

CLAIMS OF COURTENAY AND COMOX DISTRICT

districts. The two principal companies which are responsible for the payroll are the Canadian Collieries Company and the Comox Logging & Railway Company. The former have their headquarters at Cumberland, a town of 2,000 inhabitants, situated about six miles from Courtenay, and connected by about 10 miles of railway with the Company's coal wharves and foundry at Union Bay. The Company operates five mines, including that known as No. 8, connected with Union Bay by a railway shortly to be electrified from the power plant on the Puntledge River, of which some account is given elsewhere. The Company ships an average of 50,000 tons of coal per month, and their month's payroll, irrespective of supplies, is in the neighborhood of \$100,000. They employ about 1,600 men.

The Comox Logging & Railway Company is the supply point of the Fraser River Mills at New Westminster. It is estimated that 60% of the entire cut of British Columbia comes from the Comox District, and there is sufficient timber to last the Company for fifty years. The Company, which it is understood, is the biggest logging outfit in the world, runs eight camps and have about seventeen miles of railway connecting the headquarters of the various camps with the Company's booms in Comox Bay, from which about half a million feet of lumber is being put into the sea per day and towed by the Company's fleet of tugs to New Westminster. This Company employs about 600 men, and their monthly payroll, exclusive of supplies, amounts to about \$40,000. There are also several sawmills in the neighborhood and when the number of stores, etc., necessary for serving the interests already mentioned as well as the farming and residential communities are taken into account, it will easily be seen that \$200,000 to \$250,000 is no extravagant estimate of the monthly payroll of the district.

This district is unquestionably the finest dairying district on Vancouver Island. This has lately received additional recognition in the shape of negotiations for the erection and operation of a cream condensing plant. It is understood that the promoters of the undertaking have already succeeded in obtaining a contract for the produce of 500 cows. Such an undertaking should prove a valuable resource for the farmer as giving him an alternative to selling cream for butter-making. With the advent of the railway it should also be possible to ship milk and sweet cream to Victoria, giving a third most profitable outlet. There is plenty of good land on the market in every way suitable for dairying farms, and those who wish can begin in a small way, feeling sure that they will find a good market for small or large quantities of produce. The growth of hay and clover is extraordinarily