

The Municipality of Spallumcheen

UNDER the heading Upper Okanagan are included White and Creighton Valleys, Mable and Sugar Lakes, Salmon River and Spallumcheen Valleys. This section may fairly be called the garden of British Columbia, embracing, as it does, such a large and varied area of territory, adapted to all conditions of husbandry and to the production of anything that can be expected to be grown in the temperate zone. ¶ A branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs through the district connecting with the main line at Sicamous Junction and at Okanagan Landing, with steamers for all Okanagan Lake Points. Armstrong, Vernon and Enderby are the principal towns and all are beautifully situated. ¶ The Spallumcheen Valley, which is one of the most important parts of the Okanagan, contains within its boundaries more good land than any other section of British Columbia. In the early seventies, it was discovered that all kinds of crops would flourish and grow luxuriantly in this favored section without irrigation, the rainfall being sufficient for all purposes. ¶ As a consequence whilst the balance of the Okanagan where irrigation was necessary, settled up slowly and chiefly by stockmen, the Spallumcheen Valley was quickly taken up by farmers, and was, as a matter of fact, for a long time looked upon, as the only farming section in the Okanagan Valley. ¶ The soil may be described as a clay loam, with a deposit of vegetable loam on top of it varying from two to fifteen inches. The clay is of a yellowish appearance, very rich and quite friable when properly treated. Cultivation has of course in the shallowest places mixed these soils, making land that for general productiveness can hardly be beaten in the Dominion of Canada. ¶ In 1901 the Chemist Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, report as follows in the year book of Reports of Experimental Farms.

"Soil representative of the Spallumcheen Valley, Okanagan, British Columbia, has been submitted to careful analysis, and suggestions made regarding the culture and maintenance of this most productive are:"

	ANALYSIS	No. 1 Surface Soil	No. 2 Sub-Soil
Moisture		3.80	3.81
Organic and Volatile matter		12.28	7.70
Clay and Sand		65.46	63.51
Oxide of Iron and Aluminum		15.80	21.15
Lime69	.82
Magnesia09	1.21
Potash83	1.09
Phosphoric Acid23	.16
Soluble Silica09	.05
Carbonic Acid, &c. (undetermined)73	.50
		100.00	100.00