

South-Eastern portion of Vancouver Island. The surface of the whole valley is low, little above the sea level.

The New Westminster district is the only large mass of choice agricultural land, anywhere on the mainland of the North Pacific slope, that lies actually upon the ocean with a shipping port in its midst. A navigable river cuts it through, which is sheltered at its mouth. The Canadian Pacific Railway, as already said, runs through the district. The river is full of salmon and other food fish, and the district abounds with game. The climate, though somewhat humid in parts, has neither the wetness of Western Oregon, nor the withering dryness of some of the large Californian valleys. There is no ague. Some parts of the district are heavily wooded with Douglas fir, Menzies fir, giant cedar, western hemlock, red alder, balsam poplar, birch, large leaved maple, but there are large areas of open land in different places, caused, perhaps, partly by the repeated action of fires, and the occurrence of floods.

The New Westminster district probably rests over nearly its whole extent on soft tertiary formations. The soil in general, in the sea-shore municipalities, is composed of very modern delta deposit—deep black earth, with, for the most part, a clay subsoil. There are large tracts of alluvial soil further up the Fraser, and along some of its more important tributaries, such as Pitt River, Sumass River, &c. Clay loams occur in parts, and also light sandy loams—the latter chiefly up river. These soils are almost uniformly fertile, though some of them, no doubt, would be more easily exhausted than others. The finest crops may be seen in all of the district.

The delta lands and the clay loams can hardly be equalled for strength and richness. Very great yields are realized with comparatively careless cultivation. Fruit grows well.

INTERIOR OF MAINLAND.

The surface of the bunch grass region of the interior is a combination of long narrow river-valleys, with terraces, knolls, hills, and slopes, rising to mountains of considerable altitude. The undulating surface and the rolling, lightly wooded hills, crossing and recrossing, make it a picturesque region.

The valleys are in general narrow, with here and there low flats. Back from the rivers are the benches or terraces, and numerous hills of all sizes rising above the extensive slopes. Scattered over these here and there, lying apparently the gravelly opens, and so far apart as in no way to interfere with the free travel in all directions, is the peculiar tree of the district, commonly called red pine (*Pinus Ponderosa*)—a tree well known to botanists, and which it is needless here to describe.

Over very considerable areas, far exceeding in the aggregate the arable areas of the coast region, the interior is, in parts, a farming country up to 2,500 or 3,000 feet, so far as the soil is concerned, and the soil has been proved to be as fertile as the best on the coast. The climate, however, is so dry in the summer, that irrigation is necessary. Cultivation is restricted, as a rule, to the valleys and terraces. The soils consist commonly of mixtures of clay and sand, varying with the character of the local formation, and of white silty deposits. They everywhere yield extraordinary crops of all the cereals, vegetables, and roots, when favourably situated. The climate is much hotter in summer than the climate of the coast region. Tomatoes, melons, and cucumbers thrive in the open air in many parts. Very fine fruit can be grown. Fruit growing, no doubt, as soon as there is an external market, will be one of the principal industries both in this and other parts of the province. The higher plateaux of the interior are not cultivated, and there is some danger of summer frosts, owing to their height.

As regards pasture, the interior, as a whole, is, in the opinion of experienced stock raisers, not only the most remarkable grass region on the Pacific slope, but, probably, is unequalled on the continent. Even the Alpine pasturage is very nutritive in the summer months. The grass-fed beef and mutton are of the finest quality. Horses and all animals not only thrive, but have a peculiar vigour.

The portion of the southern interior in the Columbia and Kootenay region, resembles in climate, and in many other respects, the portion of the more westerly southern interior between the Columbia and Fraser rivers.

In the northern part of the interior plateau of British Columbia, there is an extensive low country which, from the resemblance of much of it to parts of Scotland, was