

pears, struck us as very wonderful; the trees were literally broken down with the weight of fruit, and little or no demand for it, hardly worth the expense of gathering. Frost had spoilt some of the backward grapes and plums. On Monday, being unable to leave the island owing to an accident to the boat, we rode out about four miles by the electric cars to Esquimalt, and saw the large dry docks and other places of interest there. This island seems more adapted for small occupations; vegetables and poultry, with milk and butter, are always wanted, and command good prices. Butter is two shillings a pound, eggs twopence each, milk fivepence a gallon, and fowls four shillings each just now. The land is rich, but much of it heavily timbered. Victoria contains about 25,000 people, and the houses and buildings are good; the appearance of the whole city denotes wealth and comfort, and is altogether worthy of being the capital.

We left Monday evening for Vancouver, and, rejoining our railway car, commenced our homeward journey, visiting by boat from New Westminster down the Fraser the Sumas Valley, a large district of some 20,000 acres of land available for grazing and corn-growing; the lower lands are alluvial deposits of many feet in depth, and of great richness. Here we saw an extraordinary crop of apples in all quarters, and the land was being cleared of the timber on the higher lands and settlements made. We saw here some very good farm buildings, and went over several cheese dairies apparently doing well. There were good Shorthorn cattle and some well-bred young horses in the pastures. We remained the night at Chilliwack, and then drove through more of the low lands, crossing the river near the Government Experimental Farm at Agassiz; this had not long been started, and the day being wet, after witnessing the system employed to remove the roots of trees, &c., in clearing, we took our railway car, and bid adieu to British Columbia.

We could not for want of time visit the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys, a district not yet opened up by railway, but said to be 300,000 acres of the finest land for mixed farming in Canada. Much of it is already settled, but large quantities are still owned by speculators waiting for their time. We were told that last season 120 tons of twine, for the machines to bind the corn with, was used in this district alone.

Our next stay was for one hour at Medicine Hat, to see the North-Western Territories Hospital, erected by Mr. Niblock, a fine building well arranged, and the comfort and cleanliness of the inmates, 17 in number, cared for in every way. Two wards were furnished by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and are named after them respectively. On Sunday morning we reached Wolseley, a small town of about 200 people, and, under the guidance of Mr. Senator Perley, we drove in different directions through the surrounding country, visiting the settlers as we passed. The good wives of Wolseley were much disturbed by our taking their husbands out on the Sunday morning, but we made a compromise, and all went to church in the evening. There is a very large tract of land here awaiting settlement, and can be bought cheap. The land is much of it of good quality, but lies

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