

far off. It is no exaggeration to say that the purest water in the world is found here. For many years the former owner of Hatley sold water to the Navy from his property near Colwood. And ships from here carried it all over the world. It was found that this water would keep perfectly fresh in tanks for many months. In fact the water throughout the whole district is singularly free from injurious vegetable matter. Water from Goldstream district supplies a large portion of Esquimalt and Victoria West, and is considered most satisfactory. The water from all the lakes and streams and springs is excellent, cool and pleasant, and will no doubt be utilized from some of the springs, at least, as bottled table water.

Equable Climate.—Situated as it is on the southernmost end of Vancouver Island, and containing the last point before the coast turns northward, the climate leaves nothing to be desired. It is mild and moist as that of the South of England, yet far brighter and sunnier. The moderating influence of the Japanese current and of the moisture-laden winds from the Pacific are factors in bringing about this desirable result. While it is possible that some portions of the Island are from the mildness of the climate less stimulating than that of less equable climes, the climatic conditions here can never be said to be enervating, either mentally or physically. The freshness of the air is delightful and health-giving. There is a marvelously invigorating quality in the atmosphere. The ocean breezes keep the summers cool, or, at most, pleasantly warm. The rainfall is for the most part in the winter and is on the whole less than we would be willing to have. A long list of the miseries, in weather ways, that we do not have, is of interest. There are no sand or dust storms, no hail, heavy snow or severe frost, no tornadoes, cyclones or earthquakes, no droughts, no intense heat or cold, no floods, no tidal waves, no thunder and lightning, in fact no violent disturbances of any sort, and an entire absence of mosquitoes and troublesome flies. This locality is much the same as Victoria meteorologically, with the difference that its position would naturally bring, of being somewhat milder in winter, cooler in summer and with little fog or dampness. Heavy rains are not prevalent. Rain-bearing clouds pass over from the West coast and are not here precipitated.

Soil.—It is essentially a district for mixed farming. The soil is unusually fertile and easily worked. It is light, full of humus and with good natural drainage. For the most part it is a dark, sandy loam on the surface and has next a stratum of clay or a gravelly sub-soil. At any time of the year gardening operations may be carried on. Most crops will grow, but