

VERNON

The Hub of the Fertile Okanagan, the Land of Fruit and Sunshine, the Garden Spot of the Pacific Province.

The Charming Home of Plenty and Prosperity.

The Okanagan has become so widely and generally known in Manitoba and the Northwest that it is scarcely necessary to preface a description of its principal city with more than the briefest reference to the fertile district which is attracting so much attention as a land unsurpassed in the fertility of its soil, the geniality of its climate, the range of its resources, and the charm of its scenery. Suffice it to say that the Okanagan comprises that productive section of the interior of the Province which extends in a southerly direction from Sicamous, on the main line of the C. P. R., some 125 miles to the foot of Lake Okanagan, and that its climatic, scenic and soil conditions are such as to fully merit the title bestowed upon it, both by partial residents and by disinterested visitors, that of the Garden of British Columbia. Nor should the eye of suspicion be cast upon the superlatives which are so freely used in any description of the Okanagan, for we assure our readers that there is far less likelihood of our being led into exaggeration than there is of our failing to convey an adequate impression of the natural beauties and almost ideal conditions of this favored district.

The district varies somewhat in breadth, averaging about 100 miles, while its total length must be in the neighborhood of 150 miles. It includes a number of smaller valleys—off-shoots, as it were, of the main depression—and also comprises a certain proportion of higher land, not so well suited to horticultural and agricultural purposes. The lands on the hillsides are of rich, sandy loam, while the soil in the valleys is, in the main, alluvial in character. While there are occasional abrupt breaks in the general surface, the country is for the most part gently undulating, and there is a sufficient variety from valley to plain and tableland to give a very pleasing aspect to the whole landscape. The hillsides are, for the most part, thickly wooded, the principal timber trees being the Douglas fir and larch on the higher parts, and yellow pine on the lower levels, intermixed in all cases with a great deal of birch and poplar, while along river bottoms, birch and willow grow profusely. The valleys are, in general, much more open, and comparatively little clearing is required. In their natural state, the ranges are well adapted to afford sustenance to cattle, and, indeed, grazing was the first industry of the early settlers, and is only now being displaced by the more productive fruit-growing and agricultural industries.

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Beautifully situated, forty-six miles south of Sicamous, at a point from which radiate excellent roads leading to the northern towns and settlements, to Coldstream and White Valleys, to Kelowna, and the rich fruit-growing districts

of the south, and to Grand Prairie and Kamloops. Nature has endowed Vernon with as ideal a site as is to be found in the interior of British Columbia, and especially fitted it to hold the most important position among the flourishing towns and cities of the Okanagan.

Occupying a broad flat between higher portions, which serve admirably as locations for handsome residences, Vernon combines decided geographical and commercial advantages, with a charming situation in the midst of encircling hills, and in a region of pools and lakes. Scarcely two miles away is situated the beautiful Long Lake, whose beaches are covered in the summer time with camping parties, comprising whole families, who resort for a few weeks every year to this free life in the open, and also parties of young men who appreciate the pleasures of camp life sufficiently to walk or cycle to and from work morning and evening. Bathing, boating, fishing and attendant amusements are some of the attractions offered by this veritable summer resort of the Vernon people. Swan Lake, some two miles distant in another direction, does not offer the same facilities for camping and bathing, as its banks are low and swampy; but it forms a very attractive spot on the landscape, and is a resort of the hunters in search of ducks and geese.

Well wooded, naturally, and with shade trees adorning its streets, and orchards in flourishing condition on every hand, Vernon in summer forms a picture, the claim of which is increased by the many fine residences set in well-kept grounds, with flowers in profusion everywhere. The main residential portion of the city

taste of those who have selected it as a site for their residences. In its adolescent stages, it used to be a common complaint that the town site was hardly compact enough, presenting a rather scattered appearance. This is being very rapidly amended, and present indications are that, at no distant date, nearly every available lot will be taken up and put to good use. During the



Threshing Scene.

past year a block of land across the creek to the south has been laid out into town lots and disposed of very rapidly. This section, frequently referred to as the Young Addition, may be partly held for speculative purposes, but several have announced their intention of building there in the near future, and it is likely that a number of residences will soon be put up there.

Seventh Street is a part of the city



Money-making Land.

is situated upon a terrace to the eastward, at the base of which a level tract of land forms an admirable location for the principal business avenue. On parallel and intersecting streets, cosy dwelling houses, in neat and attractive rows, present a very inviting appearance, which is increased by the quantities of beautiful flowers that are produced with a minimum of care and oversight. The terrace mentioned above, with its walk in some places almost embowered by surrounding trees and commanding a view of the lower town, is one of the prettiest parts of the city, and fully justifies the

that has been greatly improved during the past few months, and the indications now are that it will soon be one of the prettiest residential streets of Vernon.

Vernon is well supplied with modern conveniences, possessing a water system which is one of the best of its size in the interior. The reservoir has a capacity of 250,000 gallons, while a pressure of 116 lbs. to the square inch gives ample power for effective streams for fire protection. A local telephone system, with fifty phones on the switchboard, has been arranged for, and will soon be in operation, and it is possible that long-dis-

tance connections may soon be made with Armstrong and Enderby.

Vernon also possesses a municipally-owned electric-light system, which is operated very successfully. Steps will probably soon have to be taken, however, to make use of water-power in place of steam as at present, and thus greatly reduce the expenses of the system.

Vernon has a great many important business houses, all thoroughly up-to-date and carrying heavy stocks, the range and variety of which are seldom equalled in cities of similar size. There are five general stores: The Hudson's Bay Company, W. R. Megaw's, W. T. Shatford's, W. F. Cameron's, and Megaw's; two drug stores; a book store, probably the brightest and most complete establishment in the interior; two butcher shops; a hardware store; a furniture store; three livery stables; a grocery store; two carriage and implement stores; two jewellers; a gunsmith; two firms of painters; a harnessmaker; three blacksmith shops; two auctioneers; two bakeries; three doctors; two dentists; three lawyers; four insurance firms; four real-estate firms, and a machine shop. It also has a well-conducted local paper, The Vernon News, which has grown up with the town, and two job-printing establishments.

Five hotels afford excellent accommodation for the travelling public, possessing all the modern equipments necessary to ensure the comfort of the guests.

The Bank of Montreal, which in the past has had a great deal to do with advancing the interests and furthering the development of the whole valley, affords every facility for the transaction of financial business, and provides a supply of cheap capital for legitimate enterprises.

One of the most important industries is D. Smith's sash and door factory, an establishment which has just been extended so as to make possible the manufacture of as many as a hundred doors a day, as well as a proportionate amount of miscellaneous products. This factory is supplying a large part of the lumber and fittings used in building operations throughout the valley.

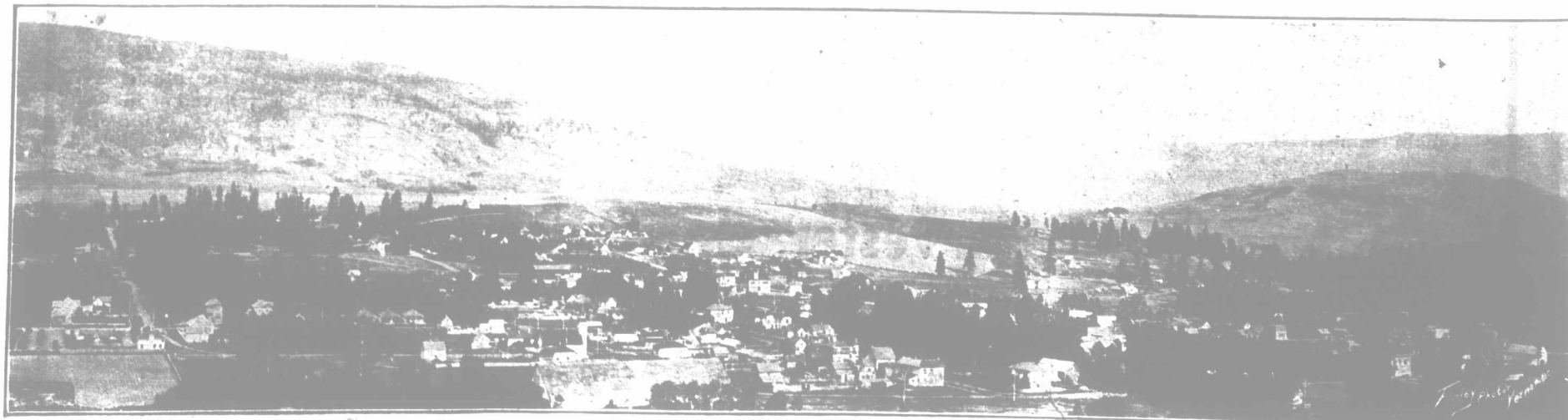
The local flour mill, under the management of the Columbia Flouring Mills Co., Ltd., of Enderby, supplies a large part of the flour consumed in Vernon and district, and affords the farmers of the neighborhood a convenient market for the disposal of their products.

There is also a cigar factory, where tobacco of Okanagan growth is utilized, and a pork-packing establishment, which will probably develop steadily, and become one of the most important industries of the district.

It may, perhaps, not be out of place to mention that there is every prospect of a large brewery starting in the city very shortly. This establishment, which would be conducted on a large scale, would do its own malting, and also aim to supply other provincial breweries with the malt, which they must now import from outside of British Columbia.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

There are few cities of similar size so generously endowed with public buildings as Vernon. Nor is it lacking in any of those institutions which pertain to every well-ordered, modern city, and which go far towards giving it a leading position amongst the other towns of the district. Not only is it the seat of the Provincial Government offices, the court house, and a branch of the hospital for the insane,



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