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PRINCE GEORGE



AND DISTRICT

卐 Issued by the 卐
BOARD of TRADE
PRINCE GEORGE
B.C.
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PRINCE GEORGE

BRITISH
COLUMBIA



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Foreword

IN presenting this little booklet to inquirers for information regarding the youthful city of Prince George and the immense virgin district it serves, the Prince George Board of Trade determined to avoid the circulation of flamboyant statements and extravagant claims regarding the prospects for newcomers hereabouts. We have learned by experience the injurious effects of "booming" propaganda by irresponsible parties. The public may rest assured that every statement made herein can be substantiated by irrefutable proof.

"THE LAST WEST."

"The Last Great West" may be accurately applied to the Fort George District. Within its boundaries is confined the largest and most fertile area of virgin agricultural land and timbered stretches remaining in Western Canada.

Roughly stated, the southern boundary of the Fort George District lies about 70 miles south of the city of Prince George; its western boundary about 100 miles; on the East is the Alberta boundary, and to the North is included the entire Peace River country lying within the province of British Columbia.

FACTS ABOUT PRINCE GEORGE.

The city was incorporated in May, 1915.

Electric light plant and water system are owned by the city.

Several miles of sidewalks and graded streets are being substantially added to this year.

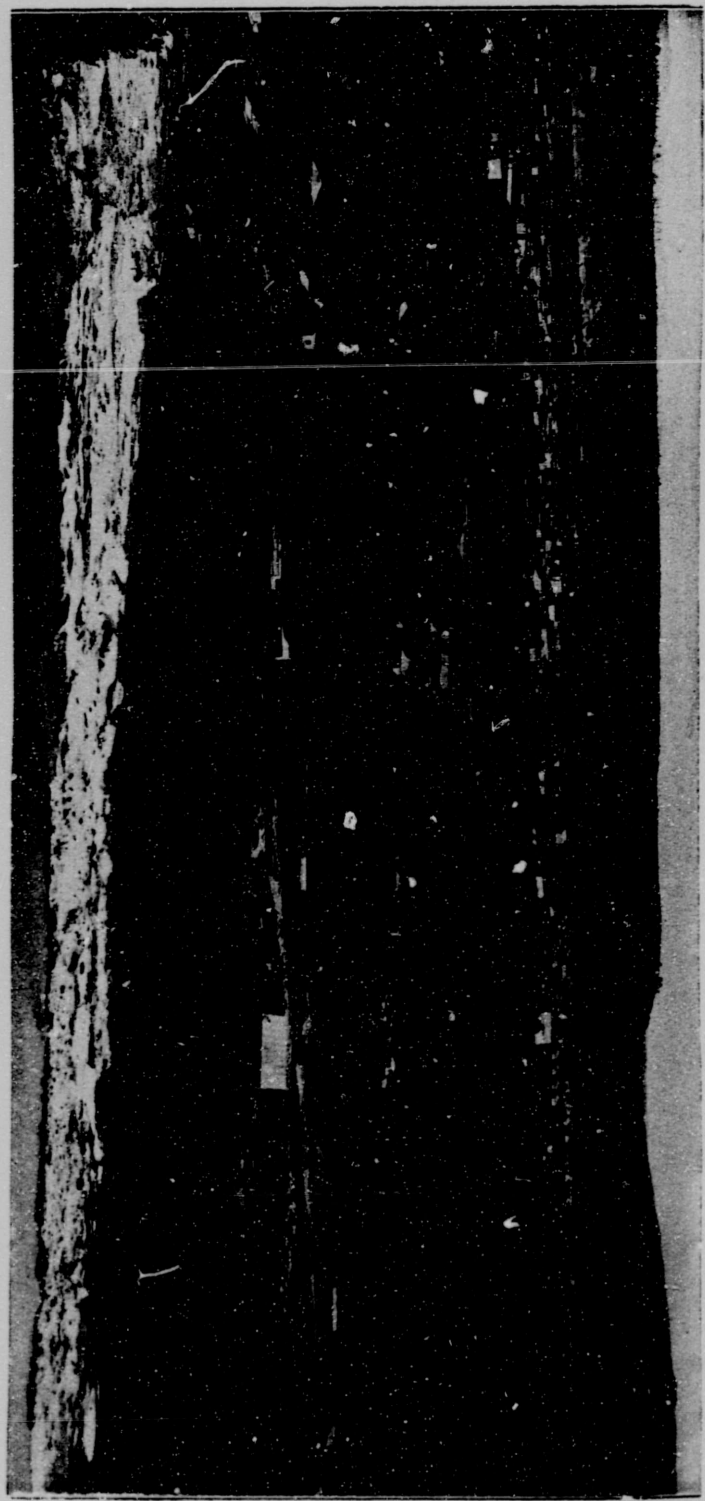
Prince George has excellent educational advantages. Our Public and High Schools rank with the best in the rapid and thorough advance of pupils.

Prince George has three churches each with a resident minister.

Branches of the Bank of Montreal and The Royal Bank of Canada occupy their own fine premises.

Photo by Strimouson

A View of Prince George, Taken from the Height North of the City.



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Every line of mercantile business is represented—four general stores, one department store, two ladies' and children's wear stores, three clothing stores, two hardware stores, two farm implement firms, two butcher shops, automobile agencies and garages, plumbing and tinsmithing shop, furniture stores, confectionery and fruit stores and a score of other business establishments.



Hotel Alexandra, Prince George.

Prince George is particularly proud of its leading hostelry, the Hotel Alexandra, the most modern and best equipped institution of its kind in the province outside of the coast cities.

UNRIVALLED LOCATION.

Due to its unrivalled location at the confluence of two great rivers, and as the divisional point of two railway systems, Prince George must become the distributing centre for the whole of Central British Columbia, including the vast undeveloped Peace River section of the province.

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway which will connect the North country with the cities of the Pacific coast is now being rapidly built towards Prince George from the south by the British Columbia Government. Premier Oliver has stated that the road will be completed to Prince George in 1920, and this is a reasonable prediction from the fact that 80 per cent of the grade is already completed. The Pacific Great Eastern Railway will be pushed northward from here as rapidly as possible to

connect at the Alberta boundary with the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway.

OPPORTUNITIES.

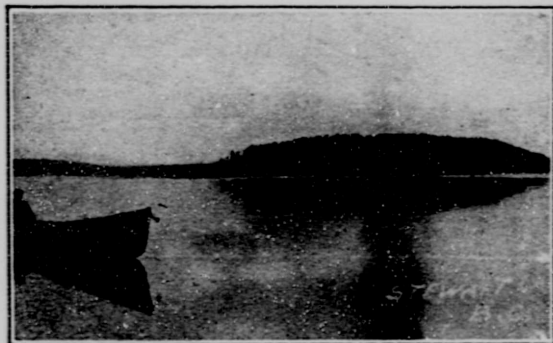
Any inquiries regarding business and industrial openings will be gladly answered by the Secretary, Board of Trade, Prince George, B.C.

GOVERNMENT LANDS.

Pre-emption or homestead lands are confined to surveyed lands. Inquirers may write the Government Agent, Prince George, B.C., or the Department of Lands, Victoria, B.C., for maps and full information.

The Government has recently opened a Land Settlement Area of 20,000 acres near Prince George. Applications of returned soldiers are given preference in allotting this area.

Much of the choice land near Prince George is held by land companies who offer it for sale at from \$6 to \$15 per acre. The Provincial Government recently passed legislation mak-



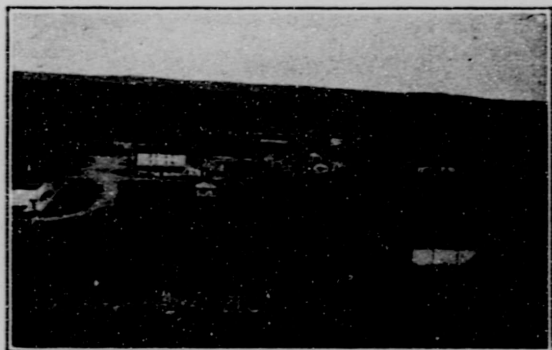
Stewart Lake, a Fisherman's Paradise.

ing it compulsory for owners of idle agricultural land to put a certain percentage of it under cultivation. Failure in this regard will result in the Government taking control of the land at a price fixed by a competent land cruiser. This provision is having the effect of starting a land-selling campaign among the land companies.

It is stated that other settlement areas will be opened by the Government in various parts of the district.

THE NECHACO VALLEY.

The Nechaco Valley, lying immediately west of Prince George, is the oldest farming settlement in Central British Columbia. Here are found fine farms of several hundred acres of varied products. The district is ideally adapted for mixed farming, and a government creamery will be established at an early date.



The Town of Vanderhoof in Nechaco Valley.

Vanderhoof is the chief town in the Nechaco Valley, and is a hustling, ambitious centre.

Other towns are Fort Fraser and Fraser Lake.



Mountain Sheep East of Prince George.

Agriculture

IT has been said that "comparisons are always odious," but to write of the Farming, Stock Growing and Home-Making conditions incident to the Prince George and Great Central Valley District of British Columbia, the narrative would truly be incomplete were not a parallel set up between it and other portions of the Great Dominion of Canada, and conclusions drawn.

As to Farming, the whole structure is based upon the fact that this part of the country has a well-balanced and dependable soil—perhaps as well-balanced in the matter of plant food nutriment (except in places where the humus has been somewhat burnt out of the soil) as can be found on the continent, and which is incontrovertibly proven by the fact that it is a



Oats Yield Bountifully in This District.

natural legume-producing soil, the wild pea-vine and vetch, as well as the red and white clovers—the first two growing indigenously and the latter two wedging in wherever open spaces permit throughout the whole region, the soil seemingly having been self-inoculated with the necessary nitrogen for their highest development.

Another fact of the highest importance, as showing that this region will never know the disastrous drought-producing seasons incident to other vast areas of the country East of the

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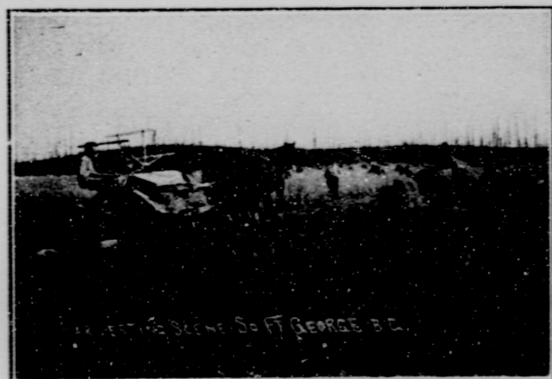
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Mountains, is this: It has recently been scientifically demonstrated at the Washington Agricultural College, in the United States, that

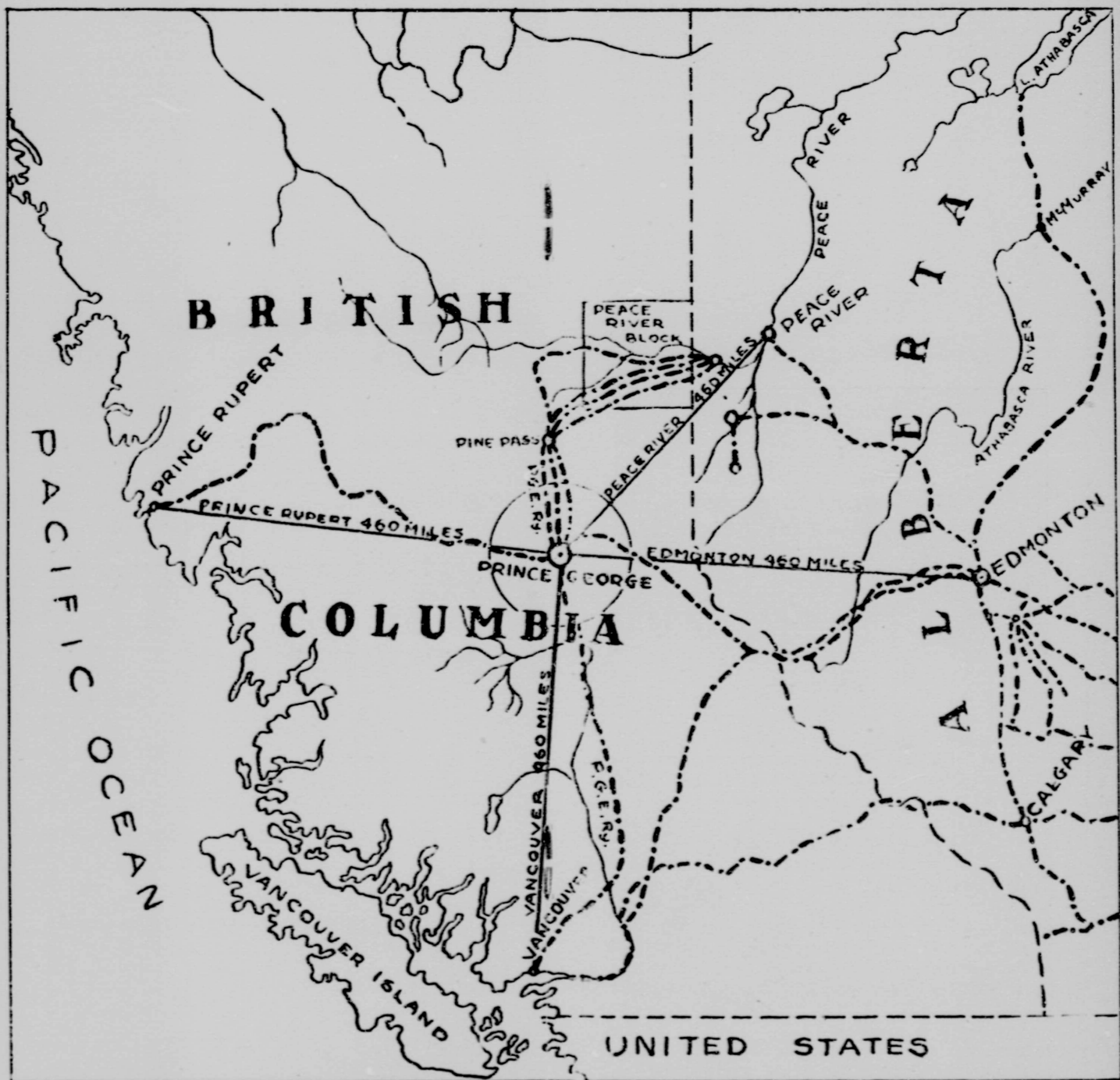


Broad Fields and Modern Methods.

but few of the leguminous plants, and especially red clover, can or will propagate or even live where the moisture content of the soil at any stage of its growth falls below 15 per cent. But the disposition or ability of said plant to hold and flourish in the soil here year after year places this portion of the country almost in a class by itself, neither burning up in the summer nor freezing out in the winter. We know of no other portion of Canada (or it might be said of the north temperate zone) where there is such a uniformly distributed precipitation—moderate, yet generous enough to meet all growth requirements. And also, thus carrying within and of itself, through its own legume-producing qualities—the best of the elements for its own soil upkeep and upbuilding—while at the same time producing



Nulki Lake, West of Prince George.



An engraver's error in the above map makes the distances from Prince George to Edmonton, Prince Rupert, Vancouver and Peace River 460 miles. The exact figures are:

George to Edmonton, 465 miles; to Prince Rupert, 460 miles; to Vancouver, 455 miles, while the exact mileage to Peace River is somewhat less than 460 miles.

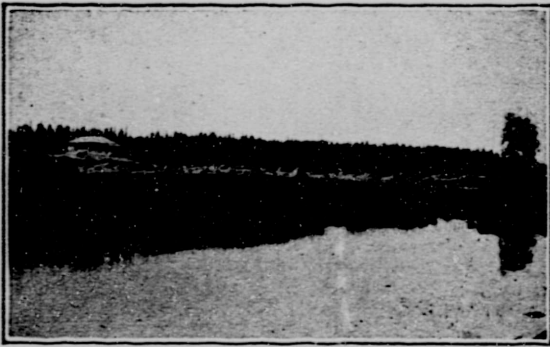
HOME-MAKING

the most valued of crops for the feeding and production of the higher class of animals.

Thus is afforded us the physical proofs that crop failures from drought are, and will be, unknown in this region. What is true of the foregoing grasses is equally true of timothy and others of the valuable grass crops to an extent rarely equalled elsewhere in the world.

STOCK-RAISING.

STOCK-RAISING, of course, must depend upon the very conditions just mentioned for its successful operation, along with soft and moderate climatic conditions in the main. It cannot be otherwise that this portion of British Columbia must and will be another Scotland for the evolution and maintaining of



A Settler's Home.

the highest type of domestic animals. Even though the winters here, as there, be a little long, and the feeding season also, yet here, as there, the feed can be obtained in such abundance that the gain is in favor of the lands of the abundant feed, and as a consequence lengthier communion and association of the herdsman with his charges. As it is an established fact that the highest type of domestic animals,—those that have brought civilized men around the world to see, and if possible to obtain, have all had their origin in the land of deep snows, rich natural grasses, and where their creators—owners and herdsmen—wear woollen clothing.

And let it be said that the chronicler of the future will record, and from the very nature of things this part of the world will yet furnish the foundation herds to which the less favored portions of the world will turn for their herd-heading animals.

CAN a country so produce all of the wise than most necessary for home-making also an established conditions are the most of the highest does man find his And as an animal is grass," here must grow conditions, the highest where man in modest "Far from market and mutable laws of his Creator himself.

A country as we see the berries and the most and most beneficent every hand indigenous their attention upon ing, as we believe, in the soil from which they in which they abound many, of "The conditions and bless, are scattered flowers." It is up to conditions are here—it is up to you.



The Fraser River

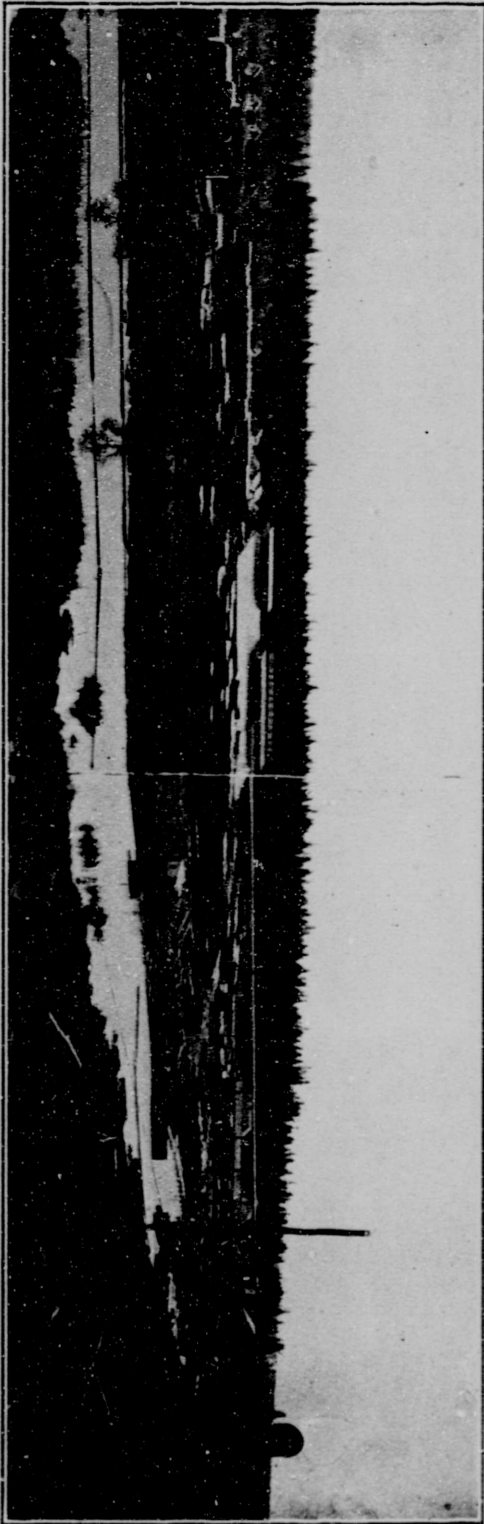
HOME-MAKING CONDITIONS.

CAN a country so favored as to afford and produce all of the foregoing hold otherwise than most elements and conditions necessary for home-making as well? As it is also an established fact that where the conditions are the most favorable for the production of the highest domestic animal, there also does man find his highest material estate. And as an animal is flesh, and "all flesh is grass," here must grow up, in and around such conditions, the highest types of rural homes, where man in modest and conscientious estate, "Far from market and forum," under the immutable laws of his Creator, becomes in turn a creator himself.

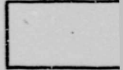
A country as we see it, where the grasses, the berries and the flowers—as the sweetest and most beneficent gifts of God—spring on every hand indigenous from the earth, forcing their attention upon mankind, and proclaiming, as we believe, in irrefutable argument that the soil from which they spring, and the region in which they abound, contain many, very many, of "The conditions that soothe and heal and bless, are scattered at the feet of man like flowers." It is up to the man himself. The conditions are here—the "makings" at hand; it is up to you.



The Fraser River at Prince George



The Giscome Lumber Mill, 25 Miles East of Prince George.



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Lumbering

THE amount of merchantable timber contiguous to the Fraser River, East of Prince George, is estimated at about twenty-five billion feet, and consists of Douglas fir, spruce, balsam, cedar, hemlock and cottonwood.

There are eighteen sawmills located between Prince George and McBride, a distance of 146 miles. The capacity of these mills ranges from 15,000 feet to 150,000 feet per day. The United Grain Growers sawmills at Hutton, one of the largest and most up-to-date mills in the West, has a capacity of about 150,000 feet of finished lumber per day.

The lumber cut in Fort George district in 1917 was 12,432,000 feet B.M., and the output for 1918 was 27,584,000 feet B.M. Practically 95 per cent of the total cut consists of fir and spruce, the balance being cedar, balsam and cottonwood.

The Fort George district has within its confines more pulp material than any other area

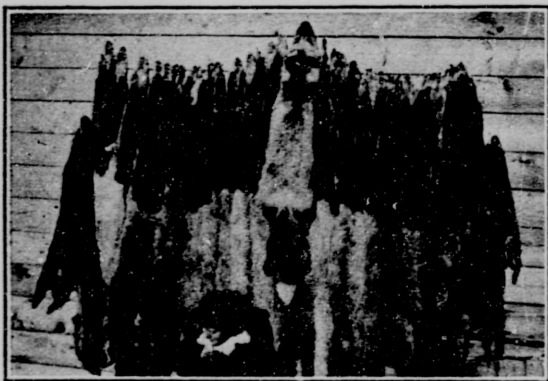


Logging Near Prince George.

in the Northwest, and is adjacent to some of the finest waterpower sites for pulp and sawmills to be found in British Columbia, all within convenient distance of the Fraser River and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. Other mill sites with water power available are Giscome on the Fraser River, and another on the Nechaco River, both about 25 miles from Prince George. One particularly fine site is at Willow River, with an unknown quantity of pulp timber in the vicinity.

The entire country surrounding Prince George is particularly favorable for lumbering. The output has increased greatly during the last few years, and a further increase is confidently looked for in the future, until this is one of the busiest and most important centres for lumber manufacturing in British Columbia.

More or less timber suitable for manufacturing uses is found in every part of the district, and for this reason small mills could be profitably established in almost any section. During the winter season the agriculturist would find the operation of a small mill a decidedly lucrative business, as there is always a local demand for timber products to be used in the general development and building operations of the district.



A Settler's Catch of Fur.

The Fur Trade

OLDEST of all our industries is the fur trade, dating back over one hundred years to the establishment of fur trading posts by the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort George, Fort St. James and other points.

For many years fur was practically the only marketable commodity in this section for export and the only medium of trade. Gradually with the settling up of the country and the coming of white trappers, the free trader made his appearance to compete with the Hudson's Bay Company for the valuable furs of this sec-

tion, until Canadian natives travel for furs for cash, in consequence of remote sections travelling c

Furs have until at the present higher have caused trappers the spot where to be found

In quality and beaver marten especially grades comparable.

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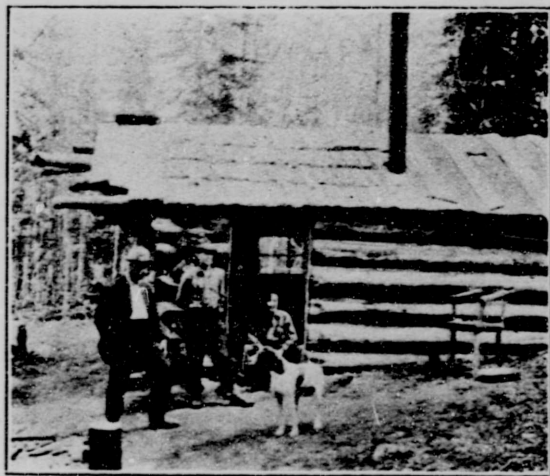


tion, until at the present time at least a dozen Canadian and American firms have representatives travelling through the country buying furs for cash. The old system of fur trading has, in consequence, disappeared except in very remote sections too difficult of access for the travelling cash buyer.

Furs have increased enormously in value, until at the present time they are at least 500 per cent higher than in 1914. These high prices have caused such an increase in the number of trappers that at the present time there is no spot where the fur-bearing animals are likely to be found that does not have its trapper.

In quality our marten, fisher, lynx, foxes and beaver rank with the very highest. Our marten especially are very fine, and the better grades compare favorably with the Russian sable.

During the past season the furs exported from Prince George amounted to approximately \$400,000, but with the closing of beaver throughout the province this year's production will scarcely total half of last season's.



A Hunter's Cabin in the Hills.

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Mining Possibilities

THE mineral resources in areas more or less contiguous to Prince George are to a certain extent an unknown quantity. Comments, favorable and unfavorable, have from time to time been made, usually as the result of a superficial examination.

Histories of all mining areas record periods of "wildcat" exploitation. This locality has been exceptionally unfortunate in this respect. During the real estate excitement concurrent with the progress of the G. T. P. westward, each investor appeared to be of the opinion that mining property, in connection with his real estate holdings (particularly if in the same



A Prospector's Home.

locality), was the proper combination. He used about as much discretion in the selection of one as the other. This furnished a field rife with possibilities for that class of mining promoters who infest all new communities and to whom most of the fake exploitations can be traced. It also resulted in the expenditure of large sums, a small percentage of which was devoted to sinking prospecting pits in anything hard enough to require drilling, the favorite neighborhood being the vicinity of mountains. Naturally a bad impression was made upon the investor.

That there are mineral deposits in this area worthy of attention is fully substantiated by some of the best mining men who have made

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any extensive examination of it. As yet, with the exception of the placer grounds to the south, very little active prospecting has been done.

Immediately to the west of Prince George where diorite and more acidic eruptives are in evidence, a large number of test pits have been put down. They all show values in gold and silver with some of the rarer minerals. In only a few instances have they shown sufficient value to suggest concentration, but as in most cases analysis was made mostly from surface samples, little else could be expected. To determine the extent and value below surface effort by shaft sinking and tunnelling is too expensive and requires too much time. The proper method is the diamond drill. The field could be thoroughly and cheaply explored in this way and the location and extent of commercial ore determined.

Considerable development has been done in quartz veins in the area, some of them showing evidences of good values. They, with the large bodies of low grade ore, will make that camp a large producer.

The placer areas to the south need no comment. The better known creeks have all been held under lease for some years. Comprehensive operations are contemplated in a couple of instances and the remainder will no doubt follow when transportation is available.

They by no means exhaust the placer possibilities. There still remain large areas sufficiently valuable to warrant operations.

In the same area and extending southeasterly as far as Barkerville and probably beyond, are a series of schists, known locally as Cariboo schists. These, especially in the vicinity of the igneous rocks largely in evidence, are sufficiently mineralized as to be considered ore. They appear to be the source of most of the placer gold found in creeks cutting through them. Only in a few instances have they been tested, but in each case they have shown sufficient values to warrant mill operations. They are extensive and can be easily milled. Their values range from two to six dollars per ton. Zones in Dirote assay as high as seventeen dollars, and quartz veins from twenty to one hundred dollars per ton. Altogether is promised a large and successful future for this area.

Hunting and Fishing

BIG GAME hunters of international repute say that in no other part of the American continent is game so plentiful and hunting conditions more ideal than in the section of British Columbia north and east of Prince George. Here are to be found the grizzly bear, the moose, the caribou, mountain sheep and mountain goat. Within that district are hundreds of square miles of semi-mountainous country rarely visited by man, and here the lordly denizens of the wild multiply almost unmolested.

In all parts of the Fort George District moose, deer and black bear abound, while the smaller species of game are also plentiful.

The hundreds of lakes, rivers and streams literally teem with fish of many varieties. In the lakes the Dolly Varden trout can be taken in almost any number desired and with almost any sort of bait or fly.

To the settler the problem of meat and fish is one of easy solution.



King of the Caribou Band.