and the same rule applies to roots and potatoes. There are at present over 1,500 varieties of the large or tree fruits, besides a large collection of small fruits. Nearly half of the collection of 700 list of large fruits is apples, there being over 700 named varieties in our collection. The present year is an off one for most fruits, but there are on the Farm over 100 varieties of apples fruiting this year; over 50 of pears and also of plums; about 35 each of peaches and cherries; besides almonds, apricots, nectarines, medlars, and a large number of small fruits. Forest-tree planting, as well as the more valuable nut-trees, has received considerable attention, and the English, American, and Japanese chestnuts, Spanish, American, and Japanese chestnuts are growing well, and Spanish chestnuts are fruiting this year. On account of the exceptionally dry season, the crops of grain, roots, and

yet give good crops. Peas a fair return, and Indian corn is doing well. Owing to the cold, wet weather which prevailed during the blossoming period, strawberries did not set well and the crop was light, with a considerable proportion of imperfect berries. Raspberries and blackberries promised a full crop, but owing to the prolonged drought the fruit was small. Red and white currants were very plentiful, and the size was above the average. Black currants gave a light crop, and gooseberries suffered more than usual from mildew. The bloom on fruit trees was very heavy, but owing to the cold, wet weather, which continued throughout the blossoming period, none of the larger fruits set well. The cherry crop has been below the average, although the sample has been good. The crop of apples, pears, and plums will be below the average. On Vancouver Island the crops are said to be better; also on some of the lower valley lands nearer the ocean; but on the ranges in the interior, although the cattle wintered well, the pastures are poor, owing to the long-continued drought. The foregoing would indicate the probability of a very considerable demand for products from other portions of Canada this season.

and farming simply as an art without education and the recognition of science. Scientific agriculture as effecting agriculture and horticulture was compared to a wheel having for its hub common school education and for its spokes the following sciences: political economy, meteorology, chemistry, geology, physiology, entomology, botany, and physics, while agriculture and horticulture as conducted without recognition of science was compared to a wheel sawed off the end of a log, without either hub or spokes. All the sciences representing the spokes of the scientific wheel were referred to as being most intimately connected with agriculture. Chemistry is the most important, as it has to do with all the changes going on in the growth of plants and in the soil. The science of chemistry teaches that nothing is created nor annihilated by finite power, but simply transformed from one form to another. By it we can learn whether or not the necessary elements are present in the soil in needful quantities, and by co-operating with it we are able to correct the defects. We can only continue to till land successfully by the application of science. No soil can stand continual cropping without a replacement of the elements removed by cropping.