

Service to Pemberton Meadows

The Completion of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and the Institution of a Freight and Passenger Service to Pemberton, Calls Attention to This District as Affording Considerable Scope for Settlement and the Carrying on of General Agriculture.

Pemberton Meadows is the valley of the Upper Lillooet River, situated 100 miles north of Vancouver and 60 miles inland from Squamish, the head of Howe Sound. It lies between mountains at an elevation of 700 feet and a short distance east of the summit of the Coast Range. The valley extends northwest and southeast 40 miles in length, with an average width of 1½ miles, and a total area of 40,000 acres of bottom land. Rocky hills rise from the valley level. There is no bench land. The Pacific Great Eastern Railway crosses 12 miles from the lower end.

The land to the south of the railroad is the open meadow from which the valley gets its name. As is the case with meadow land in general, it is wet, covered a considerable portion of the year with water which backs up from Lillooet Lake to the south. This area has been incorporated under Government provision into a drainage district. Commissioners have been appointed and steps are being taken to ascertain the cost and feasibility of reclamation.

North of the railroad line, with the exception of some meadow, the land is typical river bottom ready for cultivation, still covered, of course, with the native tree growths, principally willow, alder and cottonwood. Clearing is not heavy, there being no fir and but a few small patches of cedar. Scattered through this section are open areas of from 200 to 500 acres in extent, free of growth save ferns and grass. This land can be plowed up without preliminary work. Settlers have occupied properties to the north of the railroad, and crops produced by them speak well for the valley's future.

Pemberton climate is a mixture of the wet and dry. The valley lies only 60 miles from salt water, but is over the summit to the east of the Coast Range. Weather observations over a number of years have been carefully and consistently made by Mr. John Ronayne, a settler, to whom much credit is due. Mr. Ronayne's recently installed rain gauge showed a total precipitation for the first year of a trifle more than 37 inches, including snowfall. He estimates the rainfall at from 35 to 40 inches per year. This is a little more than one-half the precipitation of the Fraser Valley and about double the northern Okanagan.

The summers are dry and warm, the thermometer standing between 70 deg. and 80 deg., occasionally more. The nights are cool. Winter snowfall varies by the year and in different parts of the valley. In the vicinity of the railroad the depth is from 8 to 20 inches, lasting from December to March; further north, from 1 to 3 feet, and lying a trifle longer. The snow gives good sleighing, and keeps the ground from freezing. Winter temperatures can be classed as moderate, the thermometer standing generally from zero to freezing point, with night minimums of 10 deg. or 15 deg. below during the coldest snaps. The valley is well sheltered from winds.

Pemberton soil is silt deposited by the Lillooet River. It is brownish gray in color, free from stones, a good depth and underlaid with clay except in the beds of old creeks. The soil is heaviest in the south end of the valley, where the river empties into Lillooet Lake. Over all the valley, except the meadows and open areas, there is a plentiful covering of vegetable humus. Moisture in the summer is furnished by a constant seepage from the hills and the river. The size and quality of the crops grown show Pemberton soil to be very fertile. Potatoes, timothy and clover, field peas, oats, wheat, turnips, rhubarb, corn, garden truck, strawberries and raspberries have all been grown successfully. Mr. John Ronayne is at present experimenting with

a patch of alfalfa hay which has done exceedingly well. Fruit trees have been planted, but with no great success. This can only be expected of bottom land. Fodder crops have proven to yield the greatest returns per acre, and Pemberton's future is apparently in mixed farming, with individual holdings of from 40 to 80 acres.

Fertile soil is Pemberton Meadows' great asset; but, together with this, its scenic attractiveness can well be considered. The valley is completely surrounded by beautiful mountains. The air is fresh and invigorating. There is good hunting and fishing, and a short distance either way on the railroad, mountain lakes can be reached.

CANADIAN WESTERN LUMBER CO.

A scheme for the merger of the Canadian Western Lumber Company and the Columbia River Lumber Co. was proposed and carried at a meeting of the shareholders in London last month. Under the new scheme debenture holders of the latter company receive £50 of 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of the Canadian Western Company for every £100 of their present holdings, together with £50 5 per cent. cumulative debenture stock, \$225, in ordinary shares of the Canadian Western Company, the payment in cash in December of the half interest due on December 1st and the deferred interest warrant carrying 5 per cent. for the other half of the interest.

The scheme also involved acceptance by the preferred shareholders of ordinary shares in place of the preferred shares and by cancellation of all arrears of dividend on preferred shares.—Journal of Commerce.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SHINGLE EXPORTS.

The effect of the removal of the duty upon shingles under the tariff bill which became effective October 4, 1913, is made very clearly apparent by the following statistics upon shingle imports taken from the reports of foreign trade issued by the Department of Commerce, Washington:

	1913		1914	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
January	*27,284,000	\$ 67,097	42,706,000	\$ 99,845
February	*19,621,000	51,157	57,700,000	134,000
March	*24,536,000	60,732	81,771,000	195,987
April	*42,568,000	108,066	114,763,000	260,084
May	*39,747,000	99,577	116,595,000	267,739
June	*42,865,000	115,441	116,761,000	274,014
July	*41,364,000	106,440	114,222,000	270,555
August	*50,062,000	134,520	121,109,000	274,706

*Star indicates shingles admitted under duty which was removed October 4, 1913.

These figures represent all shingle imports from all countries. A special report recently obtained from the Department of Commerce shows, however, that during the year ended June 30, 1914, shingle imports from all sections other than the Pacific Northwest totaled 6,000, with a value of \$121, so it is apparent that the effect of the increased competition indicated by the 1914 statistics has been borne largely by the producers of the Pacific Northwest.—American Lumberman.

LARGE CONTRACT FOR LUMBER COMPANY.

Mr. Marshall, receiver for the Canadian Pacific Lumber Company, has received permission from Chief Justice Hunter to enter into a contract to supply 4,500,000 feet of lumber to a buyer, and to borrow a sum not to exceed \$110,000 for the purpose of carrying out the contract.