

### Stock Ranches.

Considerable portions of the drier district are occupied by ranches where large numbers of beef cattle and horses are raised, and there the animals winter in the open. The soil is very fertile, and in some localities where irrigation is practicable, agricultural settlements of considerable size are being formed.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

The most westerly province, British Columbia, includes 382,000 square miles of territory and has a population of about 125,000. It is a very mountainous country, with grand and romantic scenery, and great variations in climate.

### Climatic Conditions and Varied Products.

West of the coast range of mountains the climate is mild and genial, much like that of many parts of England, where the holly, laurel, rhododendron and the yew, flourish with the apple, pear, plum and cherry and in some districts the peach. In those parts of the Province between the Coast range and the Rockies there are many fine valleys more or less utilized for farming and ranching. In some of these the rain fall is not sufficient to admit of the successful cultivation of crops without irrigation. There are however many mountain streams available for this purpose, and on some of the ranches very fine crops of grain are grown and excellent fruits, especially apples, plums and sometimes pears.

While the climate of the coast district, especially near the seaboard, is much like that of the north of England, it gradually changes as one proceeds eastward from the coast, the summer becoming warmer and the winter somewhat colder as the distance from the ocean increases. The annual precipitation at Agassiz, which is about 70 miles east of Vancouver, is 67 inches. In the