

THE CLAIMS OF COURTENAY AND COMOX DISTRICT



The Town of Courtenay is the business centre of the district to which Comox has given its name. It has occupied this position for some time, but so long as the only communication with the district has been by means of steamers arriving at Comox Wharf, it has not been sufficiently realized (except amongst those who have visited the place to do business or to settle) that Courtenay is the natural point from which the intending settler will begin his inquiries and to which he will come to do business when he has found his home.

With the opening of the railway giving direct communication with Victoria and intermediate places on the East Coast of the Island, it will no longer be necessary to draw attention to this fact, and a glance at the sketch map which accompanies this booklet will enable it to be better appreciated.

But Courtenay is not only the business centre of the district, for its situation on the banks of the beautiful Courtenay River, formed by the junction of the Puntledge and Tsolom Rivers, flanked on the one side by extended pastures and on the other by rising country culminating in snow-capped mountains, vies with that of Comox, so justly famed for its outlook on one of the loveliest harbors on the coast.

The Tsolom River traverses the Courtenay Valley, one of the oldest settlements on the Island, and perhaps in the proper appreciation of this phrase, in its application to the conditions obtaining to-day, lies the particular claim of the locality. For here is no district in the making, no forlorn looking clearings shut in by the monotonous pine or bordering on charred tracts of land half cleared by some development company, but broad cultivated lands, some lying along the banks of the river, some on gently sloping rises, and all broken here and there by trees of pleasant variety, whilst the pine is removed to its proper place on the background of hills which give so bright a contrast.

The valley dotted with farm houses, extends many miles up the river and at its lower end almost adjoining Courtenay, the village of Sandwick (very like an English country village, with its church on the hill and its cluster of houses on the river bank), divides it from about a thousand acres of fertile land, dyked from the sea, and bounded by