

THE COMMERCIAL—BRITISH COLUMBIA SUPPLEMENT.

150 farmers. J. R. Anderson, in his report to the Department of Agriculture, says: "The remarkable fertility of the soil and the equable climate, renders the successful cultivation of all grain, root crops, hops and fruits, both hardy and half hard, an easy matter in most seasons. It is particularly well adapted to the cultivation of hops, which here attain great perfection and have a reputation in the English as well as in the eastern markets. The industry is being prosecuted with vigor and promises to form one of the leading features of the agricultural products of Saanich. A fair number of sheep are raised. A good deal of butter is made and a large quantity of grain, hay, hops, roots and fruit was marketed. Probably 25 to 35 per cent. of the land is cultivated." Being close to Victoria a good market is afforded for all products.

SHAWNIGAN

includes Cabble Hill and McPherson's. It is rendered accessible by the E. & N. railway running through it, but as yet only a small area under cultivation. There are between 75 and 80 ranchers, principally new settlers, in the district. Hay and root crops are principally cultivated. Fruit does well and its culture is being entered upon generally. Butter and poultry are marketed to some extent. Much of the land is wooded and swampy and requires clearing and draining for cultivation.

COWICHAN.

This is one of the most important districts in the Island, and includes Sahtlam, Cerfield, Treameieban, Comiakien, Cowichan, Maple Bay, Duncan's, Somenos, etc. There are in the neighborhood 200 settlers. The report of the Department of Agriculture says: "This new and important district has such a variety of soil and climate that it is possible to raise all the ordinary crops and fruits." Some grain is grown, principally oats, also a large quantity of hay of the very best quality. Root crops and vegetables yield largely. Orchards are being set out in all parts, the fruits, including apples, pears, plums, peaches, cherries and all small fruits. Dairying is carried on extensively, and a good many sheep are raised, also poultry. About 11 per cent. of the land is cultivated.

CHEMAINUS,

including Kuper and Thetis Islands, have about 40 settlers. Root crops and fruit are principally cultivated. In Chemainus a good many pigs are raised, and on the islands, sheep. A large proportion of the land is heavily wooded, and only about seven per cent. is cultivated. All kinds of crops—hay, grain, fruit, roots and vegetables—seem to do well. In the low-lying land, a good deal of which requires dyking, the returns are very large.

NANAIMO DISTRICT.

This includes the Nanoose, Galniola, DeCourcy and Mudge Islands, in all of which are some 225 or 250 settlers, sheep and poultry raising receive a good deal of attention. There is no extensive tracts suitable to grain, though grain invariably does well. Hay, oats, roots and vegetables produce very largely. Perhaps no part of the province is better adapted to fruit-growing. For pears, cherries, plums and all small fruit, it cannot be beaten.

SOAKE,

There are about 70 farmers in this settlement. There is very limited open land and therefore farming on a

large scale is out of the question. Fruit-growing, root crops, poultry-raising, dairying and sheep farming are carried on, on a small scale. About ten per cent. of the land is cultivated. As an indication of horticultural capabilities, tomatoes and corn are grown with good results.

ALBERNI.

One of the most promising districts of the Island of Vancouver is Alberni, on the west coast. There is a very considerable extent of farming lands, most of it, however, heavily timbered. The soil is of excellent character, and the number of settlers annually increasing. Its geographical situation is unexcelled and there are many predictions in high quarters that Alberni canal which leads up from the ocean to the agricultural district will yet be the principal route via Pacific coast to the Orient. In fact, it is stated that the late Robt. Dunsmuir, who built and owned the E. & N. railway, intended to build a short line across the Island through this valley. There are some 75 to 80 farmers in this district, mostly bachelors, however, who have not yet fully demonstrated its agricultural and other capabilities, owing to its isolation and lack of means of communication. Apples, pears, plums, cherries, wheat, oats, barley, roots and vegetables, and all kinds of grasses are grown with success. One of the drawbacks to the settlement is the number of young men, who own ranches, but who are practically non-producers and depend on public works for a living instead of clearing and cultivating their lands.

COMOX.

In this district, including Denman, Hornby, Valdez and Lasqueti Islands, there are about 260 settlers. Oats, root crops and hay are the principal crops, but general farming, with the exception of fruit, does well. This failure is attributed to mild winters and late frosts. It is a good dairying district, and sheep and swine are raised in considerable numbers. Fruit succeeds better on the adjacent islands; but onions, all wool crops, grasses and cereals do particularly well. Progress here has been very rapid, and development is now going on at a most satisfactory rate. Its railway possibilities and coal measures have been bringing it into prominence of late.

SQUAMISH, HOWE SOUND AND BOWEN ISLAND.

These form an important settlement near the mouth of Burrard Inlet, in which there are about 40 settlers. The valleys of Squamish and Howe Sound are heavily timbered but comprise a considerable percentage of good land. So far the area under cultivation is not large, but fruit, roots and vegetables do well. The fruit includes cherries, plums, pears and apples and small fruit and vegetables, tomatoes, citron, squash and cucumbers. Grain and grasses are also grown.

THE BELLA COALA VALLEY.

Reference has been made elsewhere to Bella Coala Valley. The Bella Coala River rises in several lakes on the plateaux west of Chilcotin, and flows west into North Bentinck arm, navigable with canoes for about 40 miles. The valley is from one to three miles wide. Mr. Clayton has a fine ranch there, and his experience with root crops, fruit trees and cattle shows the farming capabilities to be good. There are about 18,280 acres of agricultural land. The soil is light sandy loam and very productive, adapted to fruit, vegetables and grass. The timber, of which there is considerable, consists of cottonwood, spruce, cedar, alder and Doug-