

The many valleys cutting the Coast Range have distinct climatic peculiarities. Sheltered as they are by the surrounding hills from bleak north winds, the warm breezes from the coast are freely wafted through them. The sun's rays are concentrated on the side-hills with almost tropical intensity, and even on the higher benches orchards and vineyards yield enormous crops.

As soon as the mountains are left behind and the Pacific littoral is reached, there is an astonishing change in conditions. Where vegetation has been left in its virgin state there is almost an impenetrable undergrowth, from which rise luxuriantly huge forests of fir, pine and spruce. This is accounted for by the heavy rainfall, which increases towards the north. But the winters are short and temperate, and emphasized more by a heavy rainfall than other climatic change. The high mountains of Vancouver Island break the force of the heavy storms sweeping eastward over the Pacific.

Probably the driest point on the coast is in the vicinity of Victoria. Harvest time is rarely unsettled, and there is seldom any difficulty incurred in reaping the crops. During many winters there is no perceptible frost, and delicate plants thrive throughout the year in the open air.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with its policy of affording, at the earliest possible moment, railway facilities to newly settled and rapidly developing districts, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company graded last year 499 miles of lines between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains, the mileage of the Company in this territory being now 6,971. The length of the Company's main line from Montreal to Vancouver is 2,903 miles; the total mileage of the Company's lines is over 12,000, and the mileage of allied lines is over 4,000. The large demand for lots in the various townsites on the Company's lines furnishes substantial proof of the development which the West is experiencing. The double track from Fort William westward was completed between Regina and Pasqua and between Caron and Chaplin in 1912, and, it is expected, will be completed to Java by the end of 1913. Double tracking of the line from Vancouver to Calgary is also in progress. Extensions and improvements on a very large scale are being conducted by the Company in many parts of Western Canada.

WESTERN CANADA -- THE WORLD'S BREAD BASKET

The greatest industry of Western Canada is undoubtedly the production of wheat, oats, barley and flax, and a few words bearing on the magnitude of this industry, and the systematic manner in which the wheat is marketed and handled, are in order.

The rapid increase in the population of the United States during the last fifty years has resulted in a scarcity of good farm land in that Republic and a steady increase in the price realized for farm products. These conditions have had a marvellous effect upon the price of farm lands, so