

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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favoured with a magnificent service, for which the whole Dominion has helped to pay. It would not be so bad if the whole benefit accrued legitimately to Quebec and the Maritime public, but not a little of the Dominion treasury funds has gone into the pockets of grafters, unnecessary employees and deadheads. The pass abuse on the Intercolonial is "something chronic." The only remedy is to take the road out of the realm of party politics, and put it in the hands of an independent, capable railway man, directly responsible to Parliament—as the Toronto Globe recently suggested—or else in the hands of an independent commission. The people of the Maritime Provinces should be as desirous of this as those of the rest of Canada, for it is inevitable that, unless a better showing can be made on the I. C. R. ledger, the people of the eastern Provinces will lose the boon of a Government-operated road through its transference to corporate control. All Canadians are interested in getting the I. C. R. out of politics. We commend the letter of our Scottish correspondent to the careful attention of our readers, especially those concerned in the administration of municipal, provincial or national affairs.

The Best of All.

The page premium announcement which made its appearance in the last number of the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" is repeated in this issue. That it has met with instant response on the part of our readers in obtaining new subscribers is not a matter of surprise. The universal popularity of the paper, and the service, which it renders the agriculture and home-life of the country, backed by a premium list of such good merit, makes canvassing for the paper a profitable task. The premiums offered, like those of the "Farmer's Advocate" itself, are standard and have stood the test of time. Have you or your neighbor or friend who does not receive the paper, a double boon of a weekly visit

from the paper? Show him or her your copy, and secure their subscription at once, so that they may secure all the remaining copies of 1905 and the whole of 1906 for the modest sum of \$1.50, which is the regular yearly subscription rate. The clubbing rates announced, of course, do not count in working for these premiums.

British Columbia Farm Lands.

(Editorial correspondence.)

The traveller by railway through the Rocky Mountains is apt to form the opinion that British Columbia contains but little agricultural territory, which, comparatively speaking, is a correct conclusion, notwithstanding the contention of enthusiastic residents that the presence of large mountains implies the existence of proportionately large valleys, many of which are capable of being converted into good farming lands. There are, however, comparatively extensive tracts in some districts of the Province eminently suitable for ranching, others for fruit and grain growing, and still others for general-purpose or mixed farming, in all of which profitable farming is being prosecuted in a climate milder than that of Old England, the mother of successful agriculture. In the vicinity of Kamloops, on the main line of the C. P. R., are large ranching districts, in which beef cattle in great numbers are successfully grazed the year round, and also in the Okanagan country, south of Sicamous Junction, and around Vernon, on the same branch, where first-class fruit is largely grown, where Lord Aberdeen has an extensive fruit farm, and from which point large quantities of fruit are shipped to the prairie Provinces, as well as westerly.

The Chilliwack Valley, some sixty miles from the coast terminus of the C. P. R., reached from Harrison Mills station by means of a steam launch, or by steamer from New Westminster on the Fraser River, is one of the largest and most widely-known farming districts in the Province, and has frequently been described in these columns more fully than is practicable in this brief letter. Suffice it to say that Chilliwack is enjoying a period of great prosperity, owing, not only to its splendid crop and dairy returns, but also to the rapidly-increasing demand for improved farm lands, a description of which in the "Farmer's Advocate" last winter is credited by the local authorities with the sale of lands to the value of over \$300,000 within the last nine months, the buyers being mainly from Eastern Canada and the Northwest Provinces, seeking a milder climate.

THE DELTA.

Another choice farming district, regarding which comparatively little has appeared in the papers, rivaling if not surpassing Chilliwack in the richness of its agricultural resources, is the Delta Municipality, lying about twenty miles from Vancouver, reached by electric tramway over the rich dyked lands of Lulu Island to Steveston, near the mouth of the Fraser River, and by ferry from there to Ladner, the chief town and port of the district; by steamer twelve miles from New Westminster, or, by the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern Railway, now a part of Mr. J. J. Hill's Great Northern System, with a station at Ladner, and its terminus at Fort Guichon, a few miles further on.

The Delta, composed of some 40,000 acres of alluvial soil, with an area of 14 miles long by an average of about 4 miles in width, besides some timber on the high lands, is so named from the fact of its being all "made" land, of sedimentary deposit from the periodical overflow of the Fraser River, the Gulf of Georgia and Boundary Bay, the two latter being salt water, and the former fresh. The Delta Municipality is made up of Westham, Arncliffe and Tilbury Islands and the Delta peninsula. The bulk of the land was formerly subject at times to submergence by the overflow of the waters above named, covering it at times deep enough to float flat-bottomed boats, making crop production variable and uncertain, but some fifteen years ago the municipality, aided by Government grant or outside assistance, undertook, by the issues of debentured at \$100 each, payable in twenty years, bearing interest at five per cent, which sold at 101, and carried to completion a system of dyking for protection from the overflow, by which about twenty-five miles of permanent dykes were constructed. Part of these debentures are payable in 1912 and part in 1915, and a sinking fund has been provided for by which all will be paid at maturity. The ditches from which the earth to form these dykes was taken provided large open drains to carry off surplus water from sloughs, and into which the drains empty, much underdraining having been done, with the result that exceedingly large crops are regularly secured on the rich black soil, which is common to the whole district. From 20 to 80 bushels of oats is said to be a common crop, and in special cases up to 150 bushels an acre have been harvested,

and a crop of potatoes, in one instance, is reported at 26 tons, or 1,560 bushels per acre. Spring wheat is also successfully grown, the Delta having been awarded first prize, a bronze medal and a diploma for wheat at the World's Fair, Chicago, in competition open to all. But wheat grown here is not, as a rule, hard enough for milling purposes, and is not largely grown, oats and barley being the principal grain crops, which, with hay and pasturage, beef and dairy production, are the main dependence of the farmers, who are generally prosperous, the farm buildings being, as a rule, substantial and tasteful in appearance, the fences neat and well kept, and the farms as clean as in any part of the Dominion it has been our privilege to visit. The cream-gathering and oil-test systems have been adopted, and the Delta Creamery, under the capable management of Mr. Abbot, is a model of cleanliness and system, supplied with up-to-date machinery and appliances, paying seven per cent dividends, and distributing over \$30,000 a year among the farmers of the district for cream supplied. Besides this a large quantity of cream is shipped by boat and train for other points to the New Westminster creamery and to the City of Vancouver.

The Delta is a paradise for cattle, good pasturage being available nearly the whole year. Such pastures as were seen here the middle of October! Red and white clover in full bloom, and a thick growth of rye grass and timothy, would cheer the heart of any stockman. First-class herds of Shorthorns are found in this district, the champion bull and champion female of the breed, as well as the first and second prize herds at the Dominion Exhibition this year, hailing from the Delta, as well as the grand champion Clyde stallion and mare at the Lewis & Clark Exposition at Portland, Oregon, last month. Fine herds of dairy cattle are also found here and across the river on Lulu Island, where is the home of the grand champion cow over all breeds at the Dominion Exhibition, a Holstein of splendid type and immense capacity for dairy work.

A prominent figure in the social and business life of the Delta is Mr. W. H. Ladner, one of the pioneers, after whom the chief town is named. Active and cheerful in his 79th year, now and for many years past reeve of the municipality, formerly a representative of the district in the Provincial Legislature, a large land holder and successful business man, versatile, optimistic, and gifted with a fund of humor, he has lived here to see farm land once sold for a dollar an acre now worth one hundred and fifty and upwards.

The farmers on the Pacific coast are evidently a prosperous and contented class, and do as little complaining as those of any part of the Dominion. The same cheerful optimism pervades the urban population, all being satisfied they are enjoying the most comfortable conditions found on the continent, and evidently believing in the theory enunciated by a lecturer in the hearing of the writer during a brief stay in Vancouver, that so clearly is the trend of trade in this direction, that in time Vancouver and other Pacific coast cities will be the front door of the American continent and the Atlantic cities the back door, the bulk of the Canadian farm products passing through the Western terminal City of Vancouver, to supply the demand that will inevitably follow the higher civilization of the teeming millions of the Orient, who are now taking large supplies of our cheaper products, but will soon be satisfied with none but the best.

The limits of space forbid more than a passing reference to the great salmon industry of this coast, and the scores of immense canning factories along the shores of the Fraser, where millions of the supple Sockeye are caught by the gills in the meshes of the thousands of nets floating behind as many fishing boats, and knocked in the head with a club as they are thrown into the boats and rowed to the canneries, to pass through the hands of a long line of Chinamen and a perfect system of machinery, ending in packing boxes of a gross of cans in each, ready for shipment to the ends of the earth. It is a wonderful sight, and a great source of revenue to the people of the Province, the salmon crop of this year having been the best for many years. J. C. S.

Of Greatest Value.

Please find enclosed payment of my subscription to the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." In my experience I have never seen a paper of as great value to the farmer as the "Farmer's Advocate."
Elgin, Ont. LEWIS V. HALLIDAY.

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