

plains around the Somenos and Quanaachan Lakes, with a sandy clay sub-soil are exceedingly well adapted for fruit or garden purposes. Among the native fruits, the blackberry, mulberry, raspberry, strawberry, gooseberry, currant, and high bush cranberry would require little pains or culture to produce luxuriantly. The strawberry grows on the plain land nearly as large as the garden fruit. The varieties of plants are very numerous, a few only were noted growing on the plains and meadow lands, among which are the following:—Wild pea, wild beans, ground nut, clover, field strawberry, wild oat, cut grass, wild timothy, reed meadow grass, long spear grass, sweet grass, high ostrich fern, cowslip, crowfoot, winter cress, partridge berry, wild sunflower, marigold, wild lettuce, nettles, wild angelica, wild lilly, broad leaved rush, and reed rush. The fern attains the great height of six or eight feet, and the grasses have all a vigorous growth. The chief economical woods, are pine and oak, neither of which attain, however, to the great size observable in the other parts of the Island. The following are some of the trees and shrubs: Oak, red or swamp maple, alder, trailing arbutus, bois de l'éche, crab apple, hazel nut, red alder, willow, balsam poplar, patch pine, and various other species, balsam fir, cedar, barberry, wild red cherry, wild blackberry, yellow plum, choke cherry, black and red raspberry, prickly purple raspberry, swamp rose, bearberry, red elder, mooseberry, snow berry, blueberry, hillyberry, whortleberry, cranberry, red and white mulberry. It is believed that the country surveyed will prove rich in the economic minerals, sufficiently so to justify the Government in causing an investigation to be made at the proper time. Malleable lime and freestone for building purposes are abundant, with marble, iron both bog and mountain ores. Indications of gold were remarked by the party upon the southerly slope of Mount Prevost, but no value was attached to these. Water privileges for the purpose of mills and machinery are not frequent along the coast, although the region

abounds in large rivers and small streams. Several good falls exist a short distance above the mouth of Mill creek, in the Shawnigan District, and this creek has like facilities for mills at various other points to its junction with the Cowichan river. Other streams afford a sufficient extent of water privileges to answer the requirements of a large population, but these are all inland at a distance of several miles from the coast. The salmon is abundant, both upon the coast and in the river, and with the herring fisheries, will undoubtedly prove a lucrative branch of employment to a part of the future population. The cod fish and numerous other kinds are also caught in quantities by the Indians. In traversing the country several descriptions of game were met with, among which were the elk, deer, grouse, and wild pigeons, duck, and wild geese. From my observations and from the supplies constantly brought in by the Indians it was at once inferred that the country was plentifully stocked with most kinds of game. The Cowichan Harbor is somewhat exposed to the S. E. winds which, however, are of rare occurrence. The small Bay running up in the 6th range of the Cowichan District forms a good Harbor and anchorage. The access to the Cowichan valley by water is at all times easy, the distance from Victoria being about 35 miles, by land the communication will be more difficult. Passing by the head of the Saanich Inlet and along its west bank the distance would probably be 40 miles, and it is believed no natural obstacles would be found to render the undertaking a very expensive one. The whole area surveyed is 57,658 acres, of which, 45,000 acres of plain and prairie land may be set down as superior agricultural lands, the remaining portion being woodland, either open or thick, and which will likewise be ultimately occupied.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servt.,

OLIVER WELLS.