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Graham Island

EVER since I was a schoolboy any piece of land surrounded by the sea has had a strong fascination for me. I suppose a course of "Robinson Crusoe" and the "Swiss Family Robinson" made my imagination invest all and every island with delightful possibilities. The fact that, unless one had a boat or a raft, it was impossible to leave an island and one became a sort of romantic prisoner, probably gave the mental thrill that was so delightful.

I knew a rich banker in Madeira who bought the Selvage Islands—a group of arid, waterless rocks in the Atlantic, from the Portuguese Government, so that he might enjoy the somewhat unintelligible delight of owning an island.

As my imagination still works a little in the same way it did when I was a boy, it will be understood that the maps showing the Queen Charlotte Islands, off the coast of British Columbia, claimed my interest. I have gathered a great deal of information about them, and I find that they are going to play a very important part in the development of British Columbia. Of course, when one remembers that Vancouver Island is itself as large as England, it will be seen that these islands, small as they seem on the map, are really extensive areas of land.

I don't know why, but all the teachings of my school days seemed to lead me to think of an island as being necessarily a small place. The fact that Australia is an

island used to rob it of its proper importance in my youthful mind, and in those days I was rather impatient at having to include it amongst the continents.

My purpose in this article is to draw the attention of my readers to the great possibilities of the islands off the coast of this province, and particularly to Graham Island.

If you look at the accompanying map you will see that Graham Island is the largest in a group that is neighboring to Prince Rupert. The island has an area of 2,000 square miles and contains some of the richest agricultural land in British Columbia. It is this latter fact that makes



TYPICAL AGRICULTURAL LAND, EASILY PREPARED FOR THE PLOUGH