

carried on to any considerable extent, oats being the principal crop. The ground is put to more profitable use in the growing of fruit, hops (which is a good industry here), sheep, hogs and poultry-raising and market gardening. The district is well supplied by communication, being intersected by the E. & N. and Victoria-Sydney Railways. Like the Esquimalt district, the summers are rather dry, and the lack of rain is a drawback, necessitating careful cultivation. Soiling and growing of fodder crops, like clover and vetches, are of great advantage. Fruit-culture, hog-raising, dairying and hop-growing are the particular industries. A correspondent describes the district as "hills and valleys." Valleys have, as a rule, good black loam soil, on which large crops can be grown. The hilly ground is uncleared, gravelly and, in many places, too rocky for cultivation. The climate resembles very largely that of Esquimalt district, with less rainfall and snowfall. The district is particularly well supplied with roads and schools.

COWICHAN. which includes the districts of Cowichan, Comiaken, Quamichan, Somenos, Chemainus, Sahtlam, Seymour and Shawnigan, is one of the most flourishing settlements on the Island, about forty miles north of Victoria, on the line of the E. & N. Railway, midway to Nanaimo, being centrally situated in regard to markets. The Flockmasters' Association, organized some time ago, has done good work in importing improved stock. The first two mentioned districts front on the water, Sanson Narrows. These, with the following two, have a fair quantity of comparatively clear land.

Cowichan district is perhaps the most important farming district on Vancouver Island, although it does not possess as much open land as Saanich, and is more heavily timbered and requires a greater expenditure in the way of drainage. The climate here is more equable and less subject to drouth in the summer. The population is very largely composed of Old Country people, and, hence, attracts a larger proportion of settlers from the British Isles than from any other section. It has also many attractions from a residential point of view, be-



A Pastoral Scene.

Magnificent oak tree and sheep, Saanich Peninsula, near Victoria, B. C., Vancouver Island.

ing a principal resort for sportsmen, both for fishing and game. The principal fishing lakes and streams are Cowichan, Shawnigan, Quamichan and Chemainus. Grouse, pheasant and deer are very plentiful, while easy access is had to the interior of Vancouver Island for those in search of the wapiti (or American elk), and water fowl are abundant in the bays and marshes round the lake. Portions of the district are underlined with coal, while mineral development has been extensive at Mt. Sicker, near Chemainus, and is promising in several

other sections. The lumbering industry at Chemainus, the coal-mining industry (which has given rise to the outport of Ladysmith), the smelting works at Crofton and Ladysmith, and the gold-copper mining at Mt. Sicker, have created an exceptionally good market for agricultural products, the principal of which are butter (manufactured by the Cowichan creamery at Duncan's), fruits, vegetables and hay. Sheep-raising has also been an important branch of farming in this district, and although it has its drawbacks, it is, on the whole, successful. The lack of a profitable market for wool, owing to there being no woollen mills in the Province, is perhaps the greatest drawback of this industry. Hog-raising and poultry-raising are rapidly coming to the front, and a great improvement has been made in live stock. Considerable small fruit is grown for market. The price for improved land varies from twenty-five to one hundred dollars per acre. The railway land, which sells for from three to five dollars per acre, is

mostly disposed of; that is, what is suitable for agricultural purposes. There is no Government land for pre-emption, either in this or the Saanich district. The timber is principally Douglas fir, broad-leaf maple, alder, cottonwood, oak, arbutus, crab, willow, yew, spruce, hemlock, balsam, and cedar; Douglas fir and cedar predominate. The district is well supplied with railway communication, schools and roads.

Prices of products average about as follows: Eggs, 20c. to 60c. per dozen; butter, 25c. to 35c. per lb.; Poultry—Chickens, \$6 per dozen; geese, \$12 per dozen; ducks, \$6 per dozen; turkeys, 20c. to 25c. per lb.; hay, \$14 per ton; potatoes, \$15 per ton; oats, \$25 to \$30; hogs, 6c. to 7c. per lb., live weight; lambs, \$4; calves, 6c. to 7c. per lb., live weight.

The B. C. Provincial Mining Convention for 1905 will be held in Vancouver. The officers elected are: President, John Keen; 1st Vice-president, J. B. Hobson; 2nd Vice-president, Roland Machin. The mining machinery tariff was referred to committee.

Sale of Shorthorns.

A remarkably successful sale was that of the Shorthorn herd of Mr. Thos. Mercer, Markdale, Ont., held Feb. 24th, in which 51 head made \$7,010; average, \$137.

With railways storm-tied the day previous to the sale and again the evening after, together with a blizzard bordering on zero blowing throughout the sale, which was held in the hotel yard without any kind of shelter, it was a phenomenally snappy crowd of bidders that were in attendance.

The cattle were presented in fair breeding shape without any special preparation.

Capt. T. E. Robson cried the sale with his usual briskness and tact, assisted by Messrs. Shepherdson and Noble, the two local celebrities. The bidding was prompt from start to finish, and although a few of the best cattle fell to bids of buyers from a distance, the majority were purchased by buyers in the vicinity of the sale.

The young Broadhocks bull, imported Broadhocks Golden Fame, topped the sale at \$930, to the bid of A. O. Jacobs, Blyth, Ont. Col. J. A. McGillivray, Uxbridge, claimed the cow, Missie of Avondale 2nd, and heifer calf at \$475. The sale list follows:

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Missie of Avondale 2nd; calved Nov. 5, 1897;	
Col. McGillivray, Uxbridge.....	\$475
Gipsy—Nov. 5, 1897—and bull calf; Geo. Shepherd & Son, Primrose.....	150
Missie Mellerstain; Dec. 24, 1902; Wm. Bowes, Markdale.....	75
Mono Belle—April 14, 1898—and c. c.; W. J. Ferguson, Shelburne.....	180
Rosebud—Nov. 4, 1898—c. c.; W. J. Ferguson.....	185
Village Missie—Jan. 1, 1903—Col. McGillivray.....	85
Bessie—Jan. 10, 1898—and b. c.; W. J. Millson, Goring.....	90
Village Bessie—Feb. 15, 1903—A. Phoenix, Primrose.....	75
Village Blossom 3rd—Feb. 1, 1896—Wm. Shields, Shelburne.....	110
Village Daisy 2nd—July 15, 1900—A. F. Wyevale, Markdale.....	100
Village Lady—May 10, 1903—A. McVittie, Meaford.....	75
Princess Claret—May 17, 1893—H. J. Waines, Mount.....	155
Nora—Dec. 20, 1897—W. Darough, Mono Mills.....	175
Clarissa 2nd—May 22, 1897—George Shepherd & Son.....	175
Claretta—April, 1903—R. Battye, Meaford.....	80

Claret Princess 6th—Feb. 3, 1903—W. J. Ferguson.....	\$ 90
Claret Princess 5th—Jan. 1, 1903—George Shepherd & Son.....	140
Annie Stamford—March 28, 1900—Thos. Scarfe, Rocky Saugeen.....	190
Bessie Stamford—July, 1902—Wm. Doherty, Clinton.....	200
Daisy—Nov. 10, 1899—Dr. Allison, Caledon East.....	145
Daisy Stamford—Nov. 9, 1902—R. H. Porter, Creemore.....	55
Golden Hope 3rd—Dec. 10, 1895—A. F. Wyevale.....	120
Golden Hope 4th—Nov. 19, 1902—M. Elliott, Kimberley.....	95
Ruby—Nov. 12, 1898—A. Nott, Epping.....	165
Flora 89th—March 20, 1894—and b. c.; W. J. McCutcheon, Primrose.....	145
Flora 90th—May 24, 1899—Charles Freston, Meaford.....	180
Lassie Jean—Feb. 19, 1903—M. McKinnon, Hillsburg.....	70
Scotch Lassie—July 10, 1893—Geo. Amos, Moffat.....	150
Village Flora—Jan. 8, 1903—Dr. Sproul, Markdale.....	80
Mina Maid—Nov. 28, 1902—F. Foster, Clarksburgh.....	175
Grey Minnie—April 21, 1900—Alex. Curruthers, Eugene.....	80
Pineapple of Sylvan—Sept. 26, 1902—F. R. Shore, White Oak.....	215
Pearl—Nov. 10, 1900—C. Freestone, Meaford.....	100
Scottish Lass—Jan. 10, 1903—A. McVittie.....	60
Fashion's Fancy 3rd—Feb. 5th, 1900—Wm. Scarfe, Durham.....	115
Fashion's Fancy 4th—Jan. 28, 1903—Wm. Flagon, Ravenna.....	75
Jessina—Oct. 29, 1896—J. J. Richardson, Markdale.....	65
Queen Starling—May 27, 1903—Sam Wright, Markdale.....	50
Lady Starling—June 10, 1903—F. Haughton.....	35
Lady Kintore—July 19, 1900—Jas. Hay, Swinton Park.....	60
Village Starling—May 25, 1903—J. Murdock, Markdale.....	50
Buntroon Maud—April, 1898—J. S. Lyons, Markdale.....	75
Lily Ingram 3rd—Oct. 3, 1899—Thos. Scarfe.....	80
Miss Pearl—Jan. 15, 1894—Dr. Sproul.....	70
Alvina—April 25, 1896—Frank Sleigholme, Augustine.....	75

BULLS.

Broadhocks Golden Fame (imp.)—March 26, 1902—A. O. Jacobs, Blyth.....	936
---	-----

Chief Victor (imp.)—March 9, 1903—Duncan McTavish, Gad's Hill.....	\$200
Royal Victor (imp.)—March 26, 1903—Geo. Shepherd & Son.....	250
Squire Stamford—May 24, 1903—Sam Egerton, Dundalk.....	75
Squire Matchless—April 24, 1903—James Bell, Markdale.....	85
Squire Fashion—April 24, 1903—A. F. Wyevale.....	95

Spring Wheat Tests at Guelph.

Prof. C. A. Zavitz, Experimentalist at the Ontario Agricultural College Farm, reports the results of experiments conducted at the College Farm with the Stanley and Preston wheats, in comparison with other wheats which have done best in the matter of yield, hardness, stiffness of straw, milling qualities, etc., as follows:

Both the Stanley and the Preston varieties of spring wheat have been grown in the Experimental Department at the College for six years in succession. They have never been included among the leading varieties for co-operative experiments throughout Ontario. In comparison with three other varieties they rank as follows in the average results of experiments conducted for six years in succession:

Varieties.	Weight per meas. bush.	Tons of straw, per acre.	Bushels of grain, per acre.
Stanley.....	57.1	1.5	21.1
Preston.....	58.0	1.6	25.2
Red Fife.....	58.3	2.4	32.7
Pringle's Champion.....	59.7	2.3	33.6
Wild Goose.....	61.3	2.3	37.5

The stiffness of the straw can be ascertained by the percentage lodged of each variety in the average experiments for six years, which was as follows: Stanley, 15; Preston, 18; Red Fife, 31; Pringle's Champion, 20; and Wild Goose, 16. This shows the Stanley and the Wild Goose to be rather the stiffest, and the Red Fife somewhat the weakest in strength of straw. Of the varieties here mentioned, the milling qualities of only the Red Fife and the Wild Goose have been determined at the College.

Brandon Fair Dates.

The dates for the holding of the 1904 exhibition of the Western Agriculture and Arts Association at Brandon, Man., is fixed for August 9th to 12th.