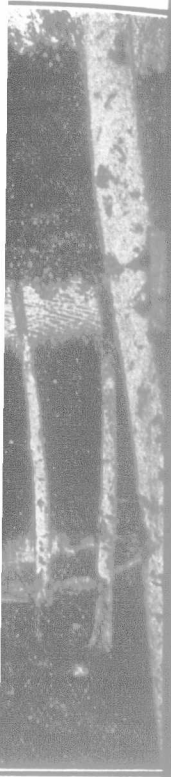


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in thus accusing us, and that he has not yet thoroughly grasped the fundamental principles laid down by the society of which he is a member, and we regret it for his sake, and others he may mislead. We read the reports mentioned, the one he prefers not being available at the time when wanted, but even in that report it will be found that the S. of E. appears in an unfavorable light compared with the Alberta Farmers' Association; for example, in the changing of committees and the insistence that Equity must be part of the name of the amalgamated society to be formed. Further, we believe the A. F. A. is wise in its decision to limit its operations to Alberta, there is plenty of good work to be done there without infringing on the territory of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers.]

our children martyrs to the fads of specialists, who, by the way, do not forget to line their pockets with their fads, and come back to the old-fashioned system of well-prepared primers in which we used to rejoice when we were children."

#### Coast Conditions.

With the purchase of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway by the C. P. R., Vancouver Island in general and Victoria in particular have advanced materially in prosperity and importance. Mining has received an impetus, and many promising discoveries of minerals have been reported. Real estate values have risen, and the bad times, caused by the withdrawal of the Navy, bid fair to be wiped out. In

potatoes, is passed by without extra comment, and other crops in proportion. It is true we cannot grow water melons as large as they are back east, but this is due to the pleasant coolness of the summer nights, and I, for one, prefer to buy my melons, and have a good nights' rest, rather than grow them and swelter all night in payment of it.

Anyhow, I prefer muskmelons, and can grow these without trouble.

I believe that the demand for land here will eventually lead to small farms and intensive cultivation, although doubtless a great portion of the Island will be occupied by residences of those who do not need to farm, but prefer to buy the produce of their neighbors, and simply live here for the enjoyment they can get out of life.

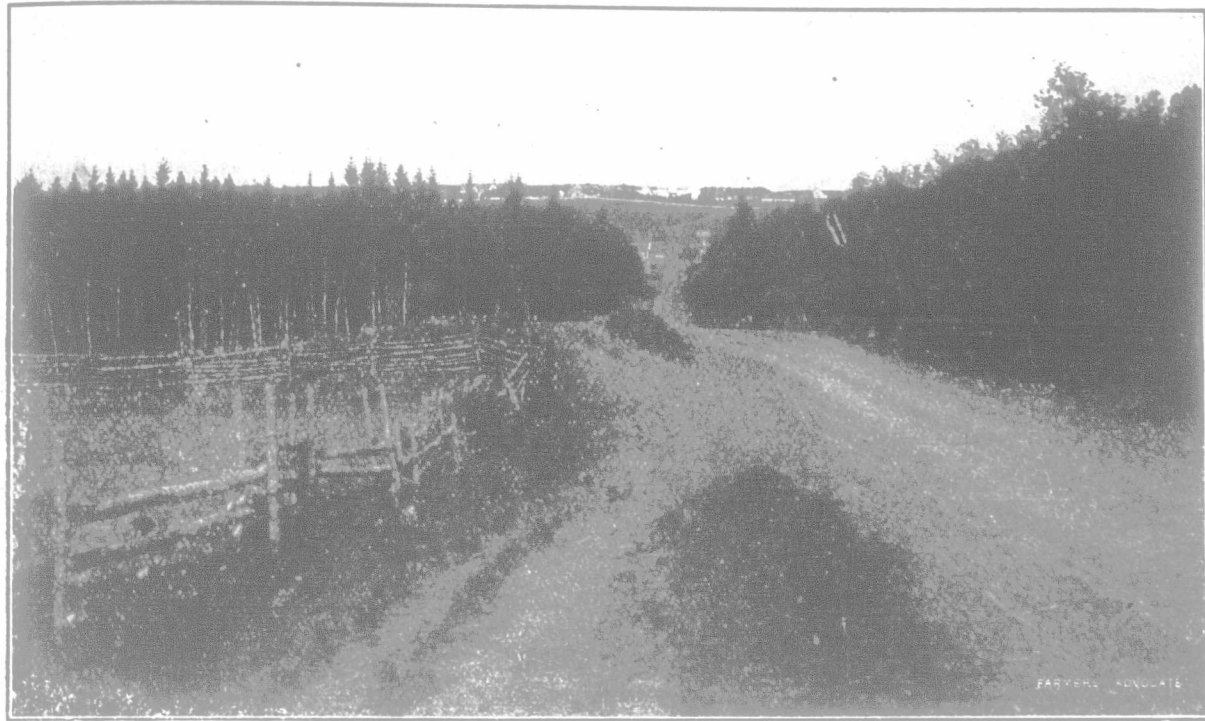
South Salt Spring, B. C. W. J. L. HAMILTON.

#### The Enlargement of Manitoba.

The case for the enlargement of the area of the Province of Manitoba has been submitted to the Dominion Government, to be by it laid before the Parliament. It is unnecessary to say that, as a plea for such an extension of its limits as will make it substantially equal in area to Saskatchewan and Alberta, the case is not only forcible but unanswerable. Whatever the amount added to the present area, or the details of the extended boundaries may be, it would be gratuitous injustice on the part of the Dominion Parliament to leave one of the prairie provinces insignificant in size as compared with each of the other two, especially when there are no physical obstacles standing in the way of a reasonable enlargement.

The province, when it was established in 1870, was allowed only a little over thirteen thousand square miles out of an enormous expanse of habitable land. In 1884 this was increased nominally to one hundred and fifty-four thousand square miles, but this was accomplished by taking into Manitoba the part of Ontario between Port Arthur and Rat Portage. By the settlement of the boundary dispute this enlarged area was cut down to less than half, and there it has ever since remained. When a large amount of this territory was declared to be in Ontario and not in Manitoba, clearly the latter should have been compensated for the loss.

In order to make Manitoba as large as Saskatchewan or Alberta it will be necessary to continue the province northward at its present width and then include part of the territory of Keewatin lying east of the eastern boundary of the province. This would comply with part of the requirement in the Manitoba case, because it is the natural desire of the people to reach a good harbor in Hudson's Bay. The railway now under construction in that direction is expected



ONLY A COUNTRY TRAIL.

Photo by Brown, Edmonton

#### A Noted Public Man on Our School System.

Our readers will have remembered the criticisms we have made from time to time on what we considered the weak spots of our educational system. A noted publicist, Hon. S. H. Blake, K.C., Vice-Chancellor, Toronto University, addressed the following letter to the school book commission now sitting in Toronto, which we reproduce as we consider it a really effective piece of criticism, and by a man whose standing is such that it cannot be lightly impugned by those who have designed the elaborate structure, known as our educational system which has failed so signally to warrant the expenditures made when the results obtained are considered:

"The reason that I ask you especially for the commission is, I want to see whether the Commissioners can get beyond the mere question of the material in the text book, or whether they can go into the question of the contents. If they can do the latter, and would make a full report, it would be of immense value to us. I am more or less interested in a couple of educational establishments, and I have been for years past brought painfully into contact with what I consider to be the absurdities of our school book system. Take, for instance, the question of grammar, and a little tot has hurled at its head a grammar that I in my senile debility am free to admit I cannot understand. Instead of luring the child into acquainting itself with grammar it is enough to give the child an absolute hatred of it. At all events, half a dozen rules of grammar are sufficient to carry nine-tenths of us well through the world.

"All about that is mere scaffolding which, when you leave school, is taken down and turned into a bonfire of rejoicing for all you have escaped.

"Take again arithmetic, where a child has similarly thrown at its head a book that Mr. Euclid would say is too difficult to give to children. Nine-tenths of those attending school simply want enough arithmetic to be able to tell whether they get the correct change in a twenty-five cent purchase, and whether if they give a two dollar bill for a pair of skates, sixty cents is the proper change where the skates cost \$1.40.

"The children are tortured with huge problems that lead nowhere, and which they endeavor to forget as soon as this branch of the inquisition terminates.

"Take the French Grammar, prepared by English people, and look at that as an inducement to the young to study French. Take our readers and compare them with the old readers of fifty years ago, and see how much we have disimproved, and so on.

"If the Commission permits it, there is a splendid door open for really doing a great good in our Province.

"If one could get a good pronouncement that the first thing to be taught is character, and the second thing to be taught is how to pronounce the English language, and the third is how to read it, we would begin to make a fair commencement in the way of building up such a nationality as we desire.

"Is it not time that we should cease to be making

fact there is every evidence of solid increase in prosperity, which does not appear at present likely to degenerate into that most fatal of all misfortunes a boom.

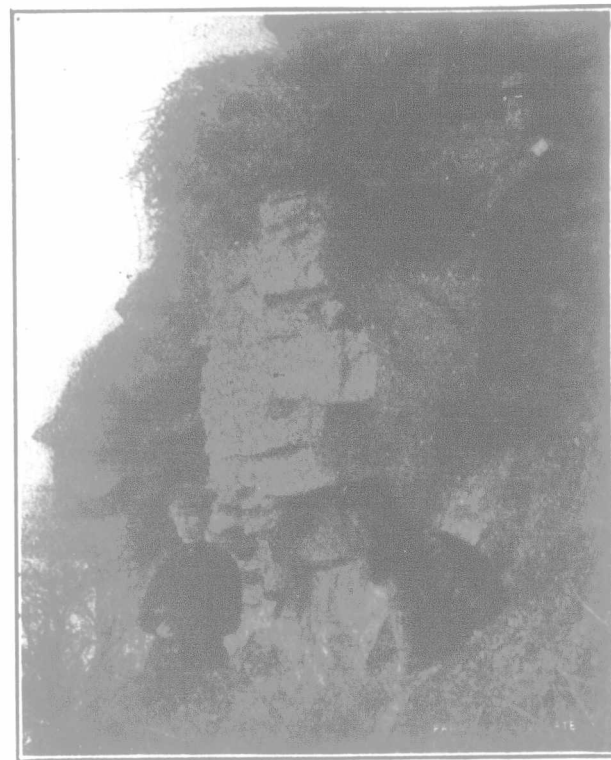
Our little Island of Salt Spring also, is benefiting by the increase of prosperity. Many new settlers have come in and are still coming, and the price of farms has gone up, the new comers having found a few of the older residents willing to sell at a considerably advanced value to what they could have obtained last year. If I felt in prophetic vein, I should be disposed to foretell that this place would, in the near future, become a summer resort for the visitors of Victoria during the holiday season.

By this place I mean Fulford Harbor, which is one of the nearest as well as one of the most attractive points of Salt Spring which the visitor from Victoria can reach. It is only from seven to nine miles, according to the point arrived at from Sidney, the terminus of the Victoria Terminal Railway. Unfortunately the place is not yet fully developed for the purpose above outlined, but the attractions it offers are many and varied. Good boating, fishing and shooting both on the coast and inland. Pure water, good camping grounds, and lovely scenery; farms at hand whereat to purchase all those country luxuries so dear to city men, which we farmers do not half value as we ought, as they have ceased through use to become luxuries at all.

Other changes we have. A creamery has been started and is now running successfully, having weathered the usual troubles and difficulties which so frequently beset a new industry. Consequently more and better cattle, all of the dairy type, and mostly either grade or pure bred Jersey.

This has caused somewhat of a reduction in the number of sheep kept, though the good prices now obtainable for these, and the ease with which they can be kept, owing to our glorious climate and the absence of pests, insures the survival of this branch of farming. Dairying also usually goes hand in hand with pork and poultry, and this place is no exception and I am glad to say poultry are now sold more by weight than they used to be, so better results are possible. Another sign of increased prosperity is that our main road is being doubled in width, and last but not least, the project of forming a company to run a portable logging outfit and sawmill combined to utilize our great wealth of first class timber, is now being seriously taken up and will, I hope, be carried to a successful issue.

Do not, however, let what I say mislead any would-be new-comers from Manitoba or the Territories into thinking that we have vast expanses of prairie, or even cleared land. All our farms are in process of being won by hard work from the primeval forest and consequently are not to be purchased for a song. Nor are many of them in the market. But to make up for the difficulty of clearing them, the fertility of the farms when properly managed is great. Fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, or ten tons of



THE EAGLE'S NEST NEAR DIDSBURY, ALTA.

to have Port Nelson for its terminus, and Port Nelson would come within the added territory. The remainder of the eastern part of Keewatin looks as if it should form part of Ontario, and if it were thus disposed of, Quebec would probably expect a similar enlargement by the annexation of the southern part of Ungava on the Labrador peninsula. With such opportunities for readjustments there should not be much difficulty in finding a solution that would be not merely just but amicable.—The Globe.