

mines and about the docks, and the town for its size is well supplied with the requirements of a growing population. It has churches, schools, hotels, water-works, telephone, etc., and such industries as a tannery, boot and shoe manufactory, saw-mill, shipyard, etc., and weekly and semi-weekly newspapers. Much of the land is excellent for agricultural purposes. There is a daily train service between Nanaimo and Victoria, and connections by steamers with the different island and mainland ports.

These three places, Victoria, Nanaimo and Esquimalt, all on the south-eastern corner of Vancouver Island, are the principal centres. There are smaller communities on the island, mainly on the south corner, and at no great distances from the three principal places already spoken of. Such is Cowichan, a settlement on the east coast, about midway between Victoria and Nanaimo, where the quality of the soil permits farming to be carried on to some advantage. Saanich, another farming settlement at the extreme south-east. Maple Bay, Chemainus, Somenos, all in the neighbourhood of Cowichan; Comox, some 60 miles north of Nanaimo, in the vicinity of which are some of the principal logging camps; Sooke, a short distance south-west of Esquimalt, are being gradually developed.

### THE SOIL OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

The soil of Vancouver Island varies considerably. In some parts are deposits of clay, sand and gravel, sometimes partially mixed, and frequently with a thick topsoil of vegetable mould of varying depth. At other places towards the north of the island on the eastern shore are some rich loams, immediately available for cultivation. The mixed soil with proper treatment bears heavy crops of wheat; the sand and gravelly loams do well for oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, roots, etc., and where the soil is a deep loamy one, fruit grows well. The following average of the yield of a properly cultivated farm in the Comox district is given by a member of the Canadian Geological Survey. This is from the best land in Comox, but there are other parts of the island not much inferior:

Wheat, from 30 to 45 bushels per acre; barley, 30 to 35 bushels; oats, 50 to 60 bushels; peas, 40 to 45 bushels; potatoes, 150 to 200 bushels; turnips, 20 to 25 tons per acre.

Some of the rocks of the island furnish excellent building material, the grey granite being equal to Scotch and English granites.

### TIMBER.

The timber of Vancouver is one of its richest products. Throughout the island the celebrated "Douglas Fir" is found, and a variety of coniferous trees grow on all parts of the island. It is impossible to travel without marvelling at the forest growth. This exuberance is not confined to the mammoth fir trees, or the enormous cedars; trees of many of the deciduous varieties abound, so that either for lumber and square timber, or for the settlers' immediate requirements for the use of cities, and as arboreal adornments to the homes, the forests of Vancouver Island have a value that every year will become more apparent.

### CLIMATE OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Concerning Vancouver Island, it only remains to say in the important matter of climate its inhabitants believe, and with some reason, that they enjoy peculiar advantages. They have a mild and even