

begin, and roll away in vistas of golden distance to the brown hills which encircle the valley.

The next station owes its existence to the railway, and rejoices in the euphonious name of Armstrong, as well as in the presence of the land speculator and the ubiquitous syndicate, which advertise their existence upon a huge wooden boarding close to the platform, and notify the traveller in coloring as varied as Joseph's coat that there are :

" Town lots 66x125

For sale cheap

Also

50,000 acres

Fruit,

Hops,

Wheat lands

Improved and unimproved

Beautifully situated and in lots to suit purchasers, from \$20 per acre upwards.

To Actual Settlers,

For information apply to Spallumacheen and O'Kanagan Valleys Colonization Agency, Armstrong."

The train seemed timed to take in this announcement, for it had just been committed to a note book, when the familiar all a-b-o-a-r-d resounded from the conductor's stentorian throat, and the train was off again, past more wheat-fields, skirting pretty Swan Lake, set like a mirror in a gilded frame of grain, which extended from the water's edge to the low brown hills, marked with curious out-croppings of rock behind. This odd mixture of moor and arable land in close proximity is one of the characteristic features of this section of the O'Kanagan district. Wherever the plough can run, wheat will grow, up to the very side of the rock itself.

In another half-hour Vernon was reached. This now thriving town was settled long before the Canadian Pacific Railway was even contemplated, and but a couple of years ago was only attainable by wagon road from New Westminster and Kamloops. Its population in those early days was very small, and it has really been created by the opening of the Shuswap

and O'Kanagan Railway in June, 1892. With its passenger station, freight sheds, brewery, large hotel, fine court-house, substantial rows of shops, and population of 1,000, it is one of the most prosperous and growing towns in British Columbia, and, like Rome, all roads lead to it; so it is well located as a distributing centre. The rich valleys of the O'Kanagan, containing the most fruitful land in a province whose range of products is very great, converge here. In the neighborhood are some extensive ranches of many thousand acres, among the chief of which are Price-Ellison's, Lord Aberdeen's, and the B.X. Lord Aberdeen has erected canning and jam factories on his property, where the fruits of the valley will find a market. The Shuswap and O'Kanagan Railway connects at Lake O'Kanagan, the present terminus of the road, with a steamboat service operating on the lake. The steamers "Aberdeen" and "Penticton" run, one, each way, daily, to Penticton, at the foot of O'Kanagan Lake, where a line of fast stage coaches, carrying the traffic down to the boundary, and beyond, will eventually be replaced by a railway. The Kalamalka hotel at Vernon is all that the most fastidious tourist could require—well-planned, well-built and well-managed.

No better country for walking, driving, riding, fishing, boating, or shooting—according to the season—can be visited in British Columbia, as will be seen from the casual record of the Trippers' experiences, which, owing to circumstances and the time of year, do not cover half the ground, nor embrace half the amusement above mentioned.

On the afternoon of their arrival, three of the party set forth on foot to spy out the land. An excursion was undertaken along the road leading south from the town. The road passed, apparently, *through* one of the original homesteads of the place, the dwelling-house being on one side of the highway, and the barnyard and outbuildings on the other. An open