

into a bower of beauty, while for utility the grateful soil will provide the gardener with all manner of small fruits in abundance, besides apples, pears, plums, peaches, etc., of the finest flavour and colour; even grape vines grow vigorously and bear freely, though they do not come to maturity. Roots of all kinds grow to perfection with ordinary care.

Scenery.—For varied scenery, ranging from the grand to the pastoral, the district of Sooke is well known. A lovely view may be had from the inlet, of the pine clad shores with their rocky points, the home of the otter and mink, and their peaceful bays where the stately heron may be seen standing in the clear water still as a piece of sculpture, till quick as a flash he darts his long bill into the water, seldom reappearing without a finny prize.



Sooke Harbour Looking East

In passing the little islets in the harbour, in summer all ablaze with the red leaves of the stone crop, the graceful seal, disturbed by the sound of oars or merry voices, silently glides from the rocks where he has been sunning himself into the water, presently to reappear in the wake of the boat, his beautiful eyes full of wonder and friendly inquiry at the strangers. On each side of the harbour are seen the evidences of the indomitable courage and energy of the early settlers, in the bright green oases backed by the sombre pines where the