

cultivated the returns are very satisfactory. The farms in the district do not begin to supply the city's wants, so that there are good openings for fruit, poultry and dairy farms.

Tributary to Nanaimo are Mountain, Cedar, Oyster, Bright, Cranberry, Douglas, Wellington, Nanoose and Cameron Districts. Mountain is broken, with considerable good land in the Millstream valley, and the uplands furnish excellent grazing, with large and small timber of good quality. Cedar and Cranberry Districts very much resemble Cowichan and possess large areas of good farming land. North of these districts the character of the soil changes, inclining to be sandy and gravelly, in patches, but around Qualicum it again reverts to a rich loam of the best quality. A good deal of land is under cultivation in the country lying between Nanaimo and Comox, but much of the best of it is still unreclaimed, and many thousand acres will be available when cleared of timber.

Wellington, the present terminus of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway, was formerly a town of considerable importance, but, since the closing of the coal mines in that district, has lost much of its trade. There is considerable good land in the neighborhood, the area of which will be increased by clearing.

COMOX

Extending from the northern boundary of Nanaimo lies Comox District, considered one of the best agricultural and dairying sections of Vancouver Island. Sixty miles long with an average width of seven miles, between the sea and the mountains, is a bench of undulating land admirably adapted to cultivation. Parts of it are heavily timbered, and there are many marshes and beaver meadows easy of reclamation. Several valleys cut through from the mountains to the sea, and these are specially fertile. All of this bench land will produce crops. Where it is too light for growing cereals or roots it will give large returns in hay and alfalfa. The growth is marvellous, a bit of burnt land sowed with grass seed will become a tangled mass of vegetation within a year. Cattle fatten on the native grasses and vetches in a wonderfully short time. Butter making and poultry raising are carried on as adjuncts to the regular farm work, but so far have not been engaged in systematically. A good local market for everything produced is afforded by the Union Coal Mines, with headquarters at Cumberland. These mines employ between 800 and 1,000 men, who, with their families, are good customers of the neighboring farmers, paying liberal prices for