

Rich deep soil and Luxuriant Growth

Between the benches on both slopes lies the deep alluvial soil of the bottom lands, so **ADMITTABLY SUITED TO AGRICULTURE**. **THE DENSE GROWTH OF BRUSH** on the raised banks and the **LUXURANT MARSH GRASS** on the higher meadows bear witness to the fertility of the soil. The succession of wild hay crops has, in the centuries, added a large percentage of highly valuable **INTERMIXED ORGANIC MATTER**. Local farmers have occasionally sown timothy on the fringes of these bottom meadows, without even disking the ground; **IT HAS GROWN THICKLY AND RAPIDLY**, but has invariably been killed by the summer floods. The unit yield has been **ESTIMATED TO BE TWICE THAT USUALLY OBTAINED** on the irrigated bench land.

Near Windermere, mud crops have been successfully grown on raised patches of the flats. Even though these spots did not become inundated, the water-table must have been very near the surface. Therefore, the results cannot be compared with **WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE WITH PROPER DRAINAGE**; what variety of crops can be economically produced on these lands can **BEST BE DECIDED AFTER RECLAMATION** is partially complete.

But if the bottom lands proved suitable for hay alone the enterprise would be well justified. Hay always commands high prices in British Columbia, **NEVER LESS IN THIS DISTRICT THAN \$25.00 a ton**. Its shortage for winter feeding is a large factor in the high price of beef. Land which will produce hay alone **ONLY HAS A DOUBLE VALUE** when there is a large adjoining range; and this is the case here. It is therefore, **ESPECIALLY SUITABLE FOR MIXED FARMING**. Many farmers have given it as their opinion that they could make the reclaimed land **pay good interest on \$250.00 per acre** by merely feeding the entire product to their own stock.

Climate

The official Bulletin No. 26, issued by the authority of the Legislature of British Columbia, reports concerning this part of the Valley of the Columbia: "The climate is healthful and enjoyable at all seasons; blizzards and cyclones are unknown, and bright, sunny weather, winter and summer, is the rule. The summers are dry, with occasional hot days. The heat, being dry, is not oppressive. It is modified by the light winds passing over the glaciers and snow-capped mountains, and the nights are always cool. The winters are dry, crisp, and bracing; clear skies, and bright, sunshiny days, and calm, starry nights prevail. There is not even the slightest doubt that cattle and horses can find food for themselves at all seasons of the year. There are many small herds of cattle in the valley, the bulk of which are allowed to range at large without care, not even being provided with winter fodder."