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The
Cowichan District



A Booklet issued by the Board of Trade of Duncan, B. C.,
Giving a Description of the Possibilities and
Conditions of this Beautiful District



THE COWICHAN RIVER

TIMBER

WATER
POWER

DAIRYING

POULTRY
RAISING

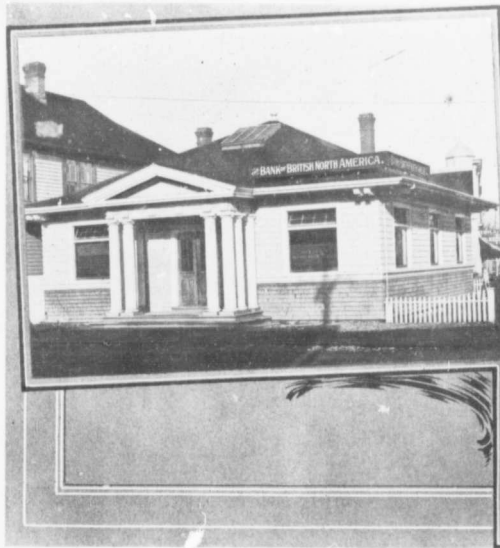
FRUIT
GROWING

FISHING

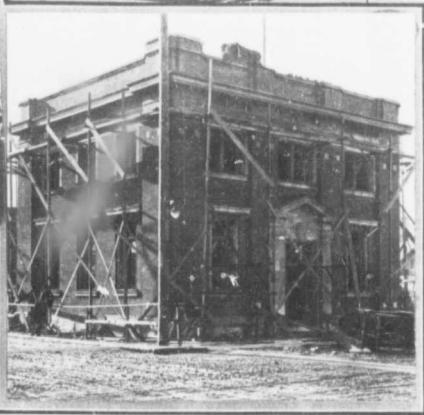
SHOOTING

THE
COWICHAN DISTRICT

A BOOKLET ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE
OF DUNCAN, B. C., GIVING A DESCRIP-
TION OF THE POSSIBILITIES AND
CONDITIONS OF THIS BEAUTI-
FUL DISTRICT



THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA



THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE — Erected 1913



Foreword

This pamphlet is issued by the Board of Trade of Duncan in order to endeavour to satisfy the constant and increasing demand for information with regard to conditions and prospects in the Cowichan district. The secretary of the Board of Trade and other public officials receive a large number of enquiries every week from people interested in this district in one way or another.

No attempt has ever been made to "boost" the district. There has never been a land "boom" in this part of Vancouver Island. Development has been gradual and steady, being brought about by natural means, and no effort at extensive publicity has ever been put forward.

This booklet is not published with the sole object of setting forth the many attractions of the district, but rather to state the conditions and possibilities in the most matter of fact and truthful manner.

The Board of Trade, by whom this pamphlet is issued, is an incorporated body with a membership roll including all the prominent merchants and business men of the city of Duncan itself and a large number of residents from the surrounding country. The statements made herein can therefore be relied upon, and may be taken as accurate.

1914

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which is by M. W. Thompstone.



THE COWICHAN MERCHANTS' STORE

THE DUNCAN GARAGE



IN the year 1914 it is hard to realize that it is only a very few years ago that a leading English daily paper referred to Vancouver Island as "an island on the west coast of South America." That was during the period of abysmal ignorance of the average Englishman with regard to the British Empire.

Then came the period which one may call "the lady of the snows" period. At this time the Old Country was beginning to know the whereabouts of the various portions of the Empire, but had but a very vague idea of the conditions prevailing in them. It is only within the last five years that the outlying portions of the British Empire have been appraised at their true worth by the man in the street in the United Kingdom.

On a smaller scale, the same ignorance prevailed in the east of Canada about the west until a few years ago. The boys of the family who "went west" were considered bold adventurers indeed. The west was regarded almost as a different country to the east, and as for British Columbia, since it was necessary to pass the Rocky Mountains to get there, it was considered almost in another hemisphere.

Within a decade a marvellous change has taken place. The world has grown smaller—the distance from east to west of this continent has contracted. This transformation has been brought about by the building of railways east and west and north and south, until the country has no less than three transcontinental systems—one of which has spanned the continent for twenty-five years and more, while the other two will join

Atlantic to Pacific within a couple of years; and by the enormous advances which have been made in the field of engineering science, making it possible to build mighty liners which can cross the Atlantic Ocean in less than a week.

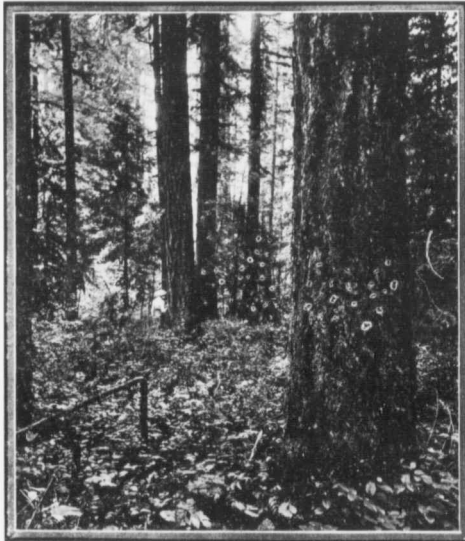
Under modern conditions, the ignorance as to conditions of life in Canada has been rapidly giving way to a fuller understanding of the vast possibilities of this mighty land.

Nowadays, emigration is not looked upon as the last resort of the workingman whose chances of advancement are small in the Old Country, or as a means of getting rid of ne'er-do-wells. The vast improvements which have been made in the speed and comfort of ocean and railway travel have brought the overseas dominions much closer to the Mother Country, and have given opportunities for studying conditions and chances of money

making in the British dominions beyond the seas. The emigrant is no longer pitied by friends at home. He is rather envied the opportunity to share in the prosperity of the dominion to which he goes.

Of all the countries which has attracted emigrants during the past decade, Canada holds first place. Thousands of these incoming settlers take up land on the prairies every year. For the most part, those who decide to remain in this part of Canada are men without means. Many of them eventually reach a state of prosperity which could never have been within their reach in their native land, but the struggle is a hard one, and the surroundings are, in most cases, uncongenial to a man of culture.

British Columbia, for some years, seemed to lag somewhat behind the other provinces of Canada in the matter of attracting the at-



A STAND OF DOUGLAS FIR



MENZIES FALLS

tion of Great Britain and Europe. Today, British Columbia attracts more attention than any province in Canada. It is the third largest province in the Dominion, and it is acknowledged to be the richest in potential wealth of all the provinces. British Columbia is famed the world over for its enormous potential wealth, its minerals, its forests, waterpower and fisheries; for the awe-inspiring grandeur of its mountain peaks and valleys; for the splendid opportunities for sport of all kinds which it affords, such as mountaineering, big game shooting and fishing, and last, but by no means least, it is famous for its mild and equable climate.

Vancouver Island has its full share of all these attractions. It has come to be called "the playground of Canada" from the fact that the conditions of life on this island are as nearly ideal as a man could desire.

The Cowichan District

In all Vancouver Island there is no more attractive centre than the Cowichan district. This district, which comprises some 500 square miles in all, is situated 40 miles by rail and 42 by road north of the city of Victoria, the capital of British Columbia.

It is bounded on the south by the electoral district of Esquimalt, on the north by the electoral district of Newcastle (Ladysmith), on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the east by the Straits of Georgia. The southern boundary of the district is 27 miles by rail to Victoria and slightly more by the trunk road, while the northern boundary is 20 miles from Nanaimo by rail and road. The most thickly settled part of the district lies towards the east coast of the Island, for this section of it is traversed from end to

end by the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, which is now a part of the great Canadian Pacific system. On the railway line within the borders of Cowichan there are nine principal stations. Beginning at the south these are: Koenig's (Shawnigan Lake), Cobble Hill, Hillbank, Cowichan Station, Koksi'ah, Duncan, Somenos, Westholme and Chemainus. Of all this large section of country, Duncan is the central town and distributing point. The C. P. R. runs through the Cowichan Valley from end to end.

The development of the western section of the district is now going ahead rapidly with the construction of the Canadian Northern Island line. This line will open up large tracts of the most magnificent timber to be found anywhere in the world. Thousands of acres of this timber lie within the boundaries of Cowichan and will, in time, be a most

valuable asset as the country is opened up. Up to the present time, development on Vancouver Island has been chiefly confined to the east side of the island.

At the outset, it may be said that the district is unique in Western Canada, if not in the British Empire. It enjoys all the advantages of a mild and equable climate. The average rainfall is slightly more than that of Victoria, viz., 31 inches per year, which is slightly more than the rainfall of the south of England. The summer can be relied upon to give many weeks of beautiful weather, the heat of the sun being always tempered by the cool breezes from the Pacific; while the winter lasts but a few short months. The rainfall is confined in an average year almost entirely to the months of November, December, January and February.

The Cowichan district is primarily a resi-



TZOUHALEM HOTEL



HOTEL DUNCAN

dential district. It is the only rural residential district in western Canada. The population is roughly about 4000, consisting to a large extent of retired officers of the British Army and Navy and their families, or people who have made their money on the prairies of the west, and are attracted to the district by the social advantages and equable climate.

But, while it is true that the population of the Cowichan district is largely made up of people of means, to whom it is not altogether necessary to work for a living, it must not be imagined that the district is lacking in industries.

Agriculture

Cowichan has long been famous as one of the best agricultural districts of the west. As

a dairying centre it has for many years held its own with the best districts on the mainland.

At the 1913 Fall Show conducted by the Agricultural Society at Duncan, there were magnificent exhibits of dairy cattle, while at the principal agricultural shows on the Pacific coast, local farmers have been successful in carrying off many of the most highly valued prizes.

The raising of hogs is another branch of agriculture which is found to be profitable here, and there are a number of farmers who go in almost exclusively for this business.

Of recent years the poultry industry has come to the front here, and, fostered by the splendid work of the Cowichan Creamery Association, the district has become a very important one for this form of agriculture.

Fruit growing has been somewhat neglect-

ed of late years, but the splendid exhibits of apples, plums, grapes, pears, etc., at the 1913 agricultural show, demonstrate that the enormous possibilities for this industry in Cowichan are beginning to be realized.

Market gardening is beginning to attract a good deal of attention. The soil and climate are eminently suited for the production of vegetables and small fruits.

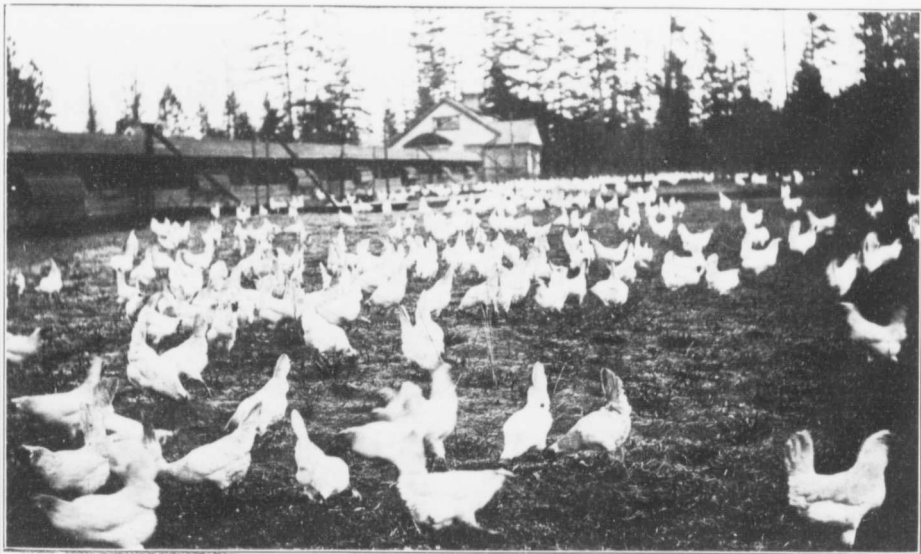
In other parts of this pamphlet will be found special articles dealing more specifically with the various phases of agriculture carried on here.

Poultry

During the last few years this form of agriculture has been attracting more and more attention the world over, and has now taken

its place as one of the most important branches of farming. In former years poultry raising was regarded as an essential part of every farm, but it is only within the last ten years that people have specialized in this form of industry to any great extent. Cowichan is, without doubt, one of the finest poultry farming districts in western Canada. As evidence of this, it may be mentioned that at the recent International laying contest which was held in Victoria, no less than seven out of the first nine places came to Cowichan district. The competition was open to the whole world, and there were competitors from Australia, New Zealand and other far-off parts of the world.

There are many reasons to account for the popularity of the poultry business in Cowichan. In the first place, it would be hard to find a climate anywhere in the world



WHITE LEGHORNS ON A POULTRY FARM

so eminently suited to poultry raising as that of Vancouver Island.

We have a moderate rainfall, and very light snowfall—in fact, in some years there is no snow at all. These conditions make it possible for the birds to run in the open air all the year round, whereas in eastern Canada it is necessary to confine them during the cold winter months. The soil of this valley is most suitable for poultry. It is found to be extraordinarily fertile for clover and green feed, and has good, natural drainage in almost every portion of the district.

There is a practically unlimited demand for the poultryman's products. In the winter months, fresh eggs command very high prices—75 cents per dozen being no uncommon figure to be reached, while in the spring and summer the price never drops below 25 cents per dozen.

But, while there are good profits to be made in the poultry business, it must not be imagined that it is a business which needs no study or training. On the contrary, it is the general opinion of all successful poultrymen that very careful study is necessary in order to make a success of the business.

Estimate of Capital Required

It is generally estimated that the most suitable amount of land for a beginner in the poultry business is about ten acres. This amount of land is sufficient for one thousand birds. As it is not wise for the beginner to start in the business with anything like this number of birds, it is not necessary for the whole of this acreage to be cleared at the beginning. It is very difficult to give anything like a correct estimate of what capital is necessary to start in at this busi-

ness, for the simple reason that so much depends on the circumstances of the individual. The estimate of cost which we give below is intended to be of some use as a guide, but it is meant to apply to the case of a married man of average tastes with small family. A bachelor, who is prepared to more or less rough it in a "shack" could no doubt begin with much less capital.

The initial expenses may be roughly estimated as follows:

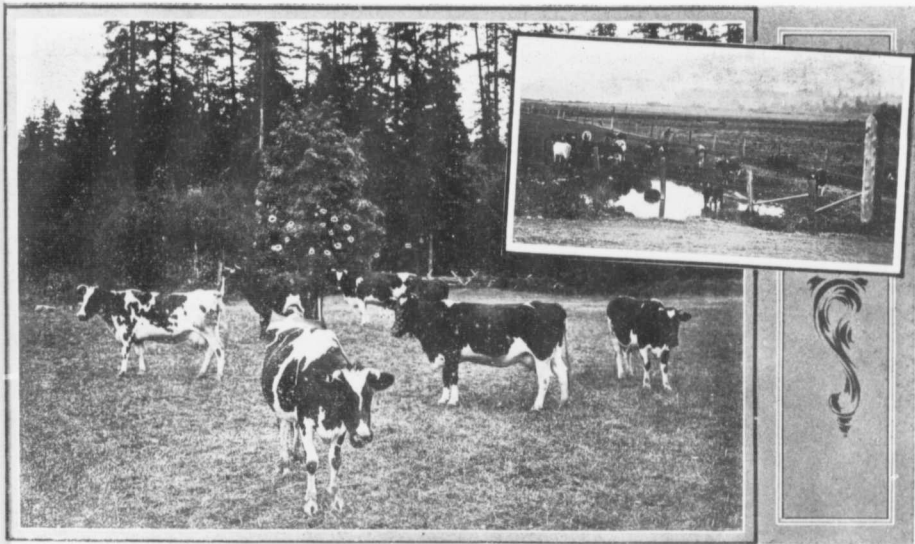
10 acres (5 cleared)	\$2,000
Dwelling, stable and woodshed	1,500
Furniture and horse	750
Poultry houses and granary for first year ..	400
Sundry expenses, including fencing, purchase of day-old chicks, hatching eggs, poultry feed for raising 300 pullets	380
Living expenses for six months	500
Total.....	\$5,530

In this rough estimate it will be noticed that \$1,500 is allowed for dwelling, stable,

woodshed, etc. This figure will allow of building a fair-sized dwelling of the bungalow type, which is found most suitable in British Columbia. Most houses on the poultry farms here consist of from four to seven rooms, and many of them are most picturesque and convenient. Profit and expenses on a laying bird per year have been estimated as follows:

Feed and housing, allowing for depreciation on buildings, \$2; receipts, 10 dozen eggs at 35c., \$3.50; profit per bird for the year, \$1.50. The cost of raising pullets to laying age should be covered by sale of hens and poultry.

This estimate is based on actual results, but at the same time it should be well understood that to make such results possible, strenuous work all the year round is necessary. In some cases, poultry raising in



SOME FINE HOLSTEINS

A DAIRY HERD

Cowichan is not regarded as a business from which a fat living may be obtained, but is regarded rather as a pleasant occupation from which a fair profit may be made to supplement a small income. That there is a good living to be made at this business, however, is amply proved by numerous successful cases.

The Creamery

One outstanding factor in Cowichan which has made this industry profitable, is the location of the plant and works of the Cowichan Creamery Association in Duncan. This creamery is often quoted as a model of successful co-operation, the equal of which is not to be found in western Canada. At the moment it is sufficient to say that the growth of the institution has been most phenomenal, and it has been a boon to every form of agriculture within a large area.

The creamery handles all the products of the poultry farmer. The association pays top prices for eggs and also purchases feed for its patrons in large quantities, so that they are able to sell it to shareholders at the lowest possible price.

Dairying

Of all farm industries there is none which compares in importance with the breeding of high-class live stock, and most certainly there is none which can rival it in interest. Round Duncan, dairy farming is the leading branch of agriculture and yet it is only comparatively recently that farmers have begun to realize the importance of paying closer attention to the breeding and raising of high-

class dairy cattle. Throughout British Columbia the prices of milk, butter and all dairy products have been rising steadily, and owing to the rapid growth of towns and cities, it is constantly more difficult to supply the demand. As a direct result, the prices of dairy cows have also increased enormously, in fact, it is difficult at any price to buy really first-class animals. This does not mean to say that they do not exist, for some of the finest herds in Canada are to be found in the west; rather it is owing to the fact that the best animals seldom come on the open market. \$100 and up may be taken as the value of a good grade cow, and \$200 and up as the value of a registered animal of a good milking strain, and when it comes to exceptional animals, prices round \$500 are quite frequently paid.

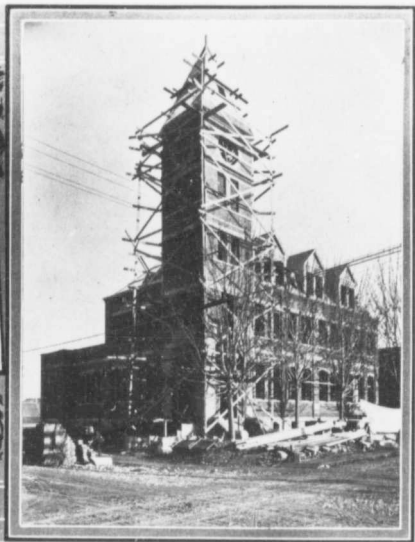
In case this article falls into the hands of

a stranger to the district, it may be of interest to touch on the main points that contribute to the success of dairying. First and foremost is the united effort of the farmers to work together, which has resulted in the foundation of the Creamery. It is not always realized that Cowichan Creamery butter is probably the highest priced butter in the world, and this high price is obtained by the farmer without his having the expense of making or marketing his product. The second benefit of co-operation is the fact that the creamery manages a feed warehouse for the purpose of handling feed in bulk. Farmers buy their raw material at wholesale prices and sell the finished product retail.

No less important are the conditions which affect dairying. The climate of the Duncan district is probably the most favourable anywhere in B. C. The summers are not too



THE COWICHAN CREAMERY



THE POST OFFICE —
Erected in 1913 at a cost of over \$30,000

hot and the pastures remain fresh for a long time. We are especially free from flies, which is a great advantage over other places on the Island. Although there is a lot of rain in the winters, we have open weather all the time, and the cows are not subjected to the hardships of close confinement for months at a time. The spring is early, and beginning with rye or wheat and tares in April, a succession of valuable green crops can be grown—oats and peas, soy beans, corn, barley and thousand-headed kale; corn can also be grown for ensilage.

Fertility of the Soil

There are very few places where so wide a variety of crops may be grown—indeed, every crop grown in the Dominion or in the British Isles does well, and in not a few instances reaches a far higher state of perfec-

tion than is possible in either of these countries.

We have corn crops yielding anything from twenty to twenty-five tons per acre, which converted into silage provides readily the succulent feed required for the short winter period referred to, besides all ordinary root crops, which invariably give bumper returns wherever the necessary trouble is taken in growing and cultivating.

The farms here are, generally speaking, small, though some few of our settlers can boast 100 acres in pasture and under plough.

The limit in cultivated area, however, is not a drawback, for with soil adapted to intensive farming, a very large quantity of food is produced, and now it only remains with the dairyman to see that his stock is such as will produce the maximum in milk and butter.

The "Intensive" Cow

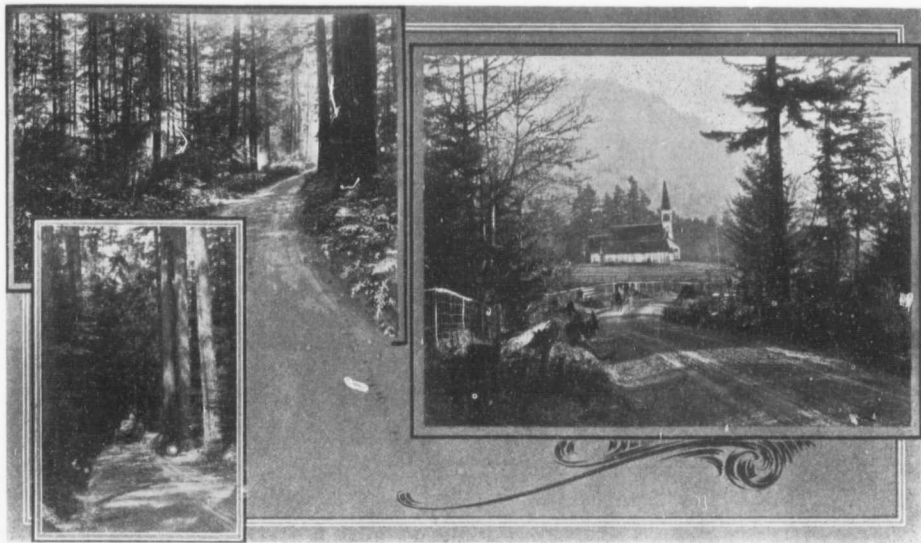
Breeders generally are beginning to realize that the day for the cow of small production is drawing to a close, and that the "intensive" cow is a necessary accompaniment for profitable dairying.

The breeds finding most favour in the district are the Holsteins and Jerseys and it may be said that in some of the local herds there are now to be found specimens of the very best blood obtainable in these breeds.

Stock-breeding, in the true meaning of the term, is receiving the close attention of a few—whilst it should command the intelligent interest of all engaged in the business, whether in a small or a large way. The fact that a good animal, well-bred and well raised as a calf eats no more than an unprofitable grade

or common cow, has to be drummed into the ears of the majority of those engaged in the cow business. Especially is this the case in Cowichan at present, for the reasons above given, and for developments that ultimately must surely take place.

The climate and general winter conditions favour the development of a strong, healthy constitution, made difficult in other parts, where six or more months' stabling is compulsory. This fact is already proved by extra points invariably given for constitution when cattle from local herds have shown in competition with outside stock. If, therefore, this district is to embrace the best of all its opportunities so far as dairying is concerned, the lesson to be learned by the farmers, individually and collectively, is—that the intensive cow is as important for profit as intensive cropping, and that in the line of pure-



THREE ROAD SCENES IN COWICHAN



"SLASHED LAND"
i. e., Before the Stumps are Removed

A SMALL SAWMILL
Teams Making a First Clearing in the Bush



SOMENOS LAKE — 1 mile from Duncan

bred and registered stock lies the greatest possibilities, both present and future.

Within the past year the Provincial government veterinary inspectors have tested every dairy herd on Vancouver Island, and it is said that this Island is now entirely free from tuberculosis.

Fruit Growing

The Fall Fair at Duncan, 1913, demonstrated beyond all doubt, that the Cowichan district is eminently suitable for the growing of fruits of all kinds, apples, pears and soft fruits; and in the making of an orchard there is a certainty that, provided the proper variety of apple or pear is planted, a profitable and pleasant means of living can be had. True, it entails constant and hard work, es-

pecially in the early years, before the fruit trees have come into full bearing, but the labour and time given to the work will amply repay the orchardist.

The orchard will, in time, yield a net profit, far larger than any other form of agriculture, while the work is pleasant and healthy, and yet does not tie one down, as so many other occupations do, except perhaps in the busy season when the picking and packing is on.

Let us consider, seriatim, some of the essentials of a successful orchard, and see how in each respect this applies to the Cowichan district:

Site:—Select a gentle slope in preference to level land. This provides good water drainage and good air drainage, both most essential for the well being of the trees, as it prevents "wet-feet" and "frost-pockets," the former of which will retard the growth of

the tree if it does not actually kill it, while the latter will cut the blossoms in the spring.

If the orchard site is on level ground it will pay to drain it well.

The exposure of the site in this district matters little, as just as good fruit can be grown if the orchard faces S. E. or has a N. W. aspect, though if earliness in blossoming and ripening of fruit is desired, or lateness in these is required, it will be necessary to select a southern or northern exposure.

In any case select a site that can be tilled conveniently, regardless of the lay of the land.

Soil:—This should be selected having three essentials, good drainage, good texture and a fair amount of plant food. By good texture, I mean that the soil should work up fine and mellow, not hard and lumpy. In

general some fruits—apples, pears and quinces, do especially well on a clay loam; plums and cherries on a medium loam; raspberries and currants on a medium, but moist loam and strawberries on a light soil.

Now as far as site is concerned, the Cowichan district has thousands of acres suitable for orchards, and no finer soil can be found, consisting as it does for the most part of red loam from eighteen inches to three feet in depth with a clay sub-soil, while the bottom lands consist of fine rich black loam, very suitable for pears, plums, cherries, raspberries and other soft fruits. There is undoubtedly a deficiency of lime in the soil, but this can be easily remedied, if necessary, and does not seem to affect either the growth of the fruit trees or the size or colour of the fruit, for in certain varieties of some fruits one sees, in this district, fruit as large in size



SUBSTANTIAL RESIDENCES IN THE CITY OF DUNCAN

and as brilliant in colouring as the most fastidious can desire.

Indeed no finer soil exists for fruit-farming than is to be found in the neighbourhood of Duncan, and large areas of magnificent soil at present lying idle will, I believe, in the near future be yielding paying crops of the choicest fruits, for the fruit industry on this island is only as yet in its infancy.

One great advantage to the orchardist is that no irrigation is necessary. The absence of strong winds and the almost entire freedom from late spring frosts is all in favour of fruit-growing.

Cost:—As it has been proved by both Canadian and American orchardists that ten acres is as much as one man alone can properly attend to and care for, the subjoined tables give as nearly as possible the total cost of making a ten acre orchard, and caring

for it until it is five years old, when it should begin to give commercial returns:

Ten acres and clearing it	\$3,500
Preparing land (ploughing and harrowing)	150
Trees and planting (100 to acre)	260
Fencing	240
House and barn	1,500
 Total.....	 5,650
Cost of maintenance for 5 years, cultivating, pruning, spraying, etc., at \$25 an acre	1,250
 Total for 5 years.....	 \$6,900

To this amount must be added the yearly cost of living which will vary according to each individual's taste or whether he is married and has children.

The above amount assumes that most of the labour is done by the owner, with the exception of the ploughing and harrowing after the land has been cleared and got ready for the plough.

Root crops, clover or small fruits planted between the trees for the first four or five years, should pay for the upkeep of the orchard until it comes into commercial bearing, though much must not be expected the first year after planting.

Returns:—

1st year after planting, say 7 acres potatoes 2 tons per acre—14 tons @ \$18	\$ 252
2nd year, 7 acres potatoes yield 4 tons per acre—28 tons	504
3rd year, 6 acres raspberries yield 120 crates —120 crates, at \$2 per crate	1,440
4th year, 6 acres raspberries yield 200 crates —1200 crates	2,400
5th year, 6 acres raspberries yield 200 crates —1200 crates	\$2,400
Pome fruits should yield about 200.....	2,600
6th year, the orchard should produce about 500 boxes of fruit selling at an average of about \$1.25	625

After the sixth year the increase in production will be very rapid until the tenth year,

when the orchard is in full bearing, and should pay a net annual profit of from \$150 to \$250 per acre.

In order to increase the profits from the acreage it would be advisable to keep fowls, beginning with a small number and gradually increasing the stock as one's experience grows. Besides adding to the profits, fowls are a valuable asset in any orchard.

Colonies of bees, say five to ten, will help the cross fertilization of the blossoms and should produce yearly from 200 to 400 pounds of honey at the least.

Markets:—Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver will take and absorb every ounce of fruit grown in this district, and provided the article is of good quality, clean and properly packed. Prices are good, while freight charges are small.



DUNCAN PUBLIC SCHOOL — Erected 1913 at a cost of \$30,000

Build by our Co.

C.P.S.

Natural Resources

Under the head of natural resources of the district of Cowichan the most important product, and one which stands out pre-eminently, is timber. In this respect it may fairly be said that no portion of the Province of British Columbia can show greater abundance of valuable timber than that part of Vancouver Island comprised within the boundaries of the Cowichan district.

With the exception of the settled part of the district lying within measurable distance of the east coast, upon which most of the farming operations are carried on, the whole surface is covered with trees of a merchantable value. The timber varies from the highest millable quality to that suitable for piles or the manufacture of railroad ties.

Besides this there are large quantities of

timber of no particular value for milling purposes but which possess peculiar qualities necessary to pulp for the manufacture of paper.

Within a few miles of Duncan there are now in operation no less than six sawmills, and at Chemainus the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co. operates one of the largest mills on the coast. This mill has a capacity of 100,000 feet per day. The business of this concern is of a very wide character in view of their sea-going trade. Their mills are situated on tidewater and have also railway connection which enables them to ship to all parts of Canada and the United States by land and to all parts of the world by water.

The modern and up-to-date plant of the Island Lumber Co. is immediately adjacent to the boundaries of Duncan. This company, besides largely supplying the local demand,

ships large quantities of lumber to the Canadian North-West.

With regard to the timber limits from which the supply of lumber is being drawn, it might be pointed out that in the country surrounding Cowichan Lake the finest timber is found, and from the thousands of acres available there, only the merest fraction has so far been cut.

During 1913 the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company completed a branch line to Cowichan Lake from Duncan. The main reason for building this line was in order to furnish the necessary transportation for the shipment of the timber resources of that section. With the opening of the lumber industry at Cowichan Lake, as an evidence of which several large mills are already projected there, that beautiful lake will doubtless receive more attention than heretofore, not only on

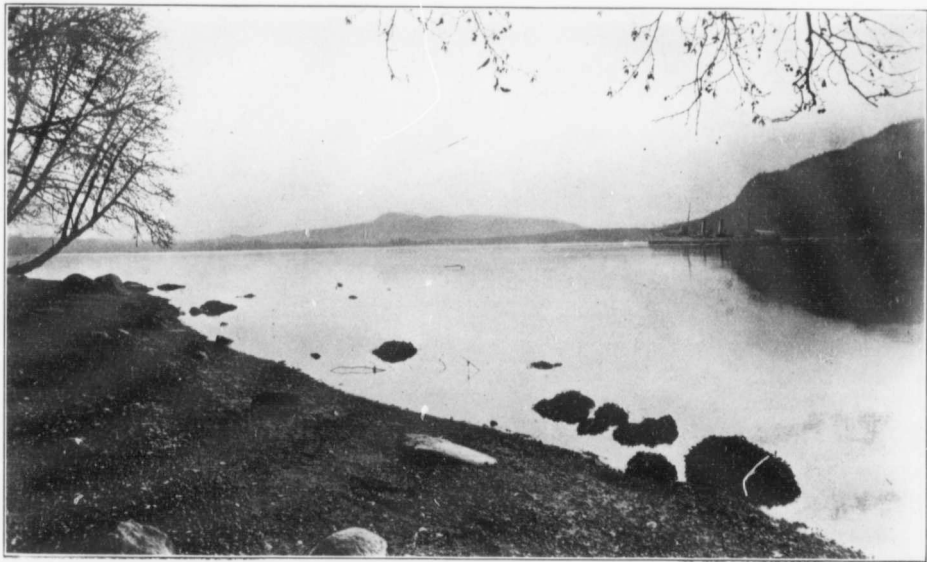
account of the business that must ensue through the lumber traffic, but also as a summer resort and sportsman's paradise, and ultimately as a place for agricultural settlement.

In giving the foregoing description of the commercial possibilities of Cowichan Lake in the lumber trade, mention might be made of the fact that the many streams that flow into the lake are capable of developing thousands of horse power for the distribution of electrical power. Doubtless this power will be utilized in the future for the operation of the lumber mills and other industries. The possibilities of developing water power may be said to be common to almost the whole of the district.

At the present time little or nothing is being done in mining, but as large portions of the district are at present almost unexplored,



ROSS' FALLS — A Beauty Spot Near Cowichan Station



COWICHAN BAY — FIVE MILES FROM DUNCAN

the mineral wealth is little known. Excellent prospects are known to exist in various parts but the lack of transportation facilities has prevented development up to the present time.

Summer Resorts

Cowichan Bay

The Cowichan district is especially favoured by having within its boundaries, in addition to those beautiful lake gems known as Somenos Lake and Quamichan Lake, several very attractive seaside resorts. Conspicuous among these are Cowichan Bay and Maple Bay,—each being situated some six or seven miles by road from Duncan.

Cowichan Bay receives the waters of the Cowichan River, and after gently broadening

to a width of about two miles, gradually opens into the larger arm of the Pacific known as the Straits of Georgia. Cowichan Bay has become widely known as the scene of the annual regatta of the Cowichan Bay Yacht Club, which event draws many participants and hundreds of spectators by train and steamer from the capital city of Victoria, from the cities of the mainland, and intervening points.

The waters of Cowichan Bay afford excellent sport for the angler, especially during the fall months, when disciples of Izaak Walton come from far and near on their annual pilgrimage, to enjoy the excellent fishing by rod and troll, for which this bay is justly famous.

A large and well-appointed hotel has been established here for the accomodation of those in pursuit of health and pleasure, from the spacious verandah of which a splendid view

is obtained of this magnificent sheet of water.

Many beautiful homes adorn the adjacent shores, a number of them belonging to retired Army and Navy officers, who are enabled to live with their families in well-earned retirement, amid beautiful and healthful environments.

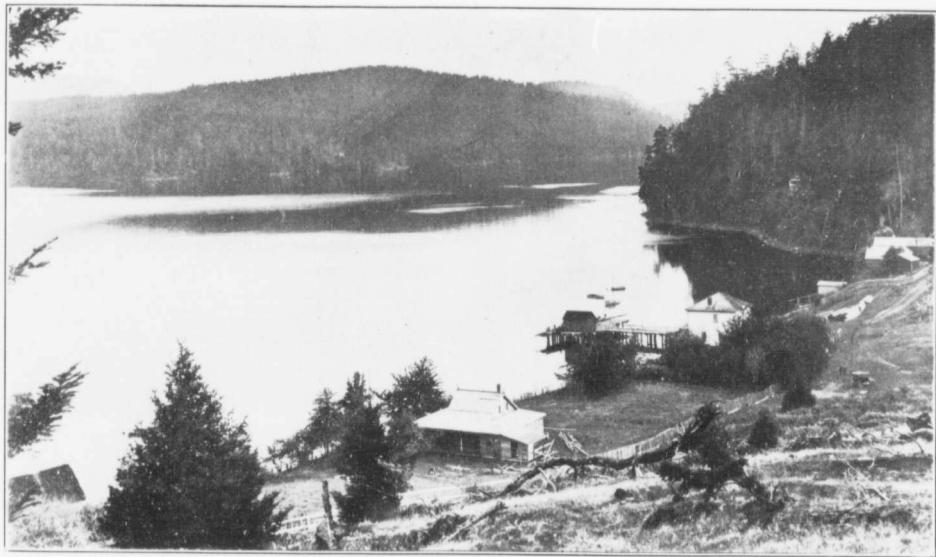
A visit to Cowichan Bay should be included in the itinerary of every tourist who visits Vancouver Island.

Maple Bay

Maple Bay is also one of the chief attractions of the Cowichan district, and fortunate indeed is the man who can spend a few days or weeks along its enchanted shores. This bay is particularly well sheltered from the rougher waters of the more open sea, being almost surrounded by beautifully wooded hills and mountains, thus giving safe anchorage at all times. This place is the real gem of the

Pacific, and it is stated that along the entire north Pacific coast, from California to Alaska, a more attractive or safer bay can not be found. On this account its waters and shores have become a very popular playground for children and their elders, who come in growing numbers to enjoy the excellent bathing and safe boating for which these waters are especially noted. An Aquatic Club has recently been formed here and has already held one very successful regatta.

During the warm summer months many families from Duncan and elsewhere move to their picturesque summer cottages overlooking the placid waters of the bay, and soon find that they have indeed come to Nature's Sanitarium. Here the tired and jaded business man soon renews his exhausted nerve-cells; and the ozone-laden sea breezes act as a tonic to the other members of his



MAPLE BAY

family, giving them all a new outlook on life. Here the days and weeks pass as in a dream; all cares are forgotten; the physical being takes on renewed life and vigour; and the soul is attuned to a new tranquility in the contemplation of Nature in her most beneficent mood.

A regular motor-bus service during the summer months enables residents of Duncan to attend to their daily business as usual, and spend the long evenings, cool nights and week-ends at this most delightful of seaside resorts.

E. G. J.

Social Advantages

The advantages of the Cowichan district as a social centre are many. Within a couple of miles of Duncan there are to be found

clubs for the encouragement of every kind of sport. In the summer months, cricket, tennis, polo, boating and fishing are gone in for by many people, while in the winter, to make the time pass pleasantly, there are football clubs—both Rugby and Association—a golf club, a ladies' hockey club, and a badminton club at Shawnigan Lake. There are two amateur dramatic societies—one at Cowichan Bay and one at Duncan, and two or three shows are given by each of them during the season. Dancing is another favourite pastime in the winter months. There is already a hall capable of accommodating about 100 couples in comfort, but plans have been prepared for the building of a much larger hall in connection with the new building of the Agricultural Society, which will accommodate a great many more people, as the present hall is far too small.

Sport

Fishing

To the scientific angler, and to him who fishes for the pot, the lakes, rivers and the numerous bays on the coast, offer innumerable opportunities for taking fish all the year round.

The Cowichan River takes precedence by reason of its variety in fish and the possible manner of taking them.

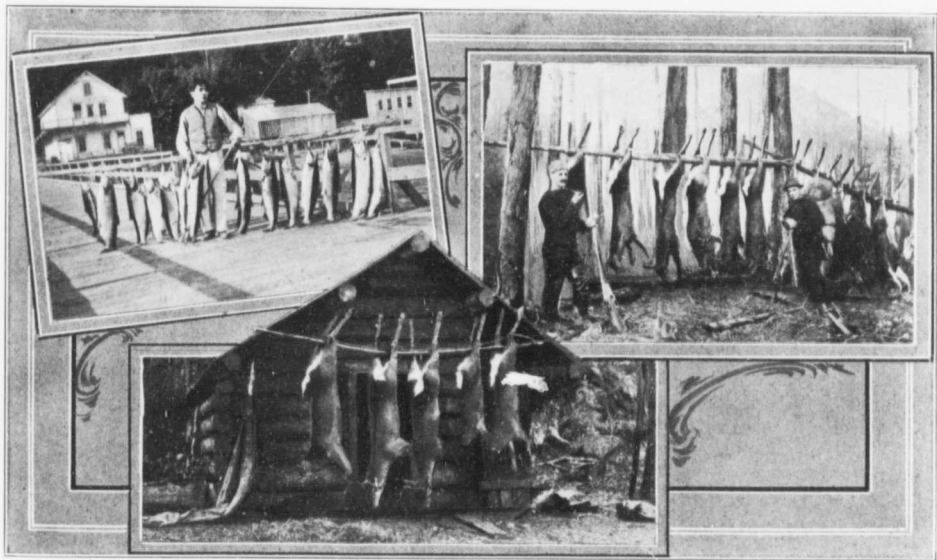
Speaking from a personal point of view, I give the place of honour to the steelhead—the open season for which runs from 1st December to 25th March, practically a season to itself. He is a magnificent fighter and takes a fly readily, but the tackle must be strong, with plenty of line on the reel as he makes a tremendous rush when first hooked, varied

with leaps frequent and frantic. In the fast water, where he is usually found, it would be difficult to conceive a better fighter.

In the early months of 1913, in one pool alone, the writer killed nineteen steelheads, weighing from four pounds to fourteen pounds each. They take Silver Doctor, Jock Scott and Fiery Brown tied as a salmon fly with gold tinsel, the size depending upon the state of the water.

It is generally supposed that the several kinds of salmon will not take a fly in the rivers, but it is simply a popular error, as the writer himself has killed, and has seen many salmon killed, on the fly, but like his Atlantic brother he will only take in a resting pool.

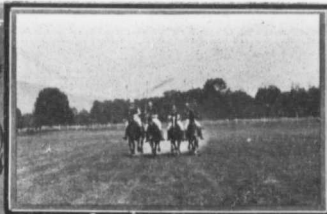
Next in order comes the trout—varying not only as to species but also in size and colour



A FEW SPORTING SNAPSHOTS



A MORNING'S CATCH



THE POLO TEAM
SPLENDID PASTURE LAND



A FINE BAG

to a remarkable degree, owing to their migratory habits. Recent observations lead to the opinion that the big trout of Cowichan Lake are the exception to the migratory habit, and simply drop down into the river to spawn.

Trolling for salmon in the bays may seem like rough work, but take a light rod and single gut and you will have the finest sport if you fish for the heavy Spring salmon, of anywhere between ten and forty pounds weight. Your tackle must be correspondingly heavy.

No matter the season of the year or on river, lake or sea, the lover of nature (and all true anglers are that) can feast his eyes on beautiful scenery and wonderful wild flowers, and study the habits of the many animals, birds and butterflies—he may also see a few snakes—but they are perfectly harmless.

Shooting

Out here we speak of shooting as "hunting"—by no means an inapt term—for the man with the gun has literally to hunt for his game, be it bear, deer, cougar, blue grouse, willow grouse, pheasant, duck, snipe or quail. A man who wants to make a really good bag has to be fairly active and very quick with his gun, not because game is scarce—as a matter of fact all kinds are plentiful in their seasons—but because the going is not like walking down Piccadilly. Consequently every item added to the bag is a source of satisfaction.

The only license to be paid by those who have resided over six months in the district costs \$2.50.

A good dog is a necessity, above all he must retrieve to hand as it is usually difficult

to find your bird in the dense undergrowth of salal, Oregon grape or bracken fern.

The great charm of the shooting for those who live in the district is that no matter where your house is situated, if you have an hour to spare, any day between the 15th September and the 31st December, all you have to do is to take your gun, slip a few cartridges in your pocket and sally forth with a reasonable expectation of returning with at least a bird or two. There is always the chance of meeting a deer, so it is as well to carry an odd cartridge loaded with buckshot.

So far my remarks have only referred to casual shooting. For serious business you have to go further afield, but not of necessity out of the district. There is any quantity of undisturbed land and mountains, where a party of two to four men can camp and have

good sport. The black tailed deer are very numerous and bear can always be found by the patient hunter.

Sample Questions and Answers

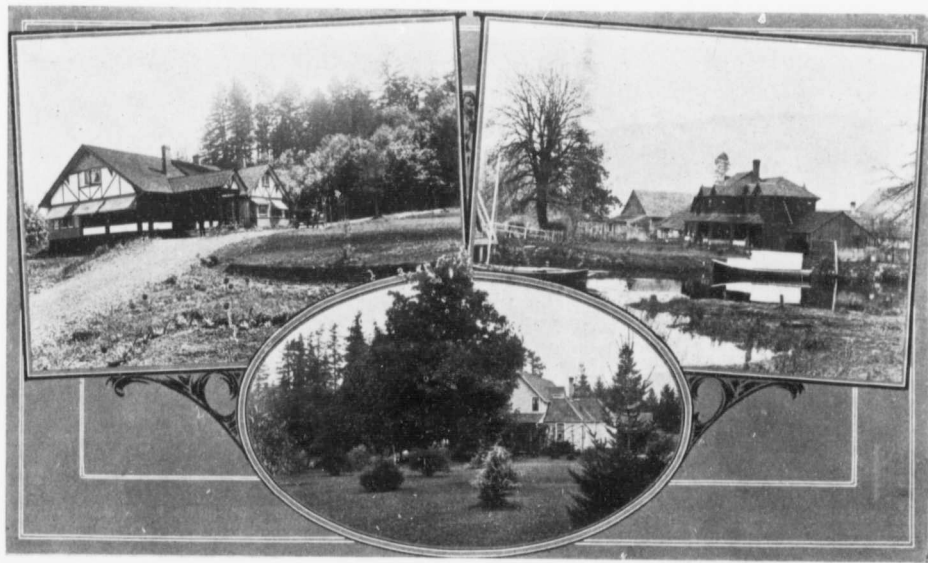
Question.—Where is the Cowichan district?

Answer.—It is situated in the south-east part of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, about one and one-half hour's journey by train, northwards from Victoria, the capital of the province.

Q.—What is the principal town called?

A.—Duncan, recently incorporated as a city. There are also several other growing centres, with railway stations, stores, post-offices, etc.

Q.—What is the population of the Cowichan district?



TYPICAL COWICHAN RESIDENCES

A.—About 5000, nearly half of whom reside in Duncan.

Q.—What is the best time of the year to come to Cowichan district?

A.— At any time, the spring and summer being preferred.

Q.—Is there good hotel accommodation in Duncan and what are the rates?

A.—Exceptionally good. Rates from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per day, with board.

Q.—Is there any free land near Duncan?

A.—No. Land adjacent to towns costs from \$100 per acre upwards, according to location and extent of improvements.

Q.—What is the best time of the year to build?

A.—From March to October, although, owing to the mildness of the climate, building work is carried on all the year round.

Q.—Can houses be rented temporarily at or near Duncan, and at what rates?

A.—Yes, usually. At from \$15 to \$30 per month unfurnished; or at from \$25 to \$40 per month furnished.

Q.—Are there regular church services in the district?

A.—Yes. The Church of England, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and other bodies all have places of worship throughout the district.

Q.—Are there good educational facilities at Duncan, and what are they?

A.—Excellent. A large up-to-date government public school has recently been erected, and for more advanced pupils there is a high school. Both these institutions are doing a splendid work and are officered by unusually capable and conscientious principals. There are also private schools, both for boys and

girls, conducted on English lines. Our educational facilities are one of our greatest assets.

Q.—What personal effects should I bring?

A.—The same as used in England would be suited to the climate here.

Q.—What is the climate like?

A.—Very similar to that of the south of England, with less rain in the summer, and perhaps somewhat more during the fall and winter months. Thunderstorms and violent changes are almost unknown, the climate being remarkably equable.

Q.—Are there good stores in Duncan?

A.—There are stores of every description, large and small, carrying extensive stocks. All necessities, and most luxuries, can be purchased here, and at prices as low as anywhere else in the province.

Q.—Are there any banks in Duncan?

A.—Two of Canada's leading banks have important branches here.

Q.—Is there a telephone service in the district?

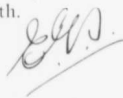
A.—Yes, both urban and rural, and at moderate charges.

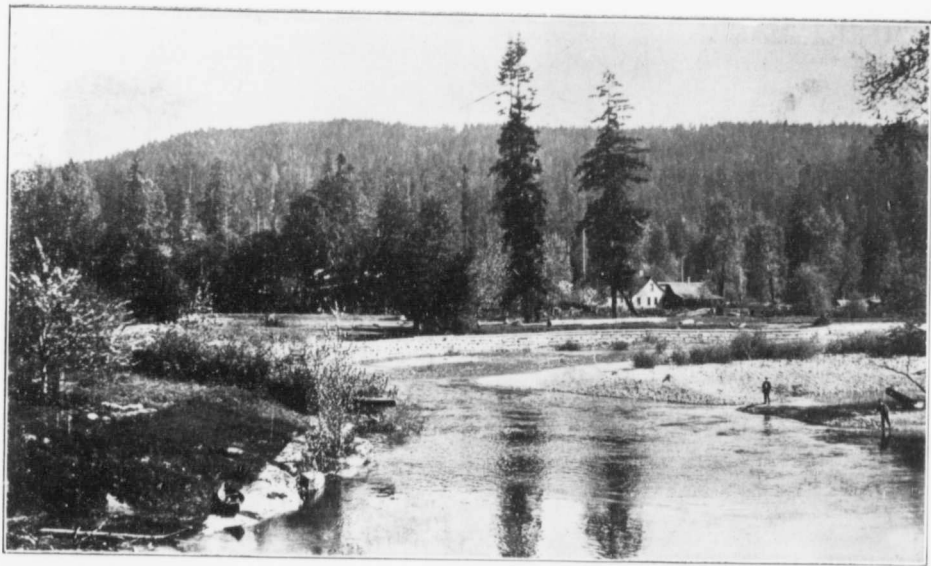
Q.—Can farm labour be secured when needed, and at what prices?

A.—The supply of labour is equal to the demand at present. Wages for competent white help run from \$2 to \$3 per day without board, or \$25 to \$35 per month with board.

Q.—Can domestic help be obtained, and at what rate?

A.—Not always. Many incoming families bring their help with them. Wages from \$15 to \$25 per month, with room and board. Domestic Chinese help can always be obtained at from \$20 to \$40 per month.

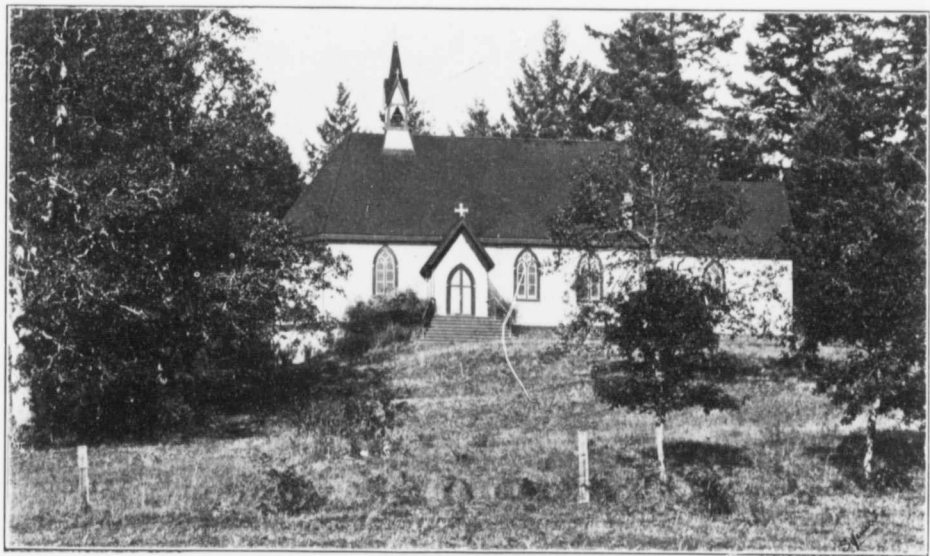




THE CHEMAINUS RIVER



DUNCAN HOSPITAL — Erected 1911



ST. PETER'S, QUAMICHAN — The Parent Church of the District