

everything they consume. Grain is raised in considerable quantity, but only for feeding stock. Oats yield well and sell for $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound. Butter averages 25 cents per pound, beef $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents to 10 cents by the carcass. Cows are worth \$50 to \$70 each. Lambs \$5 to \$6, ewes usually breed twins. Hogs bring 8 to 9 cents live weight. Eggs sell from 25 to 60 cents per dozen. Apples, pears, plums, prunes, cherries and small fruits are cultivated to a limited extent and all produced is of excellent quality.

Much of the wooded land in Comox district is easily cleared, being chiefly alder, and the swamps are not difficult to drain. The swamp bottoms are remarkably fertile, producing splendid crops of grain and vegetables.

Communication is had with Comox by wagon road from Wellington (the present terminus of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway), and by steamers running to Nanaimo, Victoria and way ports. A short line of railway connects Cumberland with Union Wharf, the shipping point of the Union Coal Mines.

ALBERNI

Alberni Valley, at the head of Alberni Canal, about 20 miles long and from six to eight miles wide, is destined to become an important district from an agricultural standpoint, as it is the centre and natural distributing point for a large and rich mineral district. It is 110 miles distant from Victoria and 55 miles from Nanaimo, being connected with the latter by wagon road. A very large area of good agricultural land can easily be brought under cultivation by clearing and drainage. The soil generally is a clayey loam and very productive, being well adapted to fruit growing and dairying. A very considerable part of the fertile Alberni Valley lies within the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Grant, and is included in the areas which the Company will render fit for cultivation and offer for sale to settlers. At present Alberni has a tri-monthly steamboat service with Victoria, and stage coach communication with Nanaimo. It is quite possible that the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway will build a branch line to Alberni as soon as settlement of the lands are assured and business conditions warrant the outlay.

THE INTERIOR

Besides the districts which have been briefly described, there are several valleys and benches of prairie lands in the interior of Vancouver Island fit for agriculture when proper transportation