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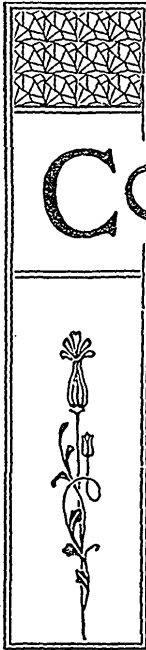
COWICHAN
VANCOUVER ISLAND

AS
A
HOME



MINES AND RESOURCES

VANCOUVER
ISLAND



COWICHAN...

Fishing

Shooting

Mining

Farming

Lumbering

VICTORIA, B. C.

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COWICHAN RIVER.

...Cowichan, Vancouver Island...



THE Cowichan District comprises, roughly speaking, the valleys of the Koksilah, Cowichan and Chemainus Rivers, flowing into the Straits on the southeastern slope of Vancouver Island. It contains several beautiful lakes, from mere ponds to one—Cowichan Lake—some 20 miles long. The northern half of the

Situation district is incorporated as a municipality, which occupies rather a unique position in that it has no debt. The taxes, both provincial and municipal, are very light.

Cowichan occupies an important position on the coast, and has several good harbors. It lies about half way between Nanaimo and Victoria, which offer good markets for its products. Still nearer is the rising town of Ladysmith; while its own settlements of Duncan's, Chemainus and Mount Sicker are growing steadily.

The North Pacific Coast is the threshold of an enormous trade with the Orient, which no man can estimate. The western seaboard of America and Canada will soon compete with the eastern, and Cowichan, with her forests, minerals and fertile valleys, has every right to expect to share in this advance and progress of the West.

That peculiarly English word, "home," conveys a meaning which is difficult to define, but nevertheless is one which nearly everyone understands. Many, if asked to define it, would picture up comfortable surroundings, and in general a similarity in these, to which they have been accustomed. To settlers from the British Isles there are many points of similarity between the Cowichan District and the Old Country. To those in search of a country life, where they can live cheaply and yet enjoy life and freedom from conventionalities, where they can potter about with a gun or rod, or make up expeditions for big game, Cowichan has many charms and advantages to offer. Of social amusements there are numbers, from summer picnics to skating parties on the lakes. The local Tennis Club frequently musters 70 or 80 people on Saturday afternoons.

**Cowichan as
a Home**

320

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'To the energetic settler intent on making money, the promising mines in the neighbourhood, the lumber mills and camps offer good home markets, both for labour and supplies, as well as the neighbouring towns.

No country is without drawbacks, and it is not the intention that this pamphlet should exaggerate or present everything with a rosy tint; at the same time, the absence of malaria, of bad water, of mosquitoes, of venomous snakes, of thunderstorms, of wind, of extremes of heat and cold, counts for a good deal in its favour.

G. H. HADWEN.



CAMPING ON THE WAY DOWN THE RIVER

...Life in Cowichan...

TO the student of human nature, British Columbia presents a curious anomaly. A very large proportion of those who migrate to this colony come for greater freedom and an outdoor life at an expense less than such a life would entail at home; and yet, when they arrive here, most of them crowd into the towns. Country houses in the vicinity

of Victoria are almost unknown. The Cowichan or Duncan's District contains most of the exceptions to this rule. It is the district par excellence of leisurely country life in British Columbia.

A great many people will tell you that farming does not pay on Vancouver Island, and if you have to clear the land to be farmed, I think there is some truth in it; and yet we can show substantial farmers who started without capital. The truth is that farming at a profit requires experience and hard work; perhaps the two things are not always found in combination. A very large number of our farmers were never brought up to farm. Even if you can buy bush land at \$1 an acre, it may cost



DUNCANS

you \$100 to clear it; and at present farm labour costs from \$10 to \$15 per month and board if it is Japanese, and \$20 and board if it is white. But you can buy cleared land for less than it cost to clear it, and off such land you can make a good living—perhaps even a small income—and, by adopting the simple habits of your neighbours, you can get more fun, sport and good living here for \$1,000 per annum than you can get for £1,000 per annum in the Old Country. This is essentially the right country for men with pensions, with small incomes and country tastes. An Indian can live here on nothing but the bounty of nature; a white man on the islands of the Gulf can live here for very little more.

I know a family, consisting of two English ladies and a child, who built themselves a house and cultivated a small garden upon one of the

loveliest of our islands. They had their piano and their boat, sea bathing, fishing and gardening; and their first year's expenses for all three, exclusive of their initial outlay, was £60, and for this they lived well.

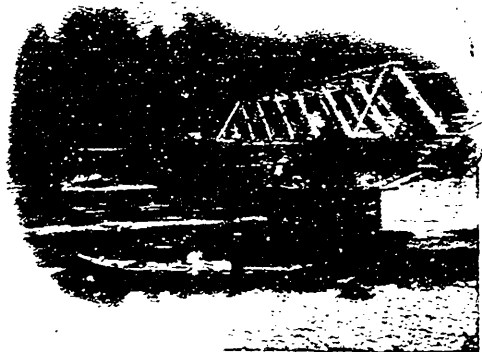
Let us go a step higher in the scale of expenditure. You can buy in the Duncan's District choice land, upon the sea or upon a lake, one-half cleared and one-half bush, for \$50 an acre. You can build a good house of the bungalow type, lined with choice wood, prettily finished, and having, say, two sitting rooms, four bed rooms, bath room, kitchen, etc., for \$2,000 (£400). For £200 you can buy 20 acres of land, of which at least 10 will be cleared. You can put a house upon it for another \$2,000 (£400), and buy yourself two cows, a horse and buggy for another \$300 (£60); and for another £140 you should be able to put in a good orchard and garden, make and stock a poultry yard, buy a boat, and perhaps a few sheep.

For £1,000 you have your home equipped in the Duncan's District, and if you want to increase your holding by the work of your own hands or the expenditure of small sums of money as you make or save them, there is plenty of good land in the bush to be cleared.

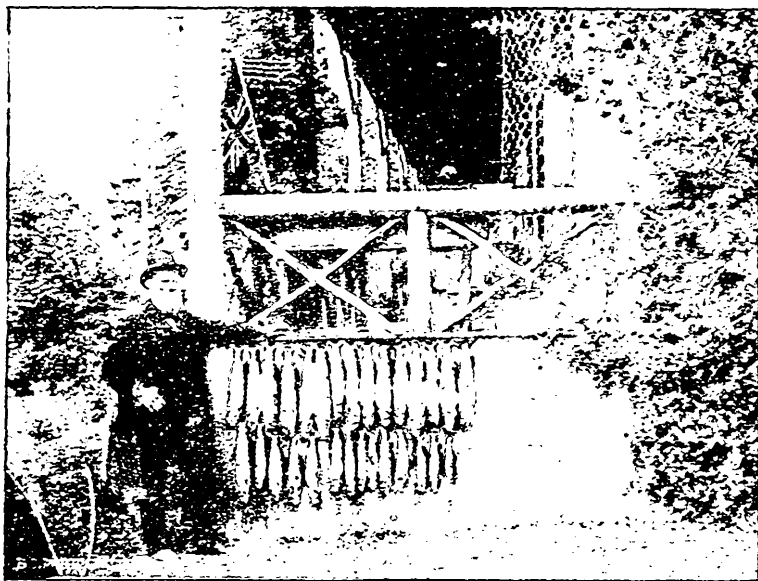
As to the life. In the Duncan's District there is a very large element of English settlers, including naval and military men, pensioned Indian civil servants, and gentlemen's younger sons. The amusements are very much those of an English country life, only that **THEY COST YOU NOTHING.**

There are towns now in British Columbia where people try to live as they think that people live in England—where a dinner without champagne is not what it should be, and dresses good enough for Hurlingham are worn at little scratch cricket matches. They do not do these things in the country districts. The dress here is simple; no one dreams of any better drink than beer or whiskey and soda; the entertainments, small dances, picnics, bathing parties, etc., replace champagne with high spirits, and cost next to nothing. If you are a decent fellow, it does not matter twopence what your financial standing may be.

As to sport. The fishing in the district is excellent. At Cowichan Lake in the early part of this year I believe that the average was about 25 trout to the boat, running from 1 to 2 pounds. This was with a fly. In the summer, with a spoon, men get some very large baskets of two-pounders. Capt. Finnis, R. N., caught 255 pounds of trout in three days with fly and spoon. Capt. Salmon 89 pounds of trout in one day. The Cowichan River sometimes affords excellent sport. In the early spring a big trout, running from 5 to 10 pounds (known as the steelhead) gives good sport to the fly-fisher, and later on there are good runs of sea trout; whilst in the bay men who care for it can get superb salmon trolling.



COWICHAN RIVER BRIDGE



A DAY'S FISHING, COWICHAN LAKE

On one of the smaller lakes (two miles from Duncan's, where many of the nicest homes are), a resident killed with the dry fly 22 trout weighing 57 pounds, in two evenings' fishing. This is work, however, for the skilled hand.

Grouse of two kinds used to be plentiful, and in the mountains close to hand there are still a fair number of blue grouse for the hard-working gunner. Seven brace to the gun is the best I have heard of this year. The willow grouse has suffered heavily, disturbed, I believe, in the nesting season by the imported pheasant, which has now become so plentiful as to become a nuisance to the farmers.

Deer are plentiful, and in the winter season ducks, teal and geese afford capital sport on the coast and in the marshes round the lakes.



A DAY'S SALMON FISHING

Above all, to the man who can afford it, Duncan's offers a charming home within easy reach of really fine wild sport: trolling for the giant salmon of the Campbell River; wapiti shooting beyond Cowichan Lake, and on the west coast of the Island; or sheep, bear, goat and mule deer on the Mainland—all at points within a few days' easy travel, and all shooting free.

It would be easy without exaggeration to make this a much more alluring picture, but the exquisite scenery must be left to do this, and I understand that this pamphlet aims at telling the simple truth.

CLIVE PHILLIPS-WOLLEY.

...Farming in Cowichan...

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THE farming areas in Cowichan are as yet small in comparison with the unbroken forest which extends practically all over Vancouver Island; but the land, when cleared, is fertile, and prices generally are good. By the aid of improved methods of clearing, it is now possible to clear land at reasonable figures. Mixed farming is the general practice, though dairying is the principal business. A co-operative creamery at Duncan's has now been in existence about six years, and turned out last year 71,111 pounds of butter, sold at an average price of 27½ cents per pound. The farmer received this, less a charge of about 3 cents for making and selling.

The Klondike trade and the new home markets, together with the general improvement in trade, have increased prices all round for farm products, and with the constantly increasing population of British Columbia and the Northwest, they are not likely to go lower to any extent.

Dairying, fruit-growing and the care of sheep, swine and poultry—in short, intensive farming—is the practice recommended here.

...Cowichan District as a Mining Field...

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CHANCE or luck has been a potent factor in the discovery of most of the big mines of the world, and this district has proved no exception to the rule. Five years ago metal mining on the east coast of Vancouver Island was practically unknown; but in August, 1896, a forest fire of vast extent devastated the western slope of Mount Sicker. For days and weeks the sun was hidden in a smoke haze, the ashes falling on the sea-coast ten miles away. No one who watched the progress of that fire would have dreamed that this was the factor that would enrich this district, and, possibly at no distant date, build a city on our coast—for in the ashes of this fire was found the lode. Mr. Harry Smith, of Duncan's,

was the pioneer who, in the spring of 1897, found the rich outcrop of copper ore upon the fire-swept hill. From that date to this the mining industry has steadily progressed, and so far two properties have been developed, both of which bid fair to make big mines. The Lenora, upon which mine the original discovery was made, has paid from the grass-roots down. The ore body is of phenomenal size and richness, some of the stopes being 40 feet wide in solid ore. A railway connecting the mine with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway has been built, and over this road thousands of tons of ore have been shipped to Tacoma. A rapidly-growing town has sprung up here, and a hotel that would grace Victoria.

The Tye, which adjoins the Lenora on the east, and on the same lode, is owned by the Tye Copper Company, Limited, of London, England. Heavy development work has been carried on for the past two years, at a cost of \$120,000. A working shaft of three compartments has been sunk to a depth of 235 feet from the surface, connecting with the prospecting shaft that was first put down to prove the property. About 3,000 feet of work has been done. The main central drift at the 200-foot level has been carried 500 feet east of the Lenora line, and numerous crosscuts and raises have proved the rich ore body along this entire distance. The formation also which carries the lode traverses the entire property from west to east, without a break. Quite recently, while cross-cutting from the 100-foot level of the main shaft, a magnificent body of absolutely solid ore was struck. This has proved to be 23 feet wide, and at the present time stopes of this width are being run east and west in solid ore. A large proportion of this ore body assays 18 per cent. copper, \$6 gold, and 7 ounces of silver to the ton. The property owned by the Tye company consists of about 250 acres, and runs from the Tye mine to the Chemainus River.

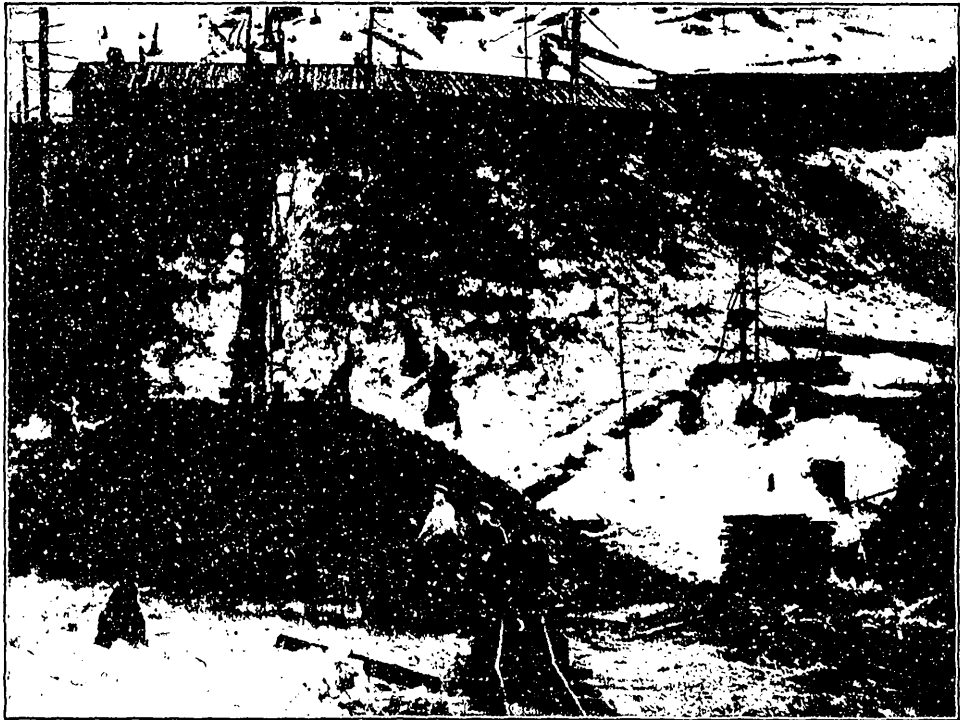
These mines are both within a few miles from the sea, and, therefore, easily independent of transportation companies, an immense advantage, not only for shipping, but in getting supplies.

A great deal of prospecting and development work is being carried on in various parts of Mount Sicker, and doubtless in the near future other rich mineral deposits will be discovered.

On Cowichan Lake, the Duncans Mining & Development Company, with a cash capital of \$10,000, is now starting work on a large surface showing of ore, carrying galena, containing values in gold, silver and copper.

On the Malahat Mountains, near the Strathcona Hotel, immense bodies of ore, carrying values in gold, silver and copper, have been uncovered, and this region promises to well repay energetic development work.

Several promising surface showings of ore on Mount Richards and at other points near the sea-coast are also being prospected and developed.



LENORA ORE SHEDS AND DUMP

It may be safely stated that there are over 150 miners now at work in the district. These great mineral resources, when developed by the judicious application of capital should make Cowichan District one of the richest mining and industrial centres of the province.

It is of course impossible, in a short article like this, to more than briefly touch on the geological formation of the district. In North Cowichan—i. e., north of the river—the greater portion of the country

Geological Formation consists of eruptive rocks, diorite, diabase and crystalline schists in the eastern section; and these rocks, together with granite, crystalline, limestone and sedimentary altered and unaltered rocks in the western portion. In South Cowichan the schists are not so prominent, ancient shales, very crystalline limestones, conglomerates and altered sedimentaries, granite and eruptive rocks of various kinds are in evidence. Overlying all these rocks in the farming districts on the coast is an area of cretaceous coal-bearing sandstone, shales and conglomerates.

It is in North Cowichan, in the crystalline schists, and at their contact with the basic rocks, that the greatest mining discoveries have been made. Practically no attempt to find coal has yet been made, although there are several outcrops in the district, and experts such as Dr. Dawson have reported favourably as to the probabilities.

In conclusion, we will quote from the August number of the British Columbia Mining Record:

“The mineral outcroppings in this section are numerous, and carry, as a rule, exceptionally high values in gold and copper. Where development work upon any considerable scale has been prosecuted, the continuity and permanence of the ore deposits have been most satisfactorily demonstrated, and in the case of ore-producing mines, the returns from smelter consignments, covering a period of nearly two years, prove that the ore is of a far higher grade than that met with in any other copper mining centre in the province. The economic conditions are incomparable, and the opportunities for successful mining probably unique in British Columbia.”

There is now a certainty that a thoroughly up-to-date smelter will be running on the S. E. coast of Vancouver Island before next spring.

T. A. WOOD.
C. LIVINGSTON.



LUMBERING AT THE LAKE

...Lumbering in Cowichan...

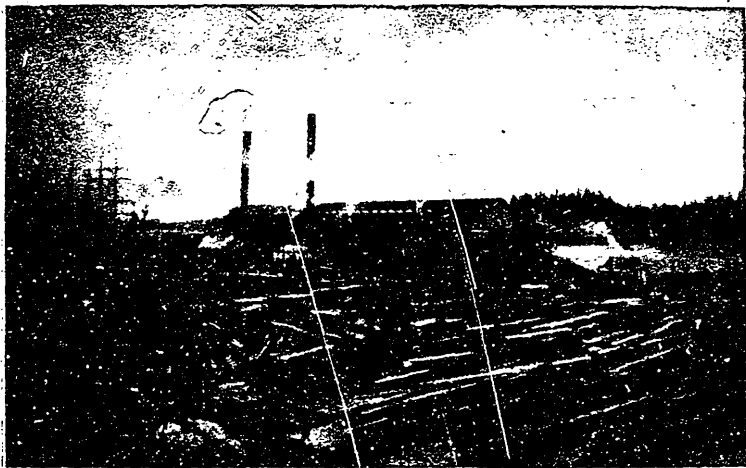


FOUR lumber companies are operating in the District. The principal export of lumber from British Columbia ports, shipping direct to mill, at Chemainus, cuts from one-half to two-thirds of the entire Australia, the Orient, the Cape and England.

The Cowichan Lumber Company own large timber limits at Cowichan Lake, and bring some 10,000,000 feet of logs each year down the river, about December, employing at present some 40 men in the woods, who get from \$2.50 to \$3.75 per day. In addition to the timber on the eastern slope, it will be necessary to bring the timber on the Pacific slope, towards the Nitinat, down the Cowichan River, owing to the rough nature of the west coast. At the present time only the very best of timber is selected, and no trees cut which will not make two feet at the small end. Douglas fir is the principal wood cut. The Douglas is a magnificent tree, three, four and five feet through; it towers up a hundred feet or more without a limb, and its timber is suitable for all kinds of building purposes.

With the rapid improvement in machinery which has taken place of late years, a modern lumber mill is a wonderful sight. From the entry of the log at one end to the exit of the finished article at the other, all is done by machinery. Hoists weighing from 15 to 20 tons are used in the woods to pull the logs into position, to load them on the cars, and finally to dump them into the water, while smaller ones load the lumber into the ships and assist to stow it in the hold.

The Chemainus mill is equipped with two band saws, one gang, two gang edgers, two planers and a surfacer, and has a capacity of 200,000 feet in 10 hours. Employs about 150 men in and about the mill itself, while the logging camps, etc., outside take another 150 hands, the total monthly pay roll amounting to the large sum of about \$20,000.00.



CHEMAINUS LOOKING OUT TO HARBOR ENTRANCE



CHEMAINUS FROM HARBOR ENTRANCE