

## MR. FIELDING'S TENTH BUDGET.

The Minister of Finance has published his Budget speech, delivered on May 22nd. There are only about 9,000 words in it. Very few men in Mr. Fielding's place would be content with such a condensed setting forth of the figures of a year of great national advance. The speech has a special noteworthy personal association. It was Mr. Fielding's tenth successive effort of the kind. In modern times no Chancellor of the Exchequer in London, and no finance committee in the British Dominions beyond the seas made such a record. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's ministers come and go, but Mr. Fielding seems a permanency. The longer he stays the more compact his Budget speeches seem to grow. Long explanations are sometimes the sign of financial discomfort.

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## PROSPECTS OF VERNON, B. C.

Most of us have heard Okanagan (pronounced O-Kanawgan, with an accent on the aw) as a fruitful district of British Columbia, surrounding the lake of the same name. It is a lovely country, with a charming climate. On the way down from Sicamous by rail is Vernon, which is thus described in a brochure issued by the Board of Trade of the town: "Vernon—the hub of the Okanagan, with a

population of about 1800, is beautifully situated on the S. & O. Railway, 46 miles south of Sicamous on the main line of the C. P. R., at a point from which radiate excellent roads leading to the northern towns and settlements, to Coldstream and White Valleys, to Kelowna and the rich fruit-growing districts of the south, and to Grand Prairie and Kamloops. It has been endowed by nature with as ideal a site as is to be found in the interior of British Columbia, and is especially fitted to hold a most important position among the flourishing towns and cities of British Columbia." Docks are to be built at the north end of the lake, a steamer is being constructed to ply on the lake, and a new station of the Canadian Pacific Railway is shortly to open at Kelowna, on the east side of the lake. East of the big lake and a few miles south of Vernon is Long Lake, a beautiful sheet, most attractive for camping. Says the pamphlet: "The climate of the district is eminently favorable to fruit-production, and pears, plums, prunes, cherries, peaches and small fruit attain a perfection which commands top prices wherever they are sold. The success met with by Okanagan fruit at the Royal Horticultural Society Exhibition in London, Eng., last year, has attracted the attention of the English dealers to the products of this valley. . . . From Vernon alone during the past season there was shipped fruit to the extent of 1,600,000 pounds. Trees to the number of 100,000 were set out during the season of 1905. It is expected that fully 150,000 will be planted this year."

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