

The city has for many seasons been a favorite resort for tourists, and appears to be growing steadily in popularity. The country for some miles about the city supports a scattered farming population and furnishes a portion of the supplies of the city, but it is not a particularly good farming country, being better adapted to fruit culture. Here every variety of fruit grown in a temperate climate attains peculiar excellence, and fruit culture promises to become a leading industry in the near future.

ESQUIMALT.—There is a small town at the northern corner of the harbor of Esquimalt. The nucleus of it are some British Government buildings, consisting of a naval hospital, an arsenal and other dockyard buildings. In the immediate vicinity of these the town has arisen. There are two churches, a public school, two hotels or inns, and a number of residences and business buildings. In the territorial division of Esquimalt there are several farming settlements and one or two manufactories, including a boot and shoe manufactory and a saw-mill. Esquimalt is only three and a half miles from Victoria by land, and is connected with it by an excellent macadamized road and an electric car service.

NANAIMO.—Situated on rising ground and overlooking a fine harbour on the east coast of Vancouver Island, is the thriving city of Nanaimo with a population of about 5,000, and ranking next to Victoria in importance, and depends chiefly upon its coaling interest and shipping business for support. Nanaimo Harbour is connected by a deep channel with Departure Bay, where the largest craft find safe anchorage. Vancouver Island bituminous coal is now acknowledged to be superior for all practical purposes to any coal on the Pacific Coast. Four companies operate mines in the vicinity of Nanaimo. Large quantities are sent to San Francisco, to the Hawaiian Islands and China, being shipped from either Nanaimo or Departure Bay. Nanaimo is also the coaling station for the British squadron in the Pacific. A large number of men find employment in the mines and about the docks, and the town for its size is well supplied with the requirements of a growing population. It has churches, schools, hotels, water works, telephone, and such industries as a tannery, boot and shoe manufactory, saw-mill, shipyard, etc., and weekly and semi-weekly newspapers. Much of the land is excellent for agricultural purposes. There is a week-day train service between Nanaimo and Victoria, and connections by steamer with Vancouver.

These three places. Victoria, Nanaimo and Esquimalt, all on the south-eastern corner of Vancouver Island, are the principal centres. There are smaller communities on the island, mainly on the south corner, and at no great distances from the three principal places already spoken of. Such is Cowichan, a settlement on the east coast, about midway between Victoria and Nanaimo, where the quality of the soil permits farming to be carried on to some advantage. Saanich, another farming settlement at the extreme south-east; Maple Bay, Chemainus, Somenos, all in the neighborhood of Cowichan; Comox, some sixty miles north of Nanaimo, in the vicinity of which are some of the principal logging camps; Sooke, a short distance south-west of Esquimalt, are being gradually developed.

THE SOIL OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

The soil of Vancouver Island varies considerably. In some parts are deposits of clay, sand and gravel, sometimes partially mixed, and frequently with a thick topsoil of vegetable mould of varying depth. At other places towards the north of the island on the eastern shore are