h Columbia—A Busy Man's Paradise

IN the February number of the Business Man's Magazine appears the following article from the pen of Mr. Herbert Vanderhoof. It deals particularly with the agricultural and commercial advancement of British Columbia in the past few years, and of the many advantages to be found here:

British Columbia is called "The Paradise of the Pacific," and with reason. No more beautiful country exists under the sun that this province, which is indeed Nature's picture-gallery. However, it is a busy Eden—no lazy man's land. Mining, lumbering, agriculture, fruit-growing, fisheries, mixed farming, dairying, all are carried on in the fertile vallevs between the great mountain ranges, and with almost unbelievable success.

Did you ever hear of selling strawberries at twenty-five cents a pound—seven berries weighing sixteen ounces? Did you ever hear of getting seventy cents a dozen for eggs, and ten cents a pound, live weight, for hogs? Did you ever hear of felling trees three hundred feet high and fifty feet in circumference at the base? Did you ever—but what's the use? British Columbia is never believed until it has been seen. Yet here are a few facts that may interest you.

Less than fifty years ago British Columbia was shown on the maps of North America as "New Caledonia," and was held as a fur preserve by the Hudson's Bay Company under lease from the British government. To the world at large it was a hyperborean wilderness, a home of savage men and wild beasts. One day gold was discovered, thousands of treasure hunters rushed in, and sudden and important changes occurred. The territory was created a crown colony with a responsible government, laws were enacted and enforced in accordance with British precedent, roads and trails were made to the "diggings," civic, educational and religious institutions were established, and British Columbia emerged from obscurity and became the Mecca of a vast army of sturdy pilgrims from all parts of the world.

The primary object of the newcomers was gold, and the fortunate ones succeeded in winning about $30,000,000 in the period between 1858 and 1868. But the needs of the miners encouraged other industries, and in due course British Columbia's timber and fisheries came to be regarded as nearly equal in importance with her gold mines. During the halcyon days of placer mining agriculture was ignored—for who would waste energy planting potatoes when a crop of nuggets was to be had? But when the golden harvest became lighter, many miners turned to farming from necessity or from inclination. Cultivated fields and ranches slowly began to appear on the lake fronts and river banks. Those who went into practical farming made money, and today their fine residences, surrounded by well-tilled fields and cultivated orchards, are the envy as well as the incentive of every new settler. The industry and intelligent efforts of these pioneer farmers demonstrated the capabilities of the soil of British Columbia for producing in perfection every cereal, fruit and vegetable that can be grown in the temperate zone.

Advantages Where Irrigation Is Possible.

The agricultural and pastoral lands are not restricted to a small proportion of the total acreage, for Prof. MacCoun, the famous expert, after personal investigation of the ground says: "The whole of British Columbia south of fifty-two degrees and east of the coast range is a grazing country up to 3,500 feet and a farming country up to 2,500 feet, where irrigation is possible." This is a most important statement, and its truth is being confirmed by the practical experience of settlers who have established themselves in the country. Within the boundaries thus roughly defined by Prof. MacCoun the capabilities of the soil are practically unlimited. All of it that is not too elevated to serve only for grazing purposes will produce all the ordinary vegetables and roots. Much of it will grow cereals to perfection, while everywhere the *hardier* varieties of fruits can be successfully cultivated. As far north as fifty-five degrees it has been practically demonstrated that apples will flourish, while in the southern belt the more delicate fruits, such as peaches, grapes and apricots, are an assured crop. Roughly estimated, the extent of these fertile lands may be set down at one million acres, but this figure will probably be found far below the actual quantity capable of cultivation when the country has been thoroughly explored. The anticipation of such a result is justified from the fact that at several points in the mountains, even in the most unpromising looking localities, where clearing and cultivation have been attempted, agriculture has been found successful.

The opportunities for profitable diversified farming are practically unlimited. The demand for every product of the farm is great and ever increasing, the present supply being wholly inadequate for the local market. Under a system of small land holdings, with diversified farming every object of cultivation is highly profitable, because produced by labor that might otherwise be unproductive.

The advantages of diversified farming over special farming are many and important, and there is scarcely a district in British Columbia in which diversified farming may not be carried on more profitably than any special branch of the industry. Large areas which require irrigation, and are now used for grain growing and stock raising will at no distant day be supplied with water, and will afford men of moderate means the opportunity to acquire homes and pursue general farm work under conditions similar to, but more advantageous and profitable than in the eastern provinces.

Irrigation, though far from general, has already wrought a change in agricultural methods in those districts in which it has been introduced, but so far farming under this system does not appeal to the average easterner. Many who have had no experience with irrigation entertain the feeling that it is suited to especial farming only. When they learn the use of water, applied where and when it is needed, and come to understand that there is nothing intricate about it, or anything difficult to be learned in respect to it, they quickly appreciate its advantages. The productive value of land in British Columbia which has good water facilities is easily four times as great as land in Eastern Canada.

Prosperous Homes and Profitable Occupation.

The milder climate contributes to this in a measure, but the great advantage of irrigation lies in being able to control the elements, or, in other words, being independent of them in the conduct of farm work. Diversified farming is essentially practicable where irrigation is required. It enables the farmer to gratify his fancy with respect to crops, and at the same time realize from the land the greatest possible returns. By studying the needs of his locality and adjusting his products to the demand, he derives a continuous income without fear of failure from drought or excessive rain. The general farmer may combine stock raising, which includes dairying, in a small way, hay and grain, poultry, hogs and sheep, with a great variety of small fruits and vegetables. The farmer who understands how to reduce his products to compact form, making his alfalfa or hay field support a few cows, which will yield with their increase a considerable annual return each, a few sheep and hogs, which find a ready sale at all seasons, a small band of hens and turkeys, always saleable at good prices, can easily wait for his fruit trees to come to bearing—he will never find it necessary to confine himself to a special branch. Thousands of men who are struggling for a meager livelihood on exhausted fields elsewhere may find prosperous homes here with profitable occupation in a climate and amidst scenes of beauty unequalled in the world.

Dairying pays handsomely, especially in cases where the farmer is not obliged to employ skilled labor to do the milking and butter-making. The local demand for butter is constantly increasing with the population and the prices secured are far higher than in the east. The province possesses large possibilities for dairying. There are extensive pastoral lands in the interior, while increased cultivation in the lower country will form the necessary feeding ground. With a plentiful supply of good water and nutritious grasses, there is every required facility added. The coast climate is most favorable to the dairying industry. Clover, one of the most valuable plants in cultivation, is practically a weed in British Columbia, west of the Cascade Range. Once established in the soil, it is practically impossible to get it out. Lucerne, or alfalfa, is succeeding admirably. In the Okanagan Valley and many other points, three heavy crops of this nutritious fodder are produced annually.

There are sixteen co-operative and private creameries established in the province, all doing well and earning satisfactory dividends. The provincial government aids the establishment of co-operative creameries by loaning the promoters one-half of the cost of the creamery building, plant and fixtures, repayable in eight instalments with interest at five per cent., the first of such instalments to be paid at the expiration of three years, and the other seven annually thereafter.

Cheese making has scarcely been attempted on a commercial basis, as there is but one cheese factory in the province. This factory is at Langley, and has a daily capacity of about 1,000 pounds of cheese. The article produced is of good quality, and finds ready sale.

Potatoes, turnips, beets, mangolds, and all the other roots grow in profusion wherever their cultivation has been attempted. Sixty-eight tons of roots to a measured acre is recorded at Chilliwack, and near Kelowna, on Okanagan Lake, 20 acres produced 403 tons of potatoes, which sold at $14 per ton, while carrots, turnips, parsnips and beets sell at an average of about 60 cents per bushel.

Wheat is grown principally in the Fraser river valley, and is manufactured at local mills, at Enderby, Armstrong and Vernon. Until the northern interior of the province is brought under cultivation through the construction of railways, the wheat area will not be increased. Wheat is only grown on the mainland coast and Vancouver Island for fodder and poultry feeding. Very good barley is grown in many parts of the province. Oats are the principal grain crop, the quality and yield being good, and the demand bevond the quantity grown. Rye is grown to a limited extent and is used for fodder.

The Average Yields of Grain, and the Price.

The average yields of grain and prices are as follows:

Wheat—25.62 bushels per acre; price $33.15 per ton.

Oats—39.05 bushels per acre.:

Barley—33.33 bushels per acre.

These averages are very much exceeded in many cases, and according to nature of soil and local conditions. In the matter of oats, as high as 100 bushels to the acre is not an uncommon yield.

Poultry raising is carried on to advantage, a profit of $2 per vear on each hen being average. Ducks, geese and turkeys do well in many parts of the country. The prices are excellent for poultry and eggs.

Hop-growing, tobacco-raising, bee-culture, cranberry, celery, sugar beet and melon growing are also carried on successfully. The culture of flowering bulbs on Vancouver Island is a profitable industry, the gains being estimated at over $2,000 per acre.

Cattle-raising on a large scale was once a chief industry of the province, but the tendency of late has been for smaller herds and the improvement of the stock. While the province is capable of raising all the beef, mutton and pork required for home consumption, a large amount is annually imported.

Fruit-growing is one of the most important industries of the province. A few years ago the man who would venture to describe the Kootenays as fruit-growing districts would have been looked upon as a visionary or an imbecile; today all southern British Columbia is acknowledged to be the finest fruit-growing country on this continent. Not only will it produce fruit in abundance, but the quality of its fruit is superior to that grown in any other part of America. Certain varieties of fruit attain perfection in certain localities—for instance, the Fameuse apple develops its best qualities on the island of Montreal—but, taking a collection of British Columbia fruit, it is larger, better colored, and better flavored than any similar miscellaneous lot, the product of any other country.

In 1903 the first carload of apples was shipped to Great Britain, the shipment consisting of Spys, Baldwins, Ontarios and Canada Reds. They arrived in Glasgow, Scotland, on November 9 in splendid condition, and sold at six shillings per box, or about one dollar more a barrel than the choices apples from other districts, reckoning about three and a half boxes to the barrel. The British Columbia apples aroused much interest among fruit dealers, as well as consumers, and many letters were received by the consignors from persons eager to secure shipments of the splendid fruit.

In 1904 the British Columbia department of agriculture forwarded a collection of British Columbia fruit to London, England, for exhibition purposes. It consisted of apples, pears and plums, including the following varieties:

Apples—Fall Pippins, from Lytton; Kings, from Lytton; Vandeveres, from Lytton; Twenty-ounce Pippin, from Lytton; Blue Pearmains, from Lytton; Oranos, from Lytton; Ribston Pippins, from Kelowna and Lytton; Wolfe Rivers, from Kelowna and Lytton; Wealthies, from Kelowna and Lytton; Snows, from Kelowna and Lytton; Kings, from Kelowna; Warners, from Kelowna; Canada Red, from Kelowna; King of Tompkins, from Kelowna; Ontarios, from Kelowna; Jonathans, from Kelowna; Northern Spies, from Kelowna; Baldwins, from Kelowna; St. Lawrence, from Kelowna; Greenings, from Kelowna; Golden Russets, from Kelowna; Alexanders, from Kelowna; Blenheims Orange, from Kelowna; Wagoners, from Kelowna; McIntosh Reds, from Kelowna; Wealthies, from Victoria; Ribstons, from Victoria; Gravensteins, from Victoria; Belle of Boskoops, from Kelowna.

Pears—Beurre Clairgeau, from Kelowna; Easter Beurre, from Kelowna; Beurre d'Anjou, from Kelowna; Howells, from Kelowna.

Victoria sent a collection of plums, and the exhibit as a whole was greatly admired. The London Times, while hesitating to declare the fruit superior to the best English specimens, admitted that they very nearly approached them in color, shape and flavor, even after having travelled six thousand miles by railway and steamship. The Roval Horticultural Society's appreciation of the fruit was shown by the award of the society's gold medal and diploma.

One result of this exhibit was the deluging of Agent-General J. H. Turner with letters from prominent English fruit dealers, anxious to do business with British Columbia fruit-growers. Several of the leading fruit firms have placed large orders for next season's fruit, so it may be confidently stated that fruit trade with the Old Country has been firmly established.

Grapes and Peaches in Southern B. C.

The quality of the peaches and grapes grown in Southern British Columbia can scarcely be excelled, the crisp, dry air and bright sunshine combining to impart a lusciousness of flavor lacking in the fruit of hot countries. The recent discovery of fig trees growing wild on Vancouver Island, near Nanaimo, has suggested the possibility of the successful cultivation of this fruit. Almonds, walnuts, chestnuts, nectarines, apricots, olives and other semi-tropical fruits have been successfully grown. No attempt has been made to grow citrus fruits, but it seems reasonable that the hardy Japanese orange would do well in some of the sunny southern vallevs.

The setting out and care of an orchard until it becomes a source of profit requires considerable outlay of cash and personal exertion, but the results after a few years furnish ample compensation. The cost of setting out twenty acres of apple trees in Southern British Columbia is about as follows:

Twenty acres at $100 an acre, $2,000; fencing, $200; preparing land, $100; trees (168) at 12 1-2 cents each, $121; freight, etc., $20; setting out, at 5 cents each, $48.40. Total, $2,489.40.

Root crops and small fruits, planted between the trees for the first year or two, and red clover up to the fifth year, should more than pay for the trees. The fourth year the trees should produce some fruit—probably $100 worth. The cost of maintenance for five years, with the original cost and interest, would amount to $4,836.22, or $242 per acre, less the value of clover, roots and fruit In the sixth year, the orchard should produce $850 worth of fruit, in the seventh $3,200, and in the ninth $5,800, after which it should pay a net annual profit of $125 to $150 per acre—an assured income for life of $2,500 to $3,000 per year.

This estimate of profits is not based on paper and pencil calculations, but is justified by actual experience of British Columbia fruit-growers. One Kelowna ranch produced over five thousand dollars' worth of fruit from six and one-third acres in one season.

Whether the settler goes into mining, lumbering, stock raising, mixed farming, dairying, poultry-raising, or fruit-growing, he is sure of a good market for his produce in British Columbia. The agricultural industry cannot keep pace with the march of progress, and the thousands of men employed in the mines and lumber camps require more than the farmer can possibly produce. Then there is the Klondike market, and the Oriental trade, so that the future of the province is assured.

Socially, the country is one of the pleasantest on the continent. The "bad man" is conspicuously absent. Peace and good order are universal. The law is strictly administered in the courts, and serious crimes are rare. The provincial police do good service in maintaining a high standard of law and order. Outdoor sports are popular, cricket, lacrosse, hockey, football, baseball, golf and boating being common throughout the province. Churches are in practically every town. Schools are well-provided for in all districts. Taxes are not high. Wages are good. Everything is here to tempt the settler, and to secure him a comfortable and pleasant existence in "The Orchard of the Empire"

The Foreign Trade of Japan

THE Tokio correspondent of the London Times, writing under date of January 5th, says: The foreign trade of Japan during 1907 continued to show the development which has been a marked feature of its record during the past decade. Out of 28 principal staples of export 15 showed increases and 13 decreases, the net result being a total export of 431 million yen—omitting fractions—against 424 millions in 1906, or an augmentation of 7 millions. On the side of imports, out of 28 staples 20 gave increaos and 8 decreases, the net issue being a total import trade of 495 million yen against 419 million for 1906, or an increase of 76 millions. Thus the aggregate trade for 1907 was 926 million yen against 843 for 1906, an increase of 83 millions.

Dividing into four periods the interval of 36 years between 1872—when first the records became trustworthy—and 1907, we have the following results:

1872—Exports, 17 million yen; imports, 26 million yen; total, 43 million yen; average per head of population 1.30 yen.

1880—Exports, 28 million yen; imports, 37 million yen; total 65 million yen; average per head of population, 1.80 yen.

1889—Exports, 70 million yen; imports, 66 million yen; total, 136 million yen; average per head of population, 3.40 yen.

1898—Exports, 166 million yen; imports, 277 million yen; total, 433 million yen; average per head of population, 10.13 yen.

1907—Exports, 431 million yen; imports, 495 million yen; total, 926 million yen; average per head of population, 18.80 yen.

During the first 19 years of this trade the growth was comparatively insignificant. Thus, between 1872 and 1887—an interval of 16 years—it little more than doubled, swelling from 43 millions to 97. But during the next 20 years—from 1888 to 1907—it sprang from 131 millions to 926, a sevenfold increase.

The returns indicate that, although, in 1906, an excess of 5 million yen was recorded on the side of exports, the trade resumed its habit in 1907, imports being greater than exports by 64 millions. The term "habit" may justly be employed, for, during the period of 36 years tabulated above, imports exceeded exports in 22 years and exports exceeded imports in 14 only. Moreover, the excesses of imports aggregated 744 millions of yen and the excess of exports 71 millions, so that the balance against Japan on the whole trade was 673 millions. It is not possible to set forth accurately the sources from which specie was obtained to pay for this excess of purchases over sales. During the past 12 years the balance has been only once in Japan's favor, and the fact causes some uneasiness as suggesting a constant exodus of gold. Whether, and, if so, to what extent, such an exodus is taking place, there is much difficulty in determining, since the movements of specie as shown in the customs returns are complicated by the intrusion of state loans. Doubtless the account should include a large item under the heading of the Japanese mercantile marine's earnings, and the expenditures of foreign residents, tourists and ships, as well as a comparatively small though not unimportant item under the heading of money sent home by Japanese emigrants. The whole question awaits closer crutiny than has yet been bestowed on it. Meanwhile it may be noted that Japan resembles England in this matter of seeming to buy more than she sells.

If the principal staples of import be examined, they are found to consist chiefly of raw materials and machinery. The figures are as follows:

Raw materials, 186 million yen; partially manufactured materials 92 million yen; machinery, locomotives, petroleum, etc., 95 million yen; wholly manufactured articles, 9 million yen; foodstuffs, 79 million yen; miscellaneous, 34 million yen.

With two insignificant exceptions (cotton yarns and iron) every item in the list of raw or partially manufactured materials shows steady increase; while, out of the five categories of wholly manufactured goods, three (notably piece goods) show steady decreases and the remaining two are insignificant. This is in conformity with the tendency of modern Japan to become a manufacturing country. In 1907 she sent out 344 million yen worth of wholly or partially manufactured goods, and she has now almost ceased to purchase from abroad such things as shirtings, cotton prints, woollen cloths, serges, mousseline de laine and cotton yarns, which in the early years used to constitute the backbone of her import trade.

There is no reason to doubt that had circumstances remained normal, the unfavorable balance of trade in 1907 would have been much smaller. But two exceptional events interfered. One was the panic in the United States, which virtually paralyzed that country's demand for raw silk; the other, the depreciation of silver, which partially shut the markets of silver-using countries against Japanese goods. Thus the closing days of December saw great quantites of silk piled up in Yokohama without an outlet, and saw the Chinese and the Koreans deterred from buying Japan's yarns and piece-goods owing to the reduced purchasing power of their silver currency. It is notably with the Orient and the United States of America that Japan's over-sea commerce is developing. During the past decade her trade with the Orient has multiplied five times; her trade with the United States of America four times, and her trade with Great Britain only twice. Hence anything injuriously affecting the United States and China means a temporary loss of her two most important clients' custom.

The movements of shipping go to emphasize the fact that Japan is rapidly gaining for herself a high place in her own maritime carrying trade. Thus, ten years ago, namely, in 1898, the total tonnage of vessels entering her ports was 8 million tons, and out of that figure her own flag stood for only 2 millions. But in 1907 the aggregate was 20 million tons, and Japan's share reached 9 millions. This remarkable development has not been achieved without a measure of state aid, but the money seems to have been well spent, for without the merchant fleet now in her possession she must have been impotent for the purposes of the campaign in Manchuria, which constituted the great turning point of her career.

CLEAN WATCHES WITH BREAD

Perhaps the most novel use to which bread is put may be seen in the great watch factories at Elgin, Ill., where more than forty loaves of fresh bread are required each day. Supt. Geo. E. Hunter of the watch factory is quoted as saying:

From the earliest times in the history of watchmaking it has been the custom of watchmakers to reduce fresh bread to the form of dough. This is done by steaming and kneading. They then use this dough for removing oil and chips that naturally adhere in course of manufacture to pieces as small as the parts of a watch. There are many parts of a watch, by the way, that are so small as to be barely visible to the naked eye. The oil is absorbed by this dough, and the chips stick to it, and there is no other known substance which can be used as a wiper without leaving some of its particles attached to the thing wiped. This accounts for the continued use of bread dough in the watchmaking industry."

From the first day of the year all grades of employees on the Midland Railway have been paid extra for Sunday work. A minimum of half a day's wages is allowed to all who are brought on duty, and if over half a day is worked the full day's pay is allowed.