

ment of a healthier feeling in the silver market is wanted to make the work of development go on apace.

Some of the seams of galena ore located in this Kootenay valley are truly wonderful, and are little short of quarries at high altitudes, waiting for capital and mining skill to produce from them. Further up the lake Pilot Bay is reached, and here a smelter has been constructed and a town has grown up around it. Further up the town of Ainsworth is reached, and here again the country is underlaid with seam after seam of rich galena, some seams being within half an hour's walk of the town.

Further up the lake still and the town of Kaslo is reached, and here is the best gateway to the Slocan country over the mountains, supposed to be the richest silver-producing region in the world.

It is not a time at present when much can be said about a silver-mining region. The present unsettled state of silver makes it impossible to base any calculations upon silver-mining. But this state of affairs cannot last long, an improvement must come, and when it does come the West Kootenay country will be one of the richest and busiest of all the mining regions of North America.

Leaving Revelstoke again, this time for the west on the C.P.R. main line, the crossing of the Columbia River is first made over a bridge nearly half a mile long, and shortly after the track rushes through a narrow rock-walled gorge into Eagle Pass, and follows a shelf-like pass along the base of the mountains. The valley is narrow for at least one hour's travel, and on the right of the track, as if pressed up against the steep mountain sides, on the opposite side of the valley, lies the chain of narrow, mirror-like lakes Summit, Victor, Three Valley and Griffin, the rocks and tall pines of the overhanging mountains reflected distinctly in their clear smooth waters. The village of Craigellachie is reached, where the last spike of the C.P.R. connecting the Atlantic and Pacific shores was driven on the 7th of November, 1895. A short distance further and the track leads by the side of the great chain of Shuswap lakes, the highest water level known to be reached by the salmon of the Pacific rivers in their upward run. A short run within sight of this chain of lakes, and a stop is made at Sicamous Junction. Here a rest must be made and time taken to have a flying look over the fertile Okanagan Valley.

THE OKANAGAN COUNTRY OF B. C.

THERE are a number of valleys in the southern interior of British Columbia adapted to agriculture and stock-raising known generally as the Okanagan country.

Okanagan is made up of Shuswap, Salmon Arm, Grand Prairie, Spallumcheen, Priest, Coldstream or White, Mission, Salmon River and adjacent valleys, and such tributary sections as Kettle River, Rock Creek, Similkameen, Keremeos, and part of the Nicola Valley. The general physical characteristics of this country are those of an undulating, elevated table land, varying in altitude from one thousand to three thousand feet, embracing rich open valleys, surrounded by grassy benches, intersected by rivers and low mountain ranges, dotted with picturesque lakes and woodland, and enjoying a dry, healthful and invigorating climate—a country of rich and varied resources, and yielding as wide a range of products as are to be found within equal limits

in any known part of the world. As will be seen hereafter the fruits of the soil comprise all those indigenous to the north temperate zone in its widest extent: while in other respects the elements of wealth are, timber, grazing land and minerals.

The development of Okanagan was in the past retarded by lack of railway facilities and a consequent market, little or no incentive to production being offered. Now the Shuswap and Okanagan railway enters it from Sicamous on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Notwithstanding that for some years back settlement existed in this portion of the interior, little until recently was generally known about it. Enquiry was stimulated by the proposal to tap it by means of a railway. Since then, through official reports, and the knowledge acquired in various other ways, its character, as before briefly described, has been fully established, and now it is the point in British Columbia to which the greatest attention is directed. The successful inauguration of roller flour mills on a large scale and the magnificent grain and fruit crops grown by the settlers, demonstrated that as a purely agricultural region Okanagan has no equal. The purely agricultural portions capable of all kinds of crop—cereals, roots and fruits—have been placed, in area, at between 300,000 and 500,000 acres, both numbers being official: while the pastoral lands are put down at several millions of acres. Mr. Farwell's estimate of lands not requiring irrigation, and suitable for wheat, is 305,760 acres. The above refers to agricultural land and does not include bench or pasture land, all of which is more or less tillable with, and in many instances without, irrigation, even in places to the tops of the mountains.

The whole country has a park-like appearance, with belts of timber sufficient for all the economic needs of the district, numerous beautiful lakes and streams being interspersed. Thus, a peculiarly inviting landscape is presented. The surface, level in places, rolling here, terraced there, dotted at intervals with trees and shrubbery, is invariably clothed with rich, nutritious grasses. The mountains are lightly timbered.

The principal crop has been wheat, for which a limited sale was afforded at the Columbia Flouring Co.'s mills. About 90,000 bushels of wheat per season are here converted into flour. In view, however, of railway communication being opened up, there has been large acreage recently brought into cultivation, and for several years back numerous orchards have been planted out. Already there are a number of young orchards in bearing, the fruit of which is of the very finest quality and cannot be excelled anywhere in Canada.

Of all the advantages which this land of valleys possesses, the predominant one is climate. To that element is due many of the possibilities of British Columbia, but to no part of it does the remark apply with greater force than to the Okanagan. All the Pacific Slope, to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, is tempered by the Japan current and the sea breezes by the intervening mountains are stripped of their excessive moisture. The general altitude is about one thousand feet above the sea level, varying in the outlying districts from 1,000 to 2,500, as at Grand Prairie and the Kettle River plateau, respectively, all well within the agricultural limit, as defined by Dr. Dawson. This altitude, with the modifying influences of the ocean, imparts almost absolute salubrity to the climate, which, now that it is becoming known to medical men, is being more and more recommended as a health resort, and especially to