

and vegetables. Most remarkable yields are recorded. Fruit, too, does well, especially plums, pears, cherries and small fruits, but the part of the district which seems particularly adapted for most fruits is that north of the Fraser on the high dry benches and in Chilliwack. The Experimental Farm at Agassiz has demonstrated the great capabilities of the district in almost every respect, but especially in fruit and floriculture. In that section peaches, grapes and tomatoes have the best prospects.

There is considerable land suitable for hops, which are now being cultivated to some extent. The yield and character of the crop is very much similar to that in Washington and Oregon on the other side of the line.

The district is very heavily timbered in places with very valuable timber, Douglas fir, cedar and spruce, and some alder, maple and cotton wood.

Considerable is done in dairying and stock raising in the prairie sections, and attention is being paid to poultry and bees. Grain of all kinds yields heavily, but oats pay best, as the wheat is rather soft for milling alone, and barley cannot always be safely harvested from rain. Root crops and vegetables are everywhere enormous, and small fruit of all kinds reach their high-est perfection. Apples do well in most places, where land is high or well drained.

Improved land is, as a rule, pretty high in price, and where unimproved costs from \$10 to 50 per acre for clearing. For general mixed farming no part of the Province has better adaptabilities. The white population of New Westminster district is about 8,000. The main line of the C. P. R. runs through it on the north side of the Fraser River. A railway is being built from Vancouver *via* Westminster on the north side of the Fraser to Sumas to connect with the Great Northern Railway, 47 miles. A branch of the C. P. R. runs from Mission city to Sumas, B.C., ten miles; and a railway is being constructed from Chilliwack to Sumas, so that facilities of travel will be excellent. Two lines of steamers run up the Fraser from Westminster, and an electric tramway connects Westminster and Vancouver, on which there is an hourly service each way, taking 45 minutes to make the trip.

Extensive dyking enterprises are under way at Pitt meadows, Sumas, the Delta and Richmond by which large areas of very rich lands will be reclaimed.

There are three fruit canneries in operation, one in Vancouver, one at Chilliwack and one at Ladner's Landing. The field as yet, however, is a limited one which will develop with the fruit growing industry.

There are several important industries, the headquarters of which are here: The Westminster Slate Quarry at Jerves Inlet; the Westminster Tile and Pottery Co., on Fraser River, and the Terra Cotta Co. of Port Moody. Woods & Gamble, wholesale and financial agents, are secretaries of the Slate Quarry Co., and carry on a large business in their own line.

## AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

### The Districts on Vancouver Island and Adjacent Coast.

**B** RITISH COLUMBIA has not been known as an agricultural country principally on account of the general impression as to its being a "sea of mountains," but its farming capabilities have been demonstrated beyond question, and the areas, which

are suitable to cultivation are very much more considerable than is generally conceded. The part of the country of which this treats, on the Island and coast, is more particularly adapted to small farming—on a mixed scale—fruit growing, horticulture, hop raising, poultry, stock raising on a limited scale, oats, etc., etc., as there are no large areas upon which farming on an extensive scale could be carried on. In the northern interior there are very extensive areas suitable to grazing, grain growing and general farming. There are difficulties in the way of farming as it is conducted in the east, but the advantages of soil and climate, and the advantageous relation of the market to farm products give many compensating offsets. Of course, there are a great many disadvantages and inconveniences peculiar to a new country, but where rapid development occurs and means of communication is increasing these will shortly be overcome. In the older farming sections many comforts exist, and there is perhaps no part of the American continent where the farmers are in better condition. Fruit growing is regarded as the most hopeful aspect of agriculture in this province, and Vancouver Island and adjacent coast with its mild, equable climate and warm sea breezes have special adaptabilities for the industries. The principal districts in the field reviewed herein are described in what follows. The particulars are compiled from the most authentic sources:—

#### ESQUIMALT, METCHOSIN AND HIGHLANDS.

These districts, which adjoin Victoria city, contain about 110 farmers. The rainfall here is small, and as a consequence grain growing and sheep raising do well. Root crops, fruit and vegetables are all good as a rule. Poultry do well. About 20 per cent. of the land is cultivated. A large portion of these districts is dry, gravelly plateaux, with a thin soil, suitable for growing alfalfa. There are some very picturesque spots to be found and the driving, on account of the good roads, is a most enjoyable exercise. Dairying is not carried on to any extent.

#### THE SAKE DISTRICT

has about 70 farmers, who raise considerable quantities of hay, grain, roots, vegetables and fruit. Some attention is paid to stock raising. About 20 per cent. of the land is under cultivation. The representative of the district, Mr. G. W. Anderson, says: "All root crops, temperate climate fruits, early peaches, grapes, tomatoes, and apricots do well."

#### VICTORIA DISTRICT,

Immediately adjoining the city of Victoria, and including the Lake district for parliamentary purposes, is one of the oldest settled parts of British Columbia, and pastorally considered one of the most picturesque and best cultivated. It contains some beautiful farms. There are about 150 ranchers in it. A good deal of fine grain is grown, large root crops, and a very large quantity of fruit, which is invariably a sure crop. There are a number of small nurseries in the district and numerous orchards and vegetable gardens. Dairying is a considerable industry, but the milk is nearly all sold in the city and not used for making butter. Sheep raising is carried on to some extent. About fifty per cent. of the land is under cultivation.

#### SAANICH.

This district—north and south—is to Vancouver Island what New Westminster district is to the mainland of British Columbia—the garden. It contains about