

Nor is the district referred to, by any means, an exceptional one. There are here many others which even surpass it in productive capacity. Among these may be mentioned the rich and extensive deltas of the Fraser, the Similkameen and Okanagan districts, Grand Prairie and Kootenay valleys, to say nothing of the fertile tracts of Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlotte group and the coast districts of the mainland, each of which will be more fully described in future numbers of the RESOURCES.

The high reputation which our cattle and sheep have attained all over the Pacific coast proves the excellence of our luscious grass pastures. The display of meats, especially at Christmas in the butchers' shops at Victoria, challenges the admiration of all, and is certainly unexcelled in any quarter of the globe. On entering one of these spacious establishments for the first time, a rare and unique scene is presented to the visitor's wondering gaze. Here, on the adipose tissue of the erstwhile lowing, bleating and grunting slain, are wrought in the most artistic manner, many beautiful flowers and figures, the charming effect of which is perfected by further adornments of trailing woodbine, creeping ivy, English holly, tricolored resettes and natural and artificial flowers. In the waste places as it were, between the pendant limbs of the larger carcasses are seen the nude but plump forms, golden in their fatness, of once gaily feathered beauties of the cackling, quacking and gobbling "persuasions," hanging stark and cold, stript of their fair plumage and mute as Egyptian mummies; albeit they were respectively the pride of many a roost and the grace of many a pond. On the lower shelves and fringing the walls around are long rows of juvenile grunters in all the glory of a clean shave and profuse floral decorations. The *lente ensemble* presenting the combination, if the reader can imagine such a picture, of a first class meat market and floral conservatory.

The fact that many of San Francisco's millionaire magnates of epicurean tastes, are in the habit of sending all the way to Victoria for choice meats to regale their pampered palates, affords another proof alike of the skill of our butchers and the superiority of our herds. But the surprise of the stranger will be greatest when he is informed that these coveted joints are from animals fattened only on the abundant natural grasses which cover many hundreds of miles of the great interior—cattle that are unsurpassed, if equaled, by the best stall fed in any part of the world.

Summary of Land and Mining Laws.

Any person being the head of a family, a widow, or single man over the age of 18 years and a British subject, or any alien upon declaring his intention to become a British subject, may record any tract of unoccupied, unsurveyed and unreserved Crown Lands, not exceeding 320 acres, north and east of the Cascade or Coast Range of Mountains, and 160 acres in the rest of the Province, and "pre-empt" or "homestead" the same, and obtain a title therefor upon paying the sum of \$1 per acre in four equal annual instalments, the first one year from the date of record. Persons desiring to acquire land under this law must observe the following requirements:

1st. The land applied for must be staked off with posts at each corner not less than four inches square,

and five feet above the ground, and marked in form as follows: (A B's) Land, N. E. post. (A B's) Land, N. W. post, &c.

2nd. Applications must be made in writing to the Land Commissioner, giving a full description of the land, and also a sketch plan thereof, both in duplicate, and a declaration under oath, made and filed in duplicate, that the land in question is properly subject to settlement by the applicant, and that he or she is duly qualified to record the same, and a recording fee of \$2 paid.

3rd. Such homestead settler must within 30 days after record enter into actual occupation of the land so pre-empted, and continuously reside thereon personally or by his family or agent, and neither Indians or Chinamen can be agents for this purpose.

Absence from such land for a period of more than two months continuously or four months in the aggregate during the year, subjects it to forfeiture to the Government. Upon payment for the land as specified, and a survey thereof at the expense of the settler, a Crown grant for the same will issue, provided that in the case of an alien he must first become a naturalized British subject before receiving title.

Homesteads upon surveyed lands may be acquired, of the same extent and in the same manner as upon the unsurveyed, except that the applicant is not required to stake off and file a plat of the tract desired.

There is a Homestead Law, by which under due registration, real and personal property is protected to the extent of not more than \$2,500 from seizure and sale in bankruptcy.

Unsurveyed, unoccupied, and unreserved Crown lands may be purchased in tracts of not less than 160 acres for \$1 per acre, cash in full at one payment before receiving title by complying with the following conditions:

1st. Two months' notice of intended application to purchase must be inserted at the expense of the applicant in the British Columbia Gazette and in any newspaper circulating in the district where the land desired lies, stating name of applicant, locality, boundaries and extent of land applied for, which notice must also be posted in a conspicuous place on the land sought to be acquired, and on the Government office, if any, in the district. The applicant must also stake off the said land as required in case of pre-emption, and also have the same surveyed at his own expense.

Surveyed lands, after having been offered for sale at public auction for one dollar per acre, may be purchased for cash at that price.

THE MINING LAWS

Provide that every person over sixteen years of age may hold a mining claim, after first obtaining from the Gold Commissioner a Free Miner's Certificate or License, at a cost of five dollars for one year and fifteen dollars for three years. Every miner locating a claim must record the same in the office of the Gold Commissioner, for a period of one or more years, paying therefor at the rate of \$2.50 per year.

Every free miner may hold at the same time any number of claims, by purchase, but only two claims by pre-emption in the same locality, one mineral claim and one other claim, and sell, mortgage, or dispose of the same.