

THE OKANAGON.

Its Wonderful Agricultural Resources
—As It Was and
—As It Is.

Opening Up of the Country by Rail-
way, Stage and Steam-
boat.

(Special Correspondence of the COLONIST.)

In my previous articles on the Okanagon I was enabled to speak of the great wealth of this part of our fair province. It may truly be called the garden of B.C., and it needs no prophetic power to predict for it a great future. All eyes are naturally turned to Vernon as the capital, and here, as already stated, signs of activity are apparent on every hand. It is only a matter of time until a substantial city will be built up on the site already laid out. Capital and labor have already been attracted to the place, and now history is repeating itself. The Okanagon is being opened up, and the means of investment are a good one. The stores—especially the recently built up and others in course of erection—are spacious, substantial buildings, some of them being of brick. The only trade or article which I noticed unrepresented was tailoring, but in the town I met with one of the leading tailors of New Westminster, whose visit to Vernon was solely for the purpose of making arrangements to start business there. The lively trade being done in every branch was a very pleasing feature. The hundreds of men employed in railway construction, as well as those employed in harvesting operations, appeared to flock into Vernon for supplies, and to spend their money as freely as if they were millionaires. Small coin was conspicuous by its absence in all transactions, the 25c or two-bit piece being apparently the lowest currency the people would design to handle. The smaller "bits" will, of course, make their way into Vernon as trade increases and the town grows, but the freedom with which money now changes hands leaves the impression that but little value is attached to it. Every body appears to be in a state of modest if not positive affluence, and a general air of happiness and prosperity is apparent all round. Wagon loads of grain were pouring in from every direction, and the granary of the Columbia River Mill Co., located at Vernon for the convenience of farmers, was rapidly being filled.

From Vernon to the Mission is a pleasant drive. The Mission is so called because in the early days of the country's history a party of R.C. missionaries established a "mission" there, and brought within the folds of the Christian Church the wild men of the West. The mission still continues, and the Indians of the district are living examples of the good work accomplished. They are, perhaps, the most peaceful, industrious, law-abiding aborigines in the country. In this district Lord Aberdeen was secured a large number of deer, under the management of Messrs. Majorbanks and Eustace Smith, he is devoting to the raising of fruit. Young trees and plants of the best quality have been put in the ground and are doing well. The smaller and harder fruits are making wonderful progress, but grapes, castles, bayberries, etc., are a decided success. Apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, etc., are all doing well, and the promise of a splendid yield. So far as the experiment has gone, it fully establishes the fact that B.C. is, in excellence, a fruit-growing country. Farming in every branch is a success here. The rainfall is amply sufficient, and the soil rich enough for any crop, while the frosts are so light as not to injure even the most delicate growth. This is truly a splendid tract of country, and should the experiment justify the expectations of its lordship, it is his intention to establish a fruit-canning factory at the Mission.

On my return trip to Enderby I took what is known as the Pleasant Valley road—a road well named, passing through a really charming valley. The highway is here and there narrow and its surface uneven, and the pleasures of the trip were more than compensated for by any little inconvenience this occasioned. Through a regular avenue of trees we passed mile after mile, and as I had the good fortune of having a traveling companion Mr. G. Reilly, the courteous and efficient secretary-treasurer of the S. & O., every point of interest was noted. Now and again, through the rich foliage of the trees to either side, a glimpse was had of the vast folds of golden grain, the many little homesteads surrounded by flowers in profusion, an Indian encampment, a fisherman's hut, or the log cabin of the woodsman. The whole country through which we passed is well settled, and is being rapidly brought under cultivation. The settlements are somewhat new, but still there is undoubted signs of improvement. Some idea of the progress made can be obtained from the following figures, which I believe to be approximately correct:

Owner.	Acreage.	Under Cultivation.
Donald Graham, J.P.	400	320
Thomas Clark	400	320
John Thompson	400	320
John G. Cummings	400	320
Jas. Crozier	400	320
Chas. Crozier	400	320
Edward Thorne	400	320
Thos. Hayes	400	320
Ben. Huxley	400	320
P. Mulroney	400	320
Wm. McLean	400	320
Frederick Huxford	400	320
Henry Harding	400	320
Schubert Bros.	400	320

In the Roule Prairie district Mr. H. Swanson has some 640 acres, of which 300 is under tillage and 100 in pasture; Mr. Schubert, sen., 1,200, with 400 under crops, and Mr. C. E. Carrell, 520 acres, 80 of which is cropped. At Salmon river there are also some splendid farms and orchards, one of the settlers, Mr. H. Patton, having some 1,000 fruit trees bearing well.

The return trip from Enderby to Sicamous I made by water, and, perhaps, the most pleasant part of the journey. It was made on the little steamer Red Star, Capt. Cummings. The Red Star was laden with flour from the mills, and although the inventory of my trip was an exception to the rule. When the dinner bell rang there was but another passenger to sit down to the table with me. But the crew turned in by degrees, and I was left with us of an excellent meal. The journey was made in about five hours, during which time we had some novel experiences. The river for miles is very shallow, in places not more than ten or twelve inches in depth, and to make the passage the little craft had to be most obedient to her rudder. At one time she would grip along the bed of the river, light, shifting, and at another she would hug the shore so as to keep afloat, and then engage in a dodging encounter with the numerous "snags," or logs of timber, which, more than anything else, impede the navigation of the stream. The Red Star has seen considerable service in these waters,

and her passengers, from time to time, included men and women of all ranks and stages of life from royalty itself down to the poor, half-civilized squaw. The Marquis and Marchioness of Lorne walked her modest decks and took some happy sketches of many of the charming spots along the river's banks. The Glent Castle was among the most effective of the sketches. It is a work of nature on a huge rock which stands in bold relief against one of the most prominent of the local mountain peaks—a castle to all outward appearances, and of such immense proportions as to suggest the name which it bears. Trinity Tree and its surroundings is another of the choice glimpses of the picturesque which one cannot help but admire. And then those huts and homesteads, those crags and braes, those antiquated looking boats moored to stumps of trees or pulled up high and dry on the banks—what of them? The captain, and a jolly soul he is, takes great pleasure in telling his passengers all about them. "There was a wedding there last week," and he points to a shack perched on an elevated bank, its sole custodian being a peculiarly monotonous. "The bride is Indian, and the groom Italian. Neither can speak the language of the other." "Then how do they manage to get along?" I ventured to ask. "By signs and signals," came the prompt reply. "But there they are," and the newly wedded couple—one as dark as any son of Italy need look, and the other as fair as fair could be, and in sight in disheveled. A little further on I was pointed out an old resident—a woman who will persist in dressing in male attire. She pleases herself in the matter, as she is in blissful ignorance of the divided skirt or the various other reforms suggested by the society having these interesting topics in charge. The Indians have several encampments along the river's banks, where they dry their fish, bark in the sun, and send their sports offering to bathe in the waters. All looked healthy and well, and not seeing a graveyard in my rambles, I asked the captain for some mortuary statistics. His answer was "we never die here. We had to kill two Indians to start a graveyard." As the little craft steamed along, shoals of fish followed us as if attracted by the sound of the big wheel at the stern, by which the boat is propelled. But we are again at Sycomore, and taking the train west, I arrived at my journey's end—Victoria. A few general remarks about the country next week and I shall close.

"MAYNE ISLAND" REPLIES.

TO THE EDITOR:—I am sorry to again trespass upon your space, but in justice to myself I wish to say that when I wrote those little items, re Mayne Island, I went on the hearsay of several settlers that had been over the road and were objecting to the unnecessary expense. But since then, (last Sunday, in fact), I did walk over it, and can bear out every word I then said, and perhaps distance excepted, (a mile more or less). At all events, I found the "circumlocution" and unnecessary course so long that I was glad to accept the light-house keeper, Mr. Georgeon's kind offer of a pull by water, and a scramble through the bush, thereby escaping the piece of road in dispute. He, Mr. Georgeon, telling me when in the boat that this "circumlocution" and unnecessary piece of road was very little good to him, and, may I ask, why does W. H. Mawdsley erect stiles and give short-cuts, if he is not for the purpose of shortening this, as I put it, "circumlocution" to the Egyptians and to Turkey that any interference with Tewfik would be followed by another bombardment.

This put a stop to the scheme, much to the chagrin of the gentleman who has ever since, it is said, been determined upon a change of ministry, although he deferred the blow apparently in hope that he would be able to defeat the British agent, if any, in his cabinet.

It is rumored at Constantinople that since the dismissal of the ministers very cruel means have been used to bring information from them and from their servants. I am sure that the British agent, who has been subjected to torture and even death.

RUSSIAN ARMY MANOEUVRES.

No Diminution of the Great Garrison Along the Frontier.

LONDON, Sept. 11.—The number of troops engaged in the Russian army manoeuvres of the governments of Kiev, Podolia and Volynia is about 100,000. They are all drawn from the interior, and there is no diminution of the great frontier garrisons scattered along the Austro-Russian border.

The manoeuvres are attended by the leading military commanders in European Russia, and press representatives, both foreign and native, are excluded.

The St. Petersburg and Moscow newspapers were questioned by the government with such information as it is thought proper to give.

It is known that the manoeuvres include the feature of educating the troops to familiarity with smokeless powder, and that special attention is given to the efficiency of the new rifle recently adopted by the Czar.

A correspondent who has been visiting the Russian southwestern frontier at Basa, near the Danube, says that troops are rapidly arriving in large numbers. This would be the base of departure for a Russian army advancing towards the Balkans.

At Tschikoff four regiments were quartered last year, there were only two, and at Valkovo and at Killo five regiments have recently arrived in addition to the men already there.

At Kagn three regiments arrived about a week ago, and at Jajpuch, reinforcements of 7,000 have recently taken up their quarters.

Troops are pouring in at the same rate in other villages. These losses of little consequence, apart from their situation, which is just where an army of invasion would naturally concentrate. In view of these facts the correspondent concludes that Russia intends at no distant date to make across the Danube for Constantinople, and that her preparations show that this time she means to have a force sufficient to overcome all obstacles.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 11.—The Porte has neither directly apologized to the Russian ambassador, Nelidoff, nor paid any indemnity for the detention of the Russian vessel Moskwa. The Porte has merely given assurances against the recurrence of such incidents.

MUNICH, Sept. 11.—The Emperor of Germany and the Regent of Bavaria, Prince Leopold, started this morning for the scene of the Bavarian manoeuvres.

THE PANAMA CANAL Co. Investigation.

PARIS, Sept. 10.—In the police search for evidence in connection with the investigation of the affairs of the Panama Canal Company, the offices and residences of Bunsuville, Eiffel, and others of the principal directors, were searched. Many papers were seized, sealed and handed over to the public prosecutor.

CLINTON CHIPPING.

"HAD for years been troubled with dizziness and sick headache and found but little relief from any remedy, until I used a bottle of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. It is the best medicine I ever used in my life."—Hattie Davis, Mary St., Clinton, Ont.

THE DARDANELLES QUESTION.

Lord Salisbury Taking Steps Against Turkey
—The Sultan Perplexed Over the Situation.

LONDON, Sept. 11.—The rumor that the Dardanelles question had subsided is untrue. Lord Salisbury is actively taking diplomatic steps. The Porte's ambassador here was summoned to Constantinople, yesterday, to give an account of the position. Ex-Grand Vicer Kiamel Pasha continues a prisoner in his own home. The British minister to Constantinople, Sir William White, and the German ambassador, Herr von Radowitz, have made representations to the Sultan with a view to the protection of Kiamel Pasha. The Sultan, who gave audience to Herr von Radowitz, denied that his designs were inimical to any European power, and stated, referring to Kiamel, that there was no serious charge against him. A dispatch, to-day, from Constantinople says Kiamel will probably be appointed governor of Smyrna.

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A Berlin dispatch says that the utterances of M. Deffoy, French minister of war, in favor of peace, are not regarded as of much weight in Germany, owing to the attitude of the French people, which remains so hostile, and that of Russia, which is not believed to believe in a permanent war which will begin on the Franco-Prussian frontier, but that the drama will open at Constantinople.

The news from this point has for several days overcome in interest anything heard from France, and the opinion is openly expressed that a collision will shortly take place between the British and the Porte unless the Sultan chooses to yield to England's demands.

If he denies Lord Salisbury, he may expect to see the Russians, under pretext of assisting him, promptly occupy Constantinople, and if he does give in to the British, the Russians become his enemies. The Sultan is said to be most perplexed over the situation and the dismissed minister, whom he accused of having got him into this dilemma. The latest story of the dismissal of the Grand Vicer and the Minister of War permitted to leak out a plan that the Sultan had formed for the overthrow of the Khedive, Tewfik, and the reclamation of sovereignty over Egypt.

The Sultan has been urged by Russia and France to put an end to the British occupation of Egypt, and his own inclinations were directly in that direction.

It is an excellent authority that a plot had been formed to seize Tewfik and convey him to Constantinople as a prisoner, where his father, Ismail, is now held in virtual captivity, then to appoint new Khedive by a formal decree from the Porte, and demand that the British at once recognize this authority, which would be sustained by the landing of Turkish troops at Alexandria.

It was believed that the British would not under such circumstances, care to enter into open hostilities with the Sultan as Suezine of Egypt. The plot was believed to be a profound secret, confined to the Sultan, Vicer Kiamel and the minister of war.

Somehow the British became aware of it, and the sudden appearance of a British fleet in Alexandria in July was in consequence of the discovery, and a "plot" was laid to the Egyptians and to Turkey that any interference with Tewfik would be followed by another bombardment.

This put a stop to the scheme, much to the chagrin of the gentleman who has ever since, it is said, been determined upon a change of ministry, although he deferred the blow apparently in hope that he would be able to defeat the British agent, if any, in his cabinet.

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A WARLIKE OUTLOOK.

Europe Resounding With the Clang of Arms—Something Grimly Serious.

Should the Trumpet-Call Sound There
—Will be War Between France
and Germany.

LONDON, Sept. 11.—The continent has through the week resounded with the clang of arms. Austria has had her military manoeuvres, Holland has reminded the world, not unnecessarily, that there is such a thing in existence as the Dutch army, and Belgium has massed some troops of cavalry in the field; England, not to be outdone, has mobilized as many as 12,000 men near Aldershot.

All this is a farce; but there is something grimly serious in the maneuvering of the French army, which has been called out on a colossal scale, a sort of rehearsal of what might take place any day next month, or next year. Shows the trumpet call sound there will be inevitable war with Germany. Twenty-one years ago and a few months ago the war was a similar nature. Gen. Le Bon having assured the doubting Emperor that there was not lacking a bullet on the gallies to impede its march to the Rhine.

All whom it may concern, however, know that the French army is very different from what it was in 1870, when it marched out to Berlin, but got no further than Sedan. It is a more powerful army, and there is something more than truth in the sup that France has a more aggressive spirit than in 1870. It is a more powerful army, and there is something more than truth in the sup that France has a more aggressive spirit than in 1870.

Then came the voyage of the French fleet to Cronstadt, the personal reception of the republicans and sailors by the Czar, and all France was ablaze with enthusiasm and affection for its ally, the Russian, who had shown some day help to regain Alsace and Lorraine. The Russian finance minister struck while the iron was hot, and arranged with a group of Paris bankers for the issue of a loan on the most favorable terms.

ARMY-CORPS AND DEMONSTRATION.

PARIS, Sept. 12.—A number of meetings were held in this city to-night, at which arrangements were discussed and finally agreed upon for an anti-German demonstration in connection with the still mooted production of Wagner's "Lohengrin" at the Grand Opera.

The French manoeuvres are still in progress. The army bivouacked Saturday night, and can be seen at a distance of a station every day at 3 o'clock in the morning. The sight lasted four hours, the army being in a Briege being carried by a great dash. To-day the troops continue their northward march.

LONDON, Sept. 11.—Notwithstanding the qualified denial by Government officials of the reported seizure of a vessel at the Dardanelles, public opinion is almost universally to the effect that the situation at the Dardanelles is a serious one, and that the British fleet in the Bosphorus is a most important factor in the situation.

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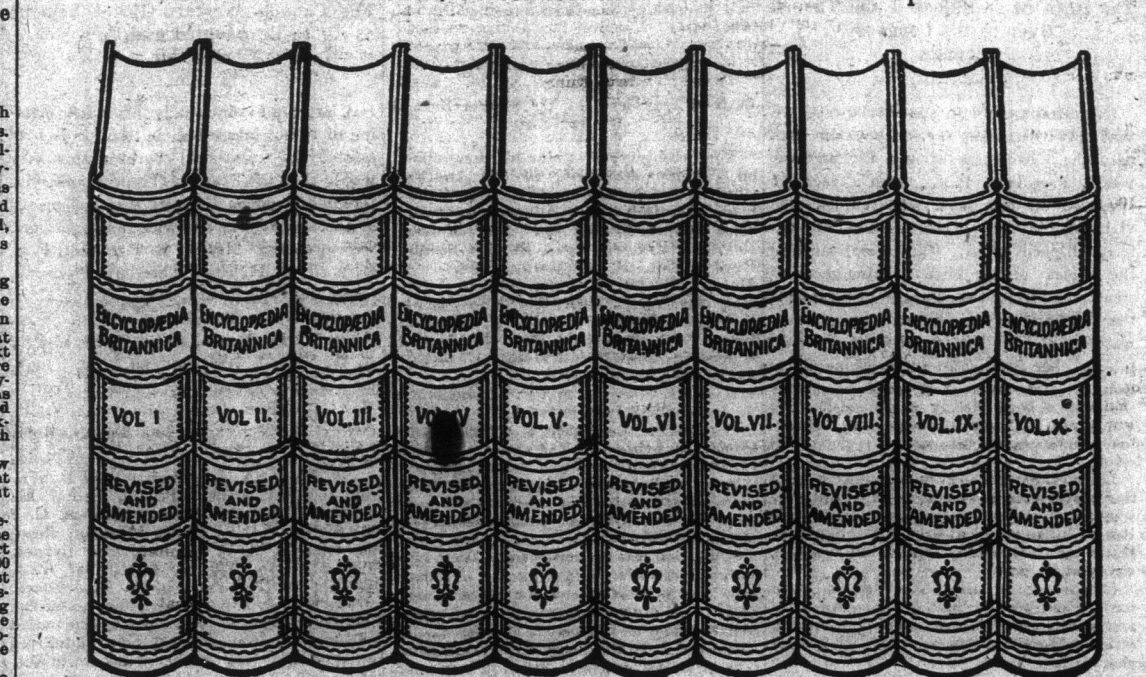
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THE--ENCYCLOPEDIA--BRITANNICA

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