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NICOLA VALLEY AND MERRITT

BRITISH COLUMBIA



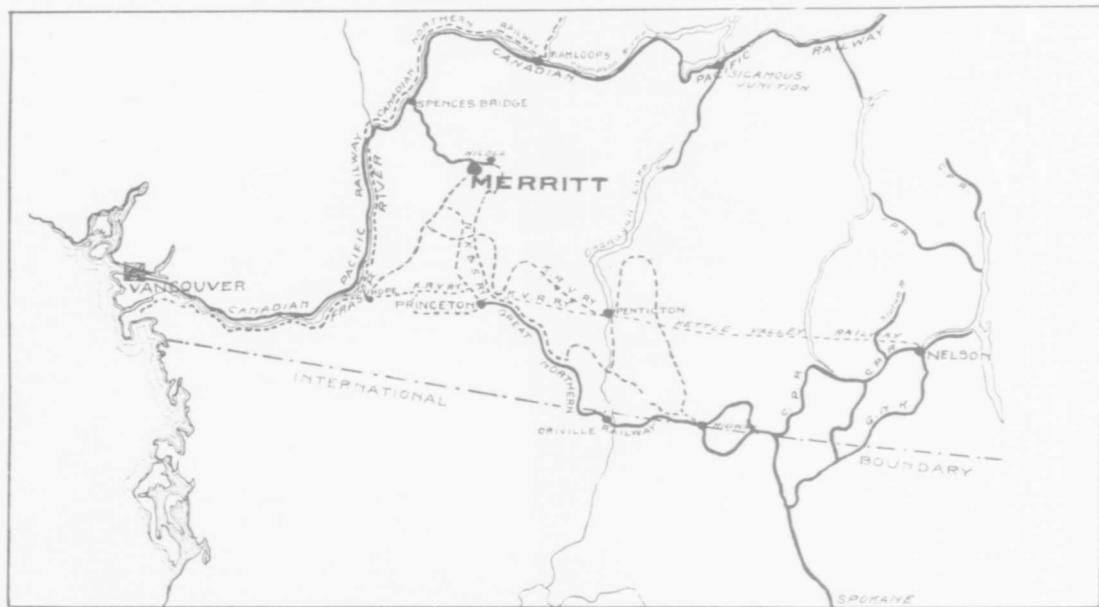
ISSUED BY
THE MERRITT BOARD OF TRADE
AND CITY COUNCIL

Nicola Valley and Merritt British Columbia



NICOLA LAKE

Issued by
The Merritt Board of Trade
and City Council



A Few Facts

on what we have and what we do in British Columbia

Area of British Columbia, 395,000 square miles, with a coast line of 7,000 miles.

The fisheries account for over 30 per cent. of the total catch of Canada, employing 12,000 men.

Our mines have produced since their inception \$347,800,000, and 300,000 square miles of mineralized ground are not prospected.

Our timber brings in \$12,000,000 a year.

Forest and woodland estate consists of 182,000,000 acres.

Fifty million acres of arable and pasture land available.

Ten years ago the total orchard area was 7,460 acres; present area over 100,000 acres.

In ten years the butter produced increased 2,500 per cent., yet last year \$3,000,000 worth of butter and cheese was imported.

\$2,000,000 worth of poultry and eggs imported in 1909.

Output of coal in 1909, 2,400,600 tons.

In manufactures we produce about \$30,000,000 annually.

Total shipping returns for 1909, 9,000,000 tons.

One of British Columbia's greatest assets is her climate.

And our population is only 450,000.

Merritt, British Columbia

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Nicola Valley

THIS beautiful valley comprises the country lying between the Thompson River on the north and the Similkameen on the south, and is bounded on the east and west respectively by the Okanagan and Fraser Valleys. The Nicola Valley and district is now the last of the best country awaiting development. The general direction of the valley is east and west, and is about seventy miles in length.

Extent of the Valley

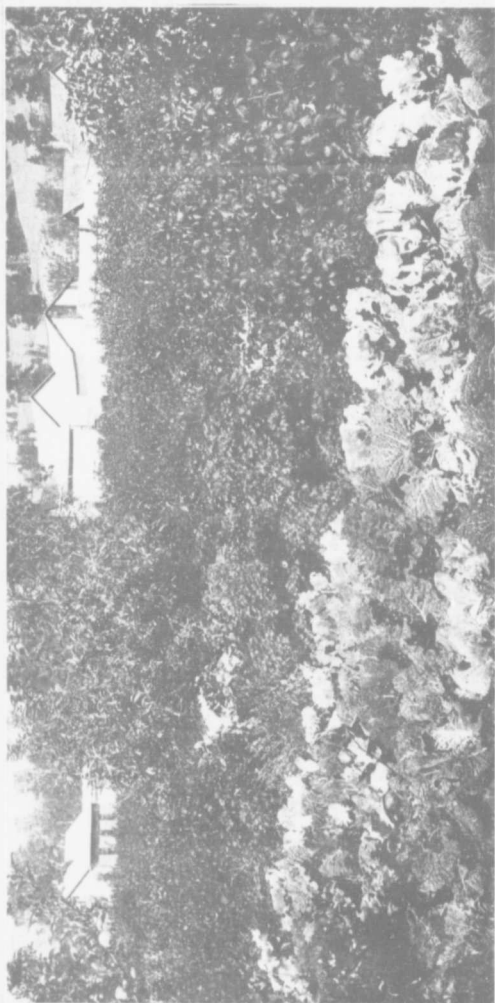
The valley comprises some 175,000 acres of grazing and arable land. The arable land lies in the form of large bottoms or low lands. There are large benches which rise above the low lands; these are natural terraces. They are adapted for growing hay, cereals and vegetables, irrigation in most cases being required, but not necessary in every case, as enough moisture is retained by the winter snows. High above the benches are rolling plateaus covered with bunch grass and peavine, which are most nutritious. These plateaus constitute great summer ranges that have made the Nicola Valley famous as a cattle country throughout the Dominion of Canada for the last forty years. The famous Douglas Lake Cattle Company's western boundary runs into the town of Nicola, and with the other big ranches they ship annually some 5,000 head of cattle to the Coast market.

Climate

Situated at an elevation of 750 to 3,000 feet, the atmosphere is clear and dry, with summer and winter temperature neither excessively hot or cold, the duration of winter seldom exceeding three months. The valley is sheltered by the surrounding mountains rising several hundred feet above it, protecting it from the bleakness and cold north-west winds. The valley having an east and west trend it secures the beneficial effects of the "Chinook" winds which so admirably equalise the temperature.



PANORAMIC VIEW OF MERRITT



MARKET GARDENING, COUTLEE

NICOLA VALLEY DISTRICT *and*

Soil

The soil of the whole valley is composed of a decayed vegetable matter, and runs from deep, black loam to a light, brown mould, with an average depth of four feet, upon which the richest of products may be grown with great success at an altitude of 3,000 feet. Wheat, oats and barley, as well as root crops, have been raised with splendid results. The soil is such that it is an investment of a golden nature to the farmer and market gardener.

Irrigation

Irrigation is the sufficient application of water to ensure crop production, and although not necessary in all cases, it is resorted to by the farmers to absolutely ensure their crops, hence there is never any failure of crops such as one hears of in non-irrigated sections of Canada. With regard to the source of irrigation, there is an unlimited supply of water to irrigate the whole of the irrigable lands; even in the driest of seasons there is always a plentiful supply for the needs of the farmers and stock-raisers.



MERRITT MERCANTILE, GENERAL STORE

MERRITT, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Railways

The C. P. R. run a daily passenger train from Spence's Bridge to Merritt and return, the railway terminating some seven miles east at the town of Nicola. In addition there is a daily freight train. The Kettle Valley Railway have already thirty miles of steel laid and in two years this line will be completed, which will bring the Nicola Valley in close touch with the boundary district. The Kettle Valley Railway will rush the work of construction over the Hope Mountains to Hope, and as soon as this line is completed it will only be a matter of five hours to Vancouver. The Great Northern Railway will also rush their construction over the Hope Mountains, and it is reasonable to say that they will come to Merritt in the near future, which will give us good transportation facilities.

Mineral Wealth

The coal at the present time is the only mining which has been gone into extensively. At Merritt there are four operating mines, employing some 600 men, with a monthly payroll of some \$40,000.00. There is a daily tonnage of 1,000 tons, and with the present development which is being carried out this tonnage will soon be increased. This will also mean increasing the number of men employed. Besides coal there is a gypsum mine within half a mile of Merritt, which will shortly be on a shipping basis. With the railways now being built this will open up vast mineral deposits in the Aspen Grove and Tulameen districts, there being copper, iron, platinum and gypsum, all awaiting development and capital. With the coming of the railways to these places a great activity in mining will result.

Merritt, the principal town on the C. P. R., Nicola Valley branch, with a population of some 1,000 people, is beautifully situated between the forks of the Coldwater and Nicola Rivers. In two years the young city has built itself up, and by the following businesses already represented shows the progressive nature of the business people:

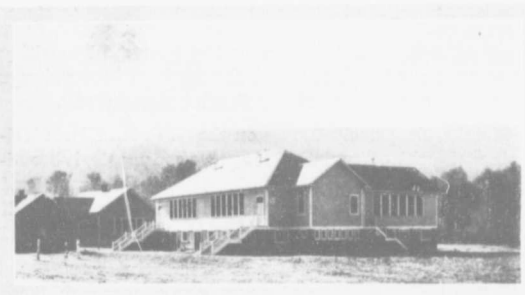
One jeweller, six general stores, two newspapers, three liveries, one harness shop, two restaurants, two dry goods



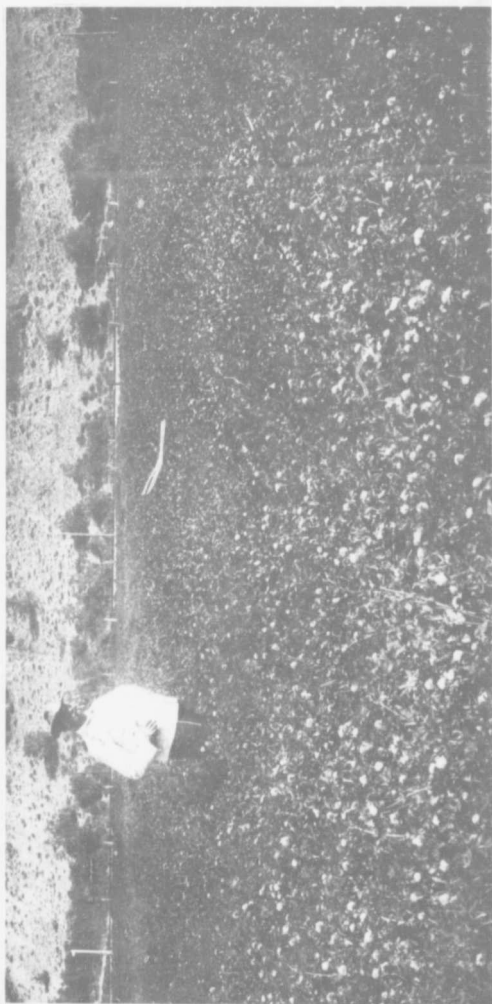
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MERRITT



NICOLA VALLEY GENERAL HOSPITAL, MERRITT



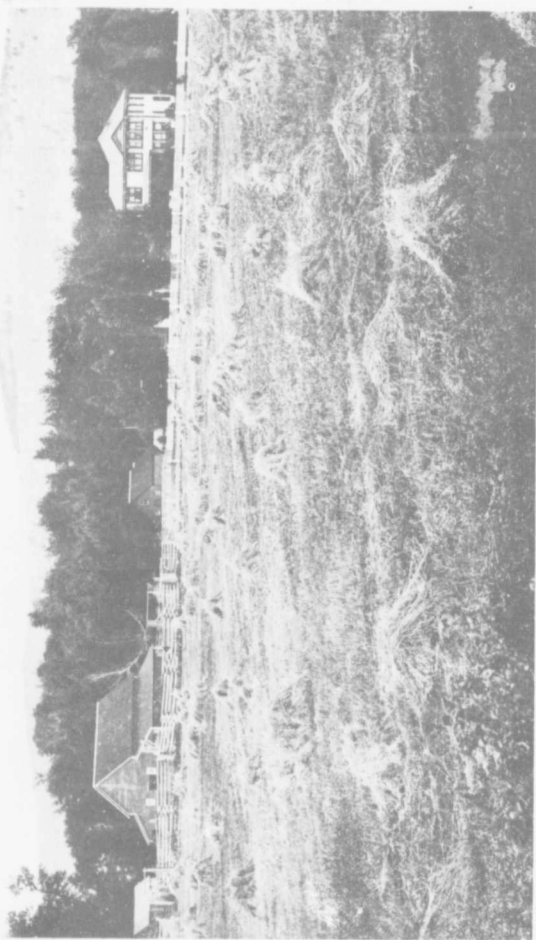
MERRITT'S TWO SCHOOLS



SECOND CROP OF CLOVER, COUTLEE

Eleven

179243



VIEW OF GUCHON'S RANCH, QUILCHENA



1. CATTLE SCENE, NICOLA VALLEY
2. SHEEP RAISED IN NICOLA VALLEY
3. FRUIT GROWN IN NICOLA VALLEY, EXHIBITED AT THE
MERRITT FALL FAIR, 1911

NICOLA VALLEY DISTRICT *and*

stores, four hotels, one steam laundry, moving picture theatre, drug and stationery store, three real estate offices, one meat market, two lawyers, two bakeries, two banks, one tailor, post office and telephone exchange. There are two schools, which cost about \$15,000.00, and a general hospital which cost upwards of \$20,000.00. A large cold storage plant has just been completed at a cost of some \$25,000.00, as well as an up-to-date theatre. There are five churches—Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Plymouth Brethren.

Merritt is also the headquarters for the B. C. Horse, and an armoury will be built this spring, costing not less than \$8,000.00.

The City is expending this year the sum of \$90,000.00 as follows: \$20,000.00 for city hall, fire hall and fire-fighting apparatus; \$40,000.00 for installation of water throughout the town; \$20,000.00 for electric light plant and extensions; \$10,000.00 for sidewalks.

Openings

There is a splendid opportunity for the establishing of a creamery; at the present time 75 per cent. of the butter, eggs, etc., are imported from different parts of the province, as well as from Australia and New Zealand.



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, MERRITT

MERRITT, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Products

For the last forty years the valley has been a stock country, but within the last few years the farmers have taken to growing wheat, barley, oats and root crops with great success, and now that some of the big estates will shortly be cut up into small holdings this will afford the small farmers magnificent opportunities for dairy and mixed farming. This section of country is adapted more for the dairying and mixed farming than for fruit culture, yet fruit is grown successfully, but so far has not been grown in commercial quantities. Sheep and hogs are also raised with great success.

Nicola Lake

Nicola Lake lies eight miles east of the city of Merritt and affords excellent fishing and shooting. It is some fourteen miles in length. The town of Nicola lies at the west end and is the oldest town in the valley. As summer resorts Nicola and Quilchena cannot be beaten; every year finds tourists spending the summer months in one or other of these places.

The Nicola Valley affords a great many opportunities for people with large or small capital, especially in dairying, market gardening and mixed farming. There are also many opportunities in mining; these require capital. With the delightful climate the valley enjoys it well earns its name of the Valley of Sunshine.

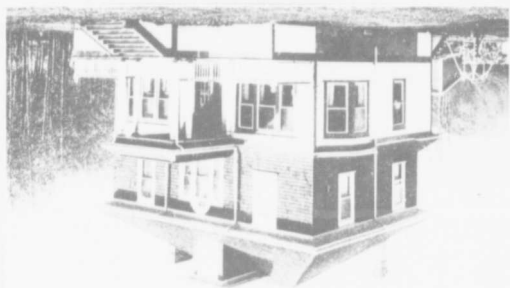
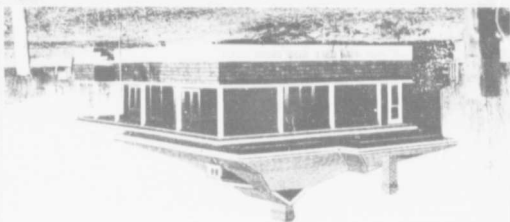
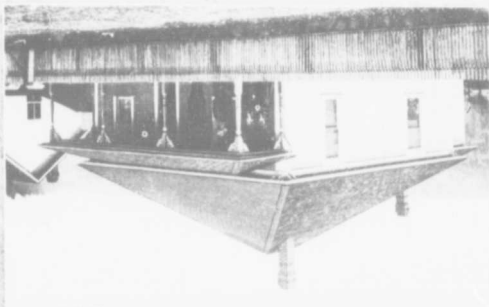


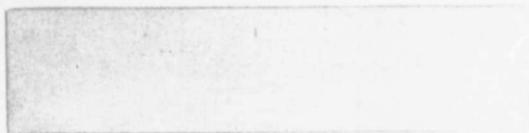
APPLE ORCHARD, NICOLA, B. C.



1. VIEW OF FRONT STREET, NICOLA, B.C.
2. VIEW OF MERRITT TWO YEARS AGO
3. TIPPLE AND PLANT OF NICOLA VALLEY COAL & COKE CO., LTD.

TYPICAL RESIDENCES OF MERRITT





1. COLDWATER HOTEL.
2. MERRITT HOTEL.



1. COLD STORAGE AND THEATRE
2. DIAMOND VALE SUPPLY CO.'S STORE
3. G. B. ARMSTRONG'S GENERAL STORE



1. BANK OF MONTREAL
2. BANK OF TORONTO
3. TYPICAL RESIDENCE AT MERRITT

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Vancouver, B. C.