

S. I.

# THE SOUTHMOST DISTRICTS VANCOUVER ISLAND

COLWOOD  
METCHOSIN  
SOOKE

By

Madge Robertson Watt



1910

THE DISTRICTS DESCRIBED IN THIS PAMPHLET  
INCLUDE

GOLDSTREAM, HIGHLANDS, COLWOOD  
HAPPY VALLEY, ALBERT HEAD  
METCHOSIN, ROCKY POINT, SOOKE  
OTTER POINT

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR DESIRABILITY  
AS SITES FOR PLEASANT HOMES AND THEIR SUIT-  
ABILITY FOR THREE SPECIAL LINES OF AGRICULTURE  
SHEEP, FRUIT AND POULTRY

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This pamphlet has been written by MADGE ROBERTSON WATT at the request  
of the Colwood and Metchosin Branch of the Vancouver Island  
Development Association

The article on Sooke has been contributed by Members of the Committee.

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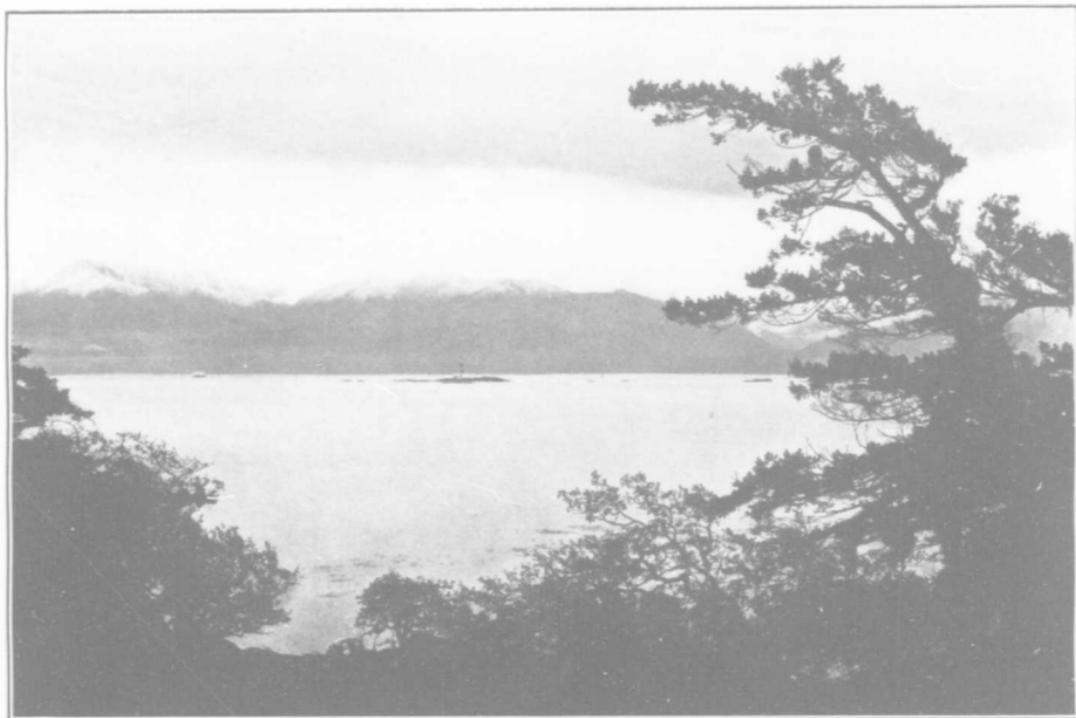
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The Olympics From Metchosin

Photo by Fleming

## COLWOOD AND METCHOSIN

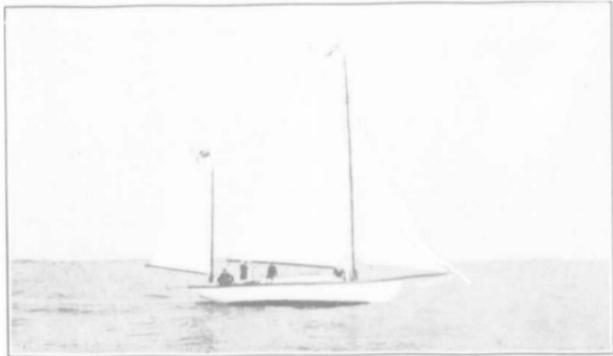
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**I**N this pamphlet we are concerned with the southernmost portion of Vancouver Island—that "Treasure Island" lying on its ocean bed, off the south-western coast of British Columbia Mainland. From the beautiful capital of the Island—Victoria—this large section extends southward and westward as far as Otter Point on the West Coast, from which the shores stretch northward into sea-girt and heavily-timbered lands of great scenic beauty and potentiality.

**Beauty of Situation.**—Much of this district borders on the sea, fronting on the sparkling straits of Juan de Fuca, flanked by the Sooke Hills, composed of stretches of timbered high lands and fertile valleys and of fields under cultivation extending down to the sea beaches. Its environment of dark wooded hills, of the ever-changing sea and mountain make it a panorama of beauty. The outlook from the farms along the waterfront or back on the hills beggars description. From one pleasant home after another the fortunate dwellers, going about their daily work, gaze on a scene which only to see once travelers journey the world over. And before the eyes of little children passing daily to school, lies a view that famous men and women coming near by these shores in the great ocean liners, unhesitatingly declare to be the most beautiful in the world.

From numbers of comfortable farmhouses and pleasant country homes extend fields yellowing in the summer sun or lush green with forage crops, interspersed with orchard slopes. Then in sharp contrast are masses of rock covered with ferns, mosses and rock plants in astonishing variety, with lines of tall firs outlined, stately, against a sky often as blue as any of Italy. Between their serried rows are heavenly glimpses of the flashing waters, now green, now blue, of the dimpling Straits. While rising far above and beyond in incomparable beauty from the dark shore-line opposite are the wonderful snow-clad Olympics. These snowy peaks, forever unapproachable by painter's brush or poet's pen—make a magnificent background to all the varied scenes of the Island. Mountain after mountain in seeming unending chain, each "on a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds, with a diadem of snow," rear their heads superbly from the sea-washed foot-hills.

The view of the Olympics is different here than from Victoria; from here the Angel's Gate in divine loveliness a wide open gap, clearly defines the pure outlines of The Valley of the Angeles. At its feet, a seeming sentinel, stands the great lighthouse of the Race Rocks, with its sombre height and warning light. A thousand sublime pictures meet the eye; whether the day is dark and the hills clad in azure hue with darker shadows relieved by lines of snow; whether fleecy clouds drift in graceful lines below the summits; whether the day is fair and with radiance unimagined the pure-white dazziing masses are clear-cut against the heavens; whether at sunset when in palest blue the hills rise white-bedecked from the darkening water, their peaks in a golden radiance that melts softly into rosy pink; whether at moonlight when far more plainly than from any other part of the Island, the mountains lie bathed in silver light, an enchanted land across the molten gold of the moonlit water. One thinks on such a night of Tennyson's words,—“to me high mountains are a feeling,” and it is only too true that our admiration and sentiment must remain only a feeling. No words of ours can express the wondrous beauty of the scenes among which we live.



“Graceful Sail Boats”

**Interest of Outlook: Shipping.**—Between the Olympics and our shores are the Straits of Juan de Fuca, at all times of the day and year full of interest to the dwellers on these shores. The world-famed anchorage, the Royal Roads, lies between Albert Head and Esquimalt. Here may always be seen great ships, barques, schooners, sailing ships of all nationalities and often steamers awaiting orders. At Parry

Bay, too, between Albert and William Heads, are often seen vessels which have run for shelter from ocean gales and others awaiting pilots or quarantine inspection. Then, out in the Straits are continually passing in ships and great ocean liners and frequently war ships from all parts of the world. All entering Canadian or Puget Sound ports must pass between Race Rocks and the American shore. The sight of these large steamers of all descriptions, of ships often under full sail, of tugs and tows, is of perennial interest to landmen. Nor are smaller craft wanting. A favorite short cruise for yachts is to Albert Head and longer to Peddar Bay. At almost any time of the day the eye is delighted by the sight of graceful sail boats, white-winged, scudding before the lighter summer winds. Little Indian canoes with their colored sails and dog-head prows are crossing and re-crossing in all conditions of weather. Quick little launches on pleasure bent poke their capable noses in and out of all the inlets. One need never be lonely near the highways of the sea.



Moonlight on Peddar Bay

Photo by Lally Bernard

**Arms of the Sea.**—From almost everywhere is there easy access to the sea and to the city. Many arms of the sea run far into the land, affording natural means of communication and transportation and adding to nature's attraction. Beaches and lagoons abound. There are four large lagoons and sand beaches and innumerable smaller beaches between Becher Bay and Victoria, many of which are favorite camping grounds and bathing places for Victorians as well as residents of adjacent districts. Up two of these inlets, extending a couple of miles inland, Peddar and Becher Bays, is admittedly the best salmon trolling within a short distance of Victoria, especially in the late summer months. At this time of the year many Indian encampments are on some of the beaches, their camp fires at night adding a picturesque touch to the scene and their weird and crooning songs coming curiously over the water. From every home, from every tiny shack, is there an outlook to charm. Most superb of all are the views from the

high hills with their panoramas of wooded land and jutting points and interspersed water, until the eye rests on the unending ocean where it parts with the mountains of eternal snows.

**Varied Topography.**—This district has a great diversity of surroundings and a great variety of scenery. Generally speaking the land is rolling, with wooded hills and park-like stretches of grass and trees. While these characteristics are applicable to most parts of the district, there are very many points of dissimilarity as might be expected from a section of such varied topography. There are slopes and orchards and meadow lands; there are forests of timber and masses of rock covered with moss and fern and flowers; there are high cliffs over the straits and level stretches down to the sea. There are quiet rural places and wild mountainous parts, the abode of a great variety of game, and there are woodland scenes with lakes and rivers abounding in fish.

**Forest Beauty.**—The land is heavily timbered in places and the forest growth is remarkable. From the carpets of mosses and ferns and wild flowers, through the luxuriant undergrowth of creepers and flowering vines and berried shrubs, rise magnificently noble trees of many kinds, ever topped in remote majesty by the fine specimens of the giant fir. Besides the great trees, there are numbers of flowering and ornamental trees and large flowering bushes of great beauty, such as the dog-wood, elders, briar, currant, laurel, blackberry, spirea, and many other varieties. There are wild vines and shrubs and flowers which make the woods a scene of unparalleled sylvan beauty. The wild flowers are a constant joy. Over fifty varieties are in bloom in April and include many which are cherished garden products in less favored spots. A walk in the woods anywhere is a perpetual delight; and a drive on the road winding in and out of forest glades is a revelation of unsuspected beauties in an ever-beautiful land. In winter, especially, when the moss is green everywhere, and rushing streams and foaming waterfalls flash between the trees, there is forest loveliness so surprising as to seem unreal.

**Water Abundant and Pure.**—The constant presence of water vivifies any landscape, and in Metehosin and Colwood and Sooke the quality and quantity of the water supply is a cause for gratitude. Many sources of water-power are found in these districts. Goldstream Lakes, from which the Esquimalt Water Company are laying a new 30-inch main through the Colwood district, Sooke Lake, a prospective supply for Victoria City, and the Sooke River are within our borders, and the Jordan River, with its new power plant, is not

far off. It is no exaggeration to say that the purest water in the world is found here. For many years the former owner of Hatley sold water to the Navy from his property near Colwood. And ships from here carried it all over the world. It was found that this water would keep perfectly fresh in tanks for many months. In fact the water throughout the whole district is singularly free from injurious vegetable matter. Water from Goldstream district supplies a large portion of Esquimalt and Victoria West, and is considered most satisfactory. The water from all the lakes and streams and springs is excellent, cool and pleasant, and will no doubt be utilized from some of the springs, at least, as bottled table water.

**Equable Climate.**—Situated as it is on the southernmost end of Vancouver Island, and containing the last point before the coast turns northward, the climate leaves nothing to be desired. It is mild and moist as that of the South of England, yet far brighter and sunnier. The moderating influence of the Japanese current and of the moisture-laden winds from the Pacific are factors in bringing about this desirable result. While it is possible that some portions of the Island are from the mildness of the climate less stimulating than that of less equable climes, the climatic conditions here can never be said to be enervating, either mentally or physically. The freshness of the air is delightful and health-giving. There is a marvelously invigorating quality in the atmosphere. The ocean breezes keep the summers cool, or, at most, pleasantly warm. The rainfall is for the most part in the winter and is on the whole less than we would be willing to have. A long list of the miseries, in weather ways, that we do not have, is of interest. There are no sand or dust storms, no hail, heavy snow or severe frost, no tornadoes, cyclones or earthquakes, no droughts, no intense heat or cold, no floods, no tidal waves, no thunder and lightning, in fact no violent disturbances of any sort, and an entire absence of mosquitoes and troublesome flies. This locality is much the same as Victoria meteorologically, with the difference that its position would naturally bring, of being somewhat milder in winter, cooler in summer and with little fog or dampness. Heavy rains are not prevalent. Rain-bearing clouds pass over from the West coast and are not here precipitated.

**Soil.**—It is essentially a district for mixed farming. The soil is unusually fertile and easily worked. It is light, full of humus and with good natural drainage. For the most part it is a dark, sandy loam on the surface and has next a stratum of clay or a gravelly sub-soil. At any time of the year gardening operations may be carried on. Most crops will grow, but

it is the soil par excellence for fruit—large and small. Poultry raising, including all sorts, can be made most profitable on this soil and the natural grasses make excellent feed, especially for sheep. There is very little swampy land.

**Special Lines.**—Many residents insist on the superior desirability of the land for hog raising, and no doubt with reason. Farmers everywhere know the value of this line of farming, especially in conjunction with dairying. Many aver that the pig is the most profitable animal on the farm. Certainly a number of farmers here do well with them.



A Dairy Farm

Photo by A. E. Frewing

**Dairying Succeeds.**—The experiences of Mr. H. C. Helgesen, in these branches, will be timely. He writes:—

"Of dairying and the raising of hogs I would say; there may be other districts in B. C. that surpass Metchosin in dairying, because of lower lands and better pastures, but where the soiling system is adopted the best results may be obtained here, owing to the adaptability of the land to produce early forage crops, such as rye and vetches. These, sown early in the fall and followed by crops of peas and oats, also corn as an early spring and summer fodder, and with plenty of roots for the winter will give a supply of green and succulent food the year round. It has been demonstrated time and again that better results can be obtained by keeping the cows enclosed and feeding them than by the grazing system. I find that dairying supplemented by the raising of hogs to be more profitable than any other line of farming, as it takes less fertility out of the soil and can be continued with any other forms of agriculture or horticulture. The demand for good butter on the market is constant, and as long as the quality is maintained it readily sells at from 35c. to 40c. per lb. Hogs find a ready market at from 7½c. to 8½c. per lb. live weight, and from 10c. to 11c. dressed. There is an old saying that "it takes horses to make big money, cattle and sheep for sure money, but hogs

for quick money," and I know of no other branch of live stock that will give such quick return for the amount of capital invested as the raising of hogs as a by-product of the dairy. After a good deal of experience in dairying I would point out to a man with a family wanting to make the most of a farm and who can combine intelligence with labour, a few of the good points that can be said in favour of the dairy cow. These might be summed up as follows:

"She increases the fertility of the soil; the by-products, skim milk and buttermilk are a source of income, in raising hogs and poultry. The cash for butter comes in every month and provides the mainstay in the household. She gives constant and regular employment of a light character to every member of the household, and thus inculcates habits of punctuality, industry and thrift on the farm.

"For these reasons, namely, the soiling system being profitable and the character of the soil and climate giving early forage crops, the new settler can readily engage in dairying and hog raising and be sure of a steady income with returns every week or month as desired. Cream can either be sent to the Creamery or butter sent to town by stage with money brought back at once."

Others again refer to market gardening as a future source for large incomes to the small farms. The promised daily service to Victoria will no doubt bring market gardening into greater prominence. Horse breeding and bee keeping are also considered good lines for the locality.

**Concerning Horse-Breeding.**—Mr. J. S. H. Matson, of "Aldermere," Goldstream District, and President of the Victoria Transfer Company, writes concerning Horse-Breeding in these districts, as follows:

"There is excellent opportunity for every farmer throughout the districts of Colwood and Metchosin and Sooke to add materially to his income by raising good carriage or draft horses. Some are doing so now, but it is an industry which should be more generally followed. While there are a number of standard bred horses in the district, it requires special knowledge and good judgment to be successful with this class of animal. For that matter the successful breeding of any class calls for good judgment, but every farmer, provided he starts right with a sound pair of brood mares and gives them the care and attention which every farm team ought to receive, might from his pair get a couple of colts each year, and if he raised them until three years old should realize from \$400 to \$600 or more. In this country, where ploughing and work outside can be carried on throughout the year, the heavier work can be got through with in the fall or early in the season, so that about foaling time the mares need not be overworked. Later with foals at their sides they can haul the hay, cultivate the orchards, or do whatever may be required. Colts will practically raise themselves in this country, and on pastures such as can be provided on every farm, they will develop fully both in bone and muscle. During the winter months, they should be stabled every night and fed a little hay, but very little grain, and at this time their education should be gone on with. After two years old they can do light work, and when arriving three should be fully broken and ready for sale. The young team should relieve the brood mares of much of the spring work, and yet be sold early enough in the spring to bring the best price. Horses raised in this way are produced cheaply, are

tractable and can be readily sold, and even at a much higher figure they are preferable to range horses. If there is work for another team on the ranch the young team can be kept another year, when they will more than pay their way and may be expected to fetch a still better price.

"There is a big demand for horses of the right description in the coast cities and in the logging camps, and hundreds of work horses are imported each year. The local man has an advantage equal to the freight charges and duty over the importer, and this more than offsets the somewhat higher price of hay and grain on the coast. But no intelligent farmer is going to sell hay and grain off his place even if the price to be got is high. All that can be grown should be consumed on the farm and the fertility returned to the soil. No better way of utilizing the products of the fields can be found than feeding the same to horses. Then the horses will pay their board with their labour, broaden the fields, pull out the stumps, roll up the logs, keep the orchard cultivated and be generally the farmers' best friend. With a good team a man may, in slack times on the farm, make from \$5 to \$6 per day hauling cordwood, working on the roads, or doing general teaming."

**Sheep, Fruit and Poultry.**—In the past, however, the greatest successes have been made with sheep, fruit and poultry. It has been considered, no doubt, that where a good living is easily made by these three branches, further occupation need not be too strenuously sought. But many farmers are not content to limit themselves. They like a variety of farm occupation, and take a pride in finding out how many lines can be made profitable. For them, as has been said, there are a number of other opportunities. The temptation in this favored climate and all the year round possibilities to try everything is considerable, but there will be wisdom in the choice of some or all of these three lines which have proved so signally successful. The essentials for success with sheep, fruit and poultry are found in Metchosin, Colwood and Sooke.

The value of poultry in orchards is well known, and many settlers on small acreage are doing well in these branches alone. Those with large acreage add sheep and add greatly to their profits. It is not claimed for this part of the Island that it excels in grain or hay growing or dairying, although there are many farms where there are excellent fields. Many farmers make their livelihood out of their cows. Butter from "Sherwood" Metchosin, for instance, always commands the highest prices, and almost every ranch has its regular and well satisfied butter customers in Victoria. Horses, too, are a particular source of profit. But while grain-growing and dairying are engaged in here there is no claim made that—in this line—a farmer cannot do as well elsewhere. There are plenty of spots, especially on the Mainland, where hay is grown to a far greater extent and with greater results; where grain-growing is far superior and where dairying is a greater industry.

But it is claimed that nowhere else on this continent is there a section of country as admirably adapted in every way to the growing of all kinds of fruit, to the raising of all sorts of poultry and to the breeding and rearing of sheep.



This well-known Photograph was taken in Metchosin, although often credited elsewhere

Photo by Fleming

**Sheep.**—The history of sheep raising on the end of this Island is full of interest. The first sheep to come into British Columbia were brought here by the Hudson's Bay Company. These sheep of the Southdown breed were placed at Colwood and thence to the Weir Estate at Peddar Bay. In 1858 the well-known family of Weirs, from Scotland, settled at William Head, their property including what is now known as Selsea, Crosby, Glen Weir and Gordon Bush. Mr. Robert Weir, "the old Laird," as he was universally styled, had what was probably the best sheep run in British Columbia. His flock by 1862 numbered 800, and descendants may still be seen in the neighborhood. For forty years this flock fended for itself without being given food or shelter by owners. It is interesting, but not singular, when the peculiar suitability of the land is reckoned with that the first sheep brought into the Province, and for many years its largest flock, should have kept on the same place, where there is now kept the largest flock of pure-

bred Southdowns in the Province, namely, at Selsea, Peddar Bay.

**Ideal Conditions for Sheep.**—The owner of this flock, Dr. A. T. Watt, has written his opinion on the suitability of this neighborhood for sheep raising. As first prizes have been won not only at Provincial but Dominion Fairs by these Southdowns it is noteworthy that he considers this district the best for his pure-bred sheep. He says:

"An experience lasting through several seasons with a fairly good-sized flock of sheep in this district enables me to say that the keeping of sheep is a profitable undertaking. The wool and mutton which can be produced are equal to the best. The market lamb can be ready early, and pure-bred stock can be brought to perfection. The hill pastures, with their natural grasses, produce mutton or lamb which commands always the highest market price, and there is always a demand for Island mutton.

"Nowhere in Canada is there to be found so equable a climate or an environment so suitable for sheep as in the area comprised in the Southern end of Vancouver Island. Nowhere on the Continent do sheep thrive better than in the country bordering the North Pacific. Recent reports show that in the adjacent State of Washing-



"Ideal Conditions for Sheep"

Photo by H. F. Pullen

ton the average wool clip per sheep is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.—the highest in the United States. The sheep kept in British Columbia are mostly of the medium or shortwooled breeds, since the greatest profit here is in mutton. There is, however, a consensus of opinion that, for such sheep, the wool clip averages high. It undoubtedly is the case that on the Pacific slope sheep do remarkably well; and in the favored districts of Vancouver Island good wool and tender and well-flavored mutton and high-class breeding stock are easily produced. Where such ideal conditions prevail and with a climate comparable with that of the South of England, specializing in pure-bred sheep can be made a feature. The sheep will attain the best development and the greatest vigor; and such sheep at exhibitions are pronounced by

judges to be the very best. For pure-bred stock, however, the home market is limited, although the outside demand is growing.

"Sheep are seldom affected here by sickness of any kind, and have only to be protected against wet weather and attacks of wild animals. Many flocks are kept on the open range and find their own living the whole year through. The fact that this can be, and is, done shows the kind of climate enjoyed, but it pays better to give the sheep some of the care and attention found necessary in less favoured countries. In fact, no class of live stock will give better return for an equal amount of time given to their care. The sheep shed should be provided, also some hay and grain and roots for winter feeding. If this feed is given at night the sheep will be home for it and need not be searched for. In starting a flock, sheep suitable to the climate and market demands are to be looked for. The Down breeds meet these requirements better than any other, and the Southdowns are favourites with many. The wool is close and turns the rain, and it is not so easily pulled out when the sheep are ranging through the bush. The carcass is a handy size and the lambs are early maturing and easily fattened. The run should be fenced as far as possible, and as many enclosures made as considered profitable. By moving the sheep on from one pasture to another, the pastures are kept good and the sheep kept healthy and free from internal parasites. The enclosures should be easily accessible to the sheep sheds and the best grass kept for the winter feed. A considerable number more sheep may be kept when the land is thus fenced, and the flock managed with less trouble, but on no account should the run be overstocked. As fencing becomes more general and the vacant land less, better methods of management must ensue. Improved sheep will be kept and profits will continue good.

To get the best results the flock should be so managed that the lambs are sold as early as possible and top prices secured. It is profitable to give a right amount of extra feed at the right time, for the earlier the lambs are sold, the longer will the ewes have to get into good condition on good grass. Thus, the next season's lambs will be strong and early and so from year to year.

"A number of the best ewe lambs should be retained each year to replace older ewes which must be drafted from the breeding stock. The draft ewes should be put on good pasture and given turnips and some grain, when they will sell well about Christmas, when mutton brings the best price. The lambs to be retained should likewise receive good care and should be kept by themselves until well grown. They should not be put with the breeding flock until their second year. The whole object is to have a uniform, healthy and sound lot of breeding ewes; splendid returns will be had from such a flock. The Vancouver Island Flockmasters' Association has done much for the improvement of the various breeds of sheep, and have imported a number of fine rams. There are breeders in the Province of all the approved breeds of sheep, and anyone starting in the sheep industry here may secure such stock as he may fancy."

**Sheep Profitable.**—Mr. J. D. Reid, of "Glenrosa," owner of a registered flock of Oxford Down sheep, says:

"I have always found sheep farming most profitable. With ordinary care and judicious management 120 per cent. lambs may be depended on, and fat lambs readily realize \$5.00 per head. Hand feeding is rarely necessary, and the expense of running a flock of sheep is small. The hilly range country, with a great variety of food, pro-

duces a sheep, hardy of constitution and peculiarly free from disease, and a dead sheep is a rare sight. This is a sheep country with an excellent lamb and mutton market. In fact, sheep, fruit and poultry readily constitute a system of mixed farming in Metchosin with every assurance of success, as I can vouch from fourteen years' experience. Among the many advantages of Metchosin are its climate, scenery, suitable sheep country, it being within easy reach of Victoria and in a country rich in fish and game; its having a good bi-weekly stage service which passes my door, takes my farm produce and brings back the cash.

"Also within a short time a good railway service may be depended on for transporting produce to Victoria, where the best prices can be secured of any city on the coast.

"To the visitor who scans the rock-ribbed coast of the South end of Vancouver Island sheep farming might not appeal as an important branch of agriculture. Yet our rugged hills and timbered valleys contain the potentialities of a pleasant and profitable industry, still in its incipency.



"Sheep Add Beauty to the Farm"

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

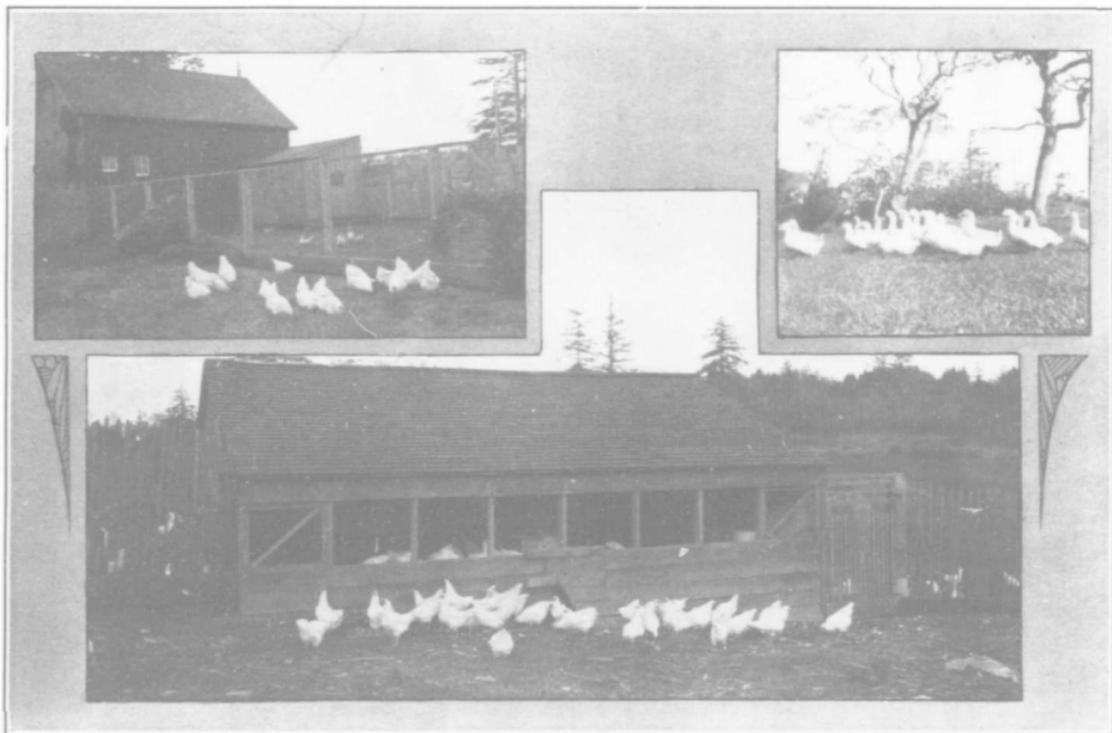
"The finest mutton—that of the black-face sheep of Scotland—is not the product of luscious pastures, but is raised on wild and storm-swept hills, where mouthfuls of grass among the heather are few and far between. Less severe conditions, but in some respects parallel, are perhaps responsible for the excellent quality of lamb and mutton which our sea-girt farms produce. Our native pastures are greatly diversified and the breeds of sheep hardy and prolific, and the roast lamb, which graces our tables at Easter, will satisfy the epicurean palate of the most fastidious.

"A great variety of food abounds on the ranges, from the short brittle grasses of the Uplands to the wild pea vine of the valleys, with moss and lichen impregnated with the flavor of saline breezes, and browse and shrubs, almost tropical in the luxuriance. Streams, clear as crystal and lakes dark as Highland tarns, afford a plentiful supply of water. Sheep constitute an important branch of agriculture. The hoofs of the 'woolly idiots' are proverbially golden, and our land is enriched and our farms kept clean by their pasturage. Confined in fields they are more thrifty than when run on open range. A rolling sheep, like a rolling stone, gathers no moss (fat).

"The popularity of the Down breeds has been long established. There are several pure-bred flocks in the district, and common ewes are bred to registered rams. Sheep add beauty to the farm, and also furnish a pleasant change of diet. The management of a flock entails little labour or expenditure. With an excellent market at our door and large areas of land suitable for grazing, sheep farming will become an important industry in Metchosin District. The principal, if not the only drawback is the mountain lion or panther, whose occasional ravages are responsible for a loss of perhaps 5 per cent. A denizen of the wild interior, he pays roving visits to the settlements, on a change of diet intent, and affords excellent sport to local hunters, who seldom fail to bag the destroyer. A bounty of \$15 is awarded by the Government, to which may be added \$10 for a fine skin and carcass. With the settlement of the country his inroads will decrease.

"The freedom of the hills, the immunity from labour, and the leisure afforded by sheep raising give zest to life, and who would hanker for city environment after experiencing the enchantment of "the bleating pens"? In conjunction with fruit or poultry the sheep farmer may devote his leisure to the pursuance of his favourite hobby, and with contemplation mild he may cultivate his orchards while the lambs play and the wool grows."

**Poultry.**—Now as to poultry; while the enterprising hen scratches over the most of the civilized world and is thoroughly cosmopolitan in her tastes and habits, there is no doubt that those who wish to make her a money-getter must take heed of several considerations in selecting a site for a poultry farm. Under favorable conditions there are great profits in poultry raising, and there need be no hesitation in embarking in such an enterprise in Colwood, Metchosin, Sooke or any of the adjacent districts. The favorable conditions are all here and successful rearers of chickens are found on every farm. The great bulk of poultry product in Victoria is not from extensive poultry farms but from small places, country homes or farms of a few acres. Fruit and poultry do so well together that wherever there are even a few fruit trees we find hens also. Their number need not be great, but their omnipresence shows that they are profitable. Most useful is poultry to the beginner in the country. From the first there is something upon which he can depend. It is common in these districts, as elsewhere, to see chickens about the stumps and the newly-cut trees, turkeys further afield in the yet unslashed woods, and ducks about the door of the hastily-erected log cabin. Then, too, this is a branch of farm work that the women and children of the farm can manage while the breadwinner earns their living where he can, whether at his larger farming operations or at daily labour elsewhere. All sorts of fowl are found here, geese, turkeys, chickens, ducks, guinea fowl, also pigeons. There are conditions favourable for all. Some parts of the country are better for turkeys, some for geese, but ducks and chickens will be most successful anywhere.



"Ducks and Chickens, Most Successful"

**Climate Right for Chickens.**—Mr. W. E. Bayliss, a successful poultry raiser and lecturer, says:—

"On account of its climate Metchosin is particularly well suited for the raising of poultry. In order to get the best results from chickens it is absolutely necessary that they should have plenty of fresh air. It is only in a mild climate that they can be kept under such conditions as to insure this. Anywhere near the coast the hen house can be open night and day during the whole winter, and the laying season may be said to begin with the New Year.

"In the Metchosin district of Vancouver Island the conditions are, if anything, more favourable than anywhere in the West, because of the small rainfall and cool summers. Breeders of pure stock have begun to realize this fact, and a good many are making their headquarters in the district.

"In starting into the poultry business we must first find out what is the best marketable product in the particular locality we are situated in; eggs, table fowl, or both. I would say, in and around Metchosin, it pays to keep utility fowl, such as Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons and Rhode Island Reds—for eggs, broilers and table. In the outlying districts, with somewhat uncertain shipping facilities, it pays better to keep egg-producing varieties, such as Leghorn and Minorca class.

"We have heard remarks about the poultry business being overdone in British Columbia on account of such an influx of settlers from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, who are taking up fruit and poultry culture as a business and pastime; but when we look at the large territory to the North, the lumber, mining camps and canneries in outlying districts, we are not afraid to say that it will be quite a number of years hence before the supply will equal the demand.

"Last year we imported about one million dollars' worth of eggs and poultry, to supply our Northern trade and also our local canneries, mills and camps. The price of eggs for the years 1908-9 averaged the high price of 36 cents per dozen. The lowest market price in Victoria, which is our nearest market, was 25 cents per dozen, and the highest 75 cents.

"The cost of starting into poultry culture as a business is comparatively small compared with other lines of farm produce. Houses are cheaply built, and in the Metchosin district shells and good grit are to be had for the fetching. To start a five-hundred-hen plant would cost about \$2,000 to \$3,000 after you have located your land—five hundred laying hens—with proper care and attention—will make a net profit of \$1,000.00 a year, this is double what can be made in proportion to the outlay with other farm stock, besides the healthy and interesting side of poultry raising."

**A Paradise for the Fruit Grower.**—There are great possibilities in fruit growing in this end of Vancouver Island, which is, one may say, a paradise for the fruit grower. To give a list of fruits that are grown here with great pleasure and profit is an easy task; one can do so off-hand; apples, pears, plums, cherries, prunes, crabs, quinces, peaches, apricots, nectarines, grapes, mulberries, loganberries, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, currants, gooseberries; then there are medlars and walnuts and chestnuts. The garden at "Fern-

cliffe" contains all of these fruits, also one at William Head and several other ranch gardens. A great number of small and large fruits are found on most of the farms. The appended extracts give an idea of the possibilities of orchards, and it would be easy to multiply experience of farmers in this regard. There are orchards in full bearing of fine apples, at "Sherwood" and at "Gordon Bush," Metchosin, which were planted forty years ago, the first, in fact, planted in this locality. From a "Fallwater" over forty years old Mr. H. C. Helgesen picked last year 18 boxes of commercial apples. His old trees are in perfect condition, trunks smooth and clean.



Orchard at "Glenrosa," Rocky Point

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

As a result of proper handling many old orchards taken over by newcomers have, after care and attention, given quite heavy yields where before they were not considered worth picking. With ordinary care (that is, trees from a reliable nurseryman and found by experience to be suited to locality and market, well planted, well drained, well cultivated and well sprayed)—an orchard here will come into bearing at four years and into good crop at five and will last a life time. All kinds of fruit do well, but peaches are for the most part well fruit, also nectarines, apricots and grapes, and need more sheltered situations. Some very heavy bearing peach trees are to be found here, one about 14 years old at "Sherwood," Metchosin, yielding over 250 lbs. of first class fruit last year, at a conservative estimate. For three seasons in succession first prize was won with these peaches at Victoria Fair.

**Beautiful Fruit.**—The fruit, too, is beautiful. A number of cherry trees on a farm at Albert Head are almost unbelievably fine. In no other part of Canada can be seen such

cherries—so large, so delicious and of such varieties of colour and flavour. They have here reached perfection indeed. Every variety seems to flourish and get larger, in a vain effort, apparently, to keep up with the plums. So, too, with the useful crab-apple. Content to be modest, jelly-making adjuncts to the apple in other countries, here, on the Pacific coast, the Florence and the Hyslop flaunt their crimson cheeks on overloaded trees. Most severe thinning has to be practised with the young crab-trees. Off one tree near Peddar Bay five years' old, enough crabs were taken to make the winter supply of jelly for five families, no mean supply for each. In fact, this



Young Morella Cherry  
in Blossom

most delicious jelly is almost a daily necessity in this district, where there is so often game and poultry on the table. Prunes are of great commercial value and fruit heavily. Plums are found in great variety, from the tart little English damson to the great Pond's seedling, which bears an enormous crop. Pears here are in their greatest glory and command good prices. Some orchardists consider them the greatest money-makers. Others hold firmly by apples. Apples here are wonderful croppers. When the Scottish Commission on Agriculture was in Canada, one of the fruit experts, visiting

William Head, said of a five-year-old apple tree there: "I have never seen a more beautiful specimen of a young tree. It is as heavily laden as possible and at the same time it is forming all the necessary new wood and the fruit is perfect and beautifully coloured." Apples are of fine quality throughout these districts. Prizes have been won by fruit exhibited by many farmers, notably from "Ferncliffe," Metchosin, and "Sherwood," Metchosin, and at "Glen Lea," Colwood, at some of the Provincial Fairs. At some farms in Happy Valley and Rocky Point apples are kept as late as June of the next year, and the new crop comes in in late July, so that they are never without their own apples. The apples packed by Mr. J. D. Reid, of "Glenrosa," were stated by Mr. Drummond, manager of the Fruit-Growers' Association, in a public lecture, to be the best delivered in Victoria last year.

**Specially Adapted to Fruit-Growing.**—Mr. G. Heatherbell, of "Glen Lea," writes:—

"Colwood and Metchosin districts are especially adapted to fruit-growing, both large and small. We have excellent land suitable for



34 Pounds No. 1 Apples from 3-year-old Tree, Glen Lea Farm, Colwood

that purpose, a large part of which is naturally drained, while that which needs draining can be easily done. We have very long summers and abundant sunshine, which ensures an early and late season. In other words, we have an early growth in spring with absence of killing frosts, and the late apples can remain on the trees until November, if need be. With so much sunshine during this long-growing period, coupled with the character or chemical nature of our soils, it gives the wonderful colouring to our fruit. Also, we have a light rainfall, but still enough for fruit culture, by paying strict attention to practical cultivation, thereby conserving the moisture in the soil left there by the winter rains. Just to show the possibilities I may say that I had an Alexander apple tree that bore last season 34 pounds No. 1 apples in its fifth year from the graft; in other words, a 2-year-old tree, planted three years, also a Victoria plum tree, with 42 pounds of plums the same age. And as regards the great growth of wood, I have a 3-year-old 'Ben Davis' worked over to a "Winter Banana" last season which measured  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches in circumference (new growth) above the union, one limb alone (of which there are four) measured  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in circumference, one season's growth. I believe there is no place in the world today that offers more or better advantages to fruit growers than this Southern end of Vancouver Island.

The one difficulty is the clearing of the timbered land for those that have not sufficient capital to purchase land already cleared. That done and ten or fifteen acres planted and Logan, Phenomenal, and other berries planted around the boundary, or between the rows (so as not to interfere with the cultivation) either for future profit or even for speculation, one need not fear a failure if engaged in fruit growing here. The Loganberry and other small fruit would give a good income after the second year, while the larger fruit was coming into bearing.

"Of course, one needs the indispensable requisites of industry, ordinary intelligence and its application, with a small amount of capital, to be successful. Fruit growing is, like other things in life, made up of little things. One must carry out the six commandments of horticulture: 1st, plant wisely; 2nd, cultivate thoroughly; 3rd, prune intelligently; 4th, spray carefully; 5th, thin extensively; 6th, market knowingly. As to the market for the increased quantity of fruit that is going to be produced, some appear to think there will be an over-production. I believe the more we grow of No. 1 fruit—properly packed—the more we will be able to sell, and we will also get better prices. We have established a reputation for excellent fruit, by taking first place in Great Britain and again at the International Convention, held in Vancouver, and also at Spokane. In fact, we can grow both large and small fruit second to none.

"A word about the English walnut; it is quite at home here and grows and bears wonderfully, commencing to bear in five or six years. I would advise planting it very largely along the boundary, both for future profit and ornamental purposes."

Those who have visited the beautiful orchard at "Glen Lea" will bear witness to the practical working out of Mr. Heatherbell's ideas, and will understand and share his enthusiasm.

**Profits in Fruit.**—Mr. T. A. Brydon, of "Craig Lea" Farm, one of the most successful fruit growers in B. C., writes:—

"There are many beautiful places in British Columbia where the home seeker may locate with great advantage to himself and to the country. Certain it is there is no lack of choice, splendid tracts of land are waiting the industrious and progressive worker that he may lay at his feet the hidden treasures of wealth in many forms. On our own beautiful and much-favored Island of Vancouver there are opportunities that cannot be surpassed in any part of our great Province, or even the greater Dominion. Metchosin is just such a place, with fine open rolling country, great old oaks and other giants of the forest dotting the landscape, reminding us of our surroundings in the Old Land. Many points have to be considered by the home seeker. One of the most important is climate: this great boon cannot be over-estimated, and in Metchosin we feel confident that we enjoy the best of blessing in this regard. The clearing is not too heavy. The land is tillable, and returns good crops to the industrious, intelligent farmer. But the special phase of agriculture, to my mind, which the district is best adapted to is horticulture. The land is right, the climate good and, with intelligent culture and perseverance, splendid returns are assured. Some years ago doubts were entertained regarding our district producing fruit of so high a standard as some other parts of our Province. This has been dispelled, for the best of all evidence is the fruit that comes to the Victoria market from Metchosin district. Apples, pears, plums, prunes and especially cherries (not making any mention of the strawberry and other small fruit, which are very profitable) will bring in a sufficient return, and a return increasing with the years, so that, with careful and systematic culture the \$500.00 per acre can be reached, becoming continuous if the owner carefully performs his part."

Mr. Brydon's opinions are entitled to respectful hearing. His fruit has taken the highest possible awards, and what he has achieved can be achieved by others.

**Small Fruits.**—It is hard to restrain enthusiasm about the advantages of these districts for the growing of small fruit. The size and flavour of the strawberry on this Southern end of Vancouver Island is one of the things strangers marvel at. "Doubtless God might have made a better berry, but he never did," the saying of Doctor Butler is here illustrated emphatically. With us it is most easy of culture, and, as elsewhere, serves the waiting orchardist's purpose. Readily taking to newly broken ground and easily becoming a crimson glory on sandy soil, it can be found flourishing on many farms. As would be expected in a cool and moister climate, currants bear enormously, are troubled with few insects and give good returns. Gooseberries do not mildew as in some localities, always bring a fair price and can be picked at leisure, either green or ripe. All the bush fruit stays so long and in good condition on the bushes, that picking is not the rush it is in other localities. The work of the Farmers' Institute has helped the fruit industry not a little. Better methods of growing, harvesting, packing and marketing fruit are now largely understood and acted upon. Raspberries are very large and of very fine flavour, the cooler climate favouring these, and with

the cherries and strawberries they are superior in a marked degree. In no other locality in Canada are there finer raspberries. A berry many growers are enthusiastic about is the loganberry. Its luxuriant growth and fruiting and the quality of the fruit preserved has astonished even the experienced horticulturist. Certain it is that no small fruit known at present has presented so many favourable characteristics. We find it in Metchosin and Colwood districts at its greatest perfection. A friend of Judge Logan, who originated this fruit, on looking at vines here running along a rough trellis for over twenty feet, said:

"I must tell Judge Logan of these wonderful bushes. They far excel the vines on his own place in California. He will be pleased to hear of what this vine can do under favourable conditions."



**"Commands a View of the Water"**

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

The early and late blackberry are cultivated here. But the greatest success is with the latter, the Evergreen. It is in perfection in October. In gardens at "Glenrosa," Rocky Point Road, there are bushes bearing fruit of a remarkable size, often the size of a man's thumb. These are excellent shipping berries, and many ranchers here add considerably to their income by the sale of this late fruit. All through November, unless the rains have been too heavy, berries are ripe and firm. There are occasional mulberry and medlar trees, the English mulberry at "Ferncliffe" being quite a sight in August, with its tart and wine-flavoured fruit. A grape vine at "Crosby," Metchosin, covers the entire side of the fair-sized home, and bears heavily. Nut trees, although they do well, have not been so widely planted as they deserve. But there

are plenty of opportunities for nut culture to be successfully undertaken here.



"Ferncliffe," Metchosin, a Typical Sea Coast Farm, one of the Oldest and Most Prosperous in the District

Photo by W. Fisher

**Women Farmers.**—In these districts, not isolated, yet largely undeveloped, is found land desirable for women farmers. Agriculture for women is too little practiced here. It has long passed the theory stage in the old world, where most profitable undertakings in horticulture, bee-keeping, poultry-raising and other farming operations, are entirely conducted by women, and often only with women helpers. Mrs. Fitzgibbon, a prominent Imperialist writer and lecturer on women's occupations, recently expressed her opinion that Colwood and Metchosin were ideal spots for small holdings desired by women who wished to engage in farming in British Columbia. It is true that women are not so easily satisfied as men. They require more in the way of environment and possibilities. And conditions here seem eminently desirable. A woman likes to know that her place, however small, is situated in the midst of beautiful scenery, that it commands a view of the water, that it is not isolated nor in rough surroundings. She must have neighbours and prospects of a pleasant social life. She likes to be in easy reach of shopping facilities and medical attendance. There must be a church near by and a school and transportation and postal facilities. She must be pleased with the climate and the appearance of the country. She may rest assured that these natural desires in the way of surroundings will be gratified here. As a housekeeper she will be glad to know that her table can be supplied the year round with the various products of her own ranch. All sorts of

vegetables and fruits can be hers for the care of them. She can have mutton, lamb, chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. There is abundant game and fish, clams are to be found on many of the beaches and oyster beds in these localities are making fortunes for their owners. A menu for the Christmas Dinner (1908) served in a home in Metchosin is given herewith. Every article on the table, save spices, was produced on the ranch of the host or near by:—

Clear Soup		
Salmon Croquettes and Brown Bread and Butter		
Creamed Chicken in Cases		
Asparagus Tips		
Turkey and Sausage Balls		
Mashed Potatoes	Baked Tomatoes	Barberry Jelly
Roast Quail		
Bread Sauce	Crab Apple Jelly	
Plum Pudding and Hard Sauce	Mince Patties and Whipped Cream	
Celery	Cream Cheese	Apples and Pears
Coffee	Sweets	

Wild fruits, especially delicious blackberry, black raspberries, strawberries and crabs are freely used and make appreciated additions to the table. None need starve on this end of Vancouver Island. A living is easily got, too easily, the more ambitious think. The stimulus of a severer climate and more strenuous struggling for existence is wanting. But women will not quarrel with that.

**Chance for Working Women.**—The following article from Mrs. Fitzgibbon will be of interest in this connection:

"After a residence of three years on the Island the writer has come to the conclusion that there is no part of Canada better adapted for the profitable activity of the genuine woman worker than the districts which surround Victoria, the capital of Canada's most Westerly Province. The climatic and scenic charms of Metchosin have already been described, but from the point of view of the on-looker the prodigal charms of nature have been, so far, one of the obstacles which have retarded the steady progress of the educated settler in these districts. In the past the class of residents who have bought land in the outlying districts of Victoria are those who have been attracted to this part of the world by the promise of open winters, long equable summers and the abundant chances of fishing and shooting which the Island provides. They have been content to clear a few acres of land and enjoy the freedom of life without any particular thought of the morrow. Times have changed, the all-round development of the Pacific Province has begun. Here is the chance

for the *bona fide* working women, who have emerged from the centre of scientific training in the old land, prepared to co-operate with their fellow students in various lines of open-air industries, with a view to carrying on a genuine business, worked upon proper business principles. As far as the districts of Metchosin and Colwood this is the psychological moment for women of this class to unite in securing land, partially cleared, with residence and outbuildings ready for use. But the women who venture to embark on any of the open-air industries enumerated must remember that capital—not less than £300 (three hundred pounds)—is necessary to ensure success, and, added to that capital, the physical strength to perform manual labour which is constant, if not arduous. There is none of the 'rush' of work found in the prairie provinces, as work can be carried on during all the year. On Vancouver Island 'unit of heads and hands' is certainly needed. The reward is, however, great, far greater than the same amount of work could ensure in the older parts of the world. If a small fraction of the money which is expended in the Motherland in supporting non-productive charities was converted into a fund for starting genuine women "ranchers" on Vancouver Island, the result would be far more satisfactory to both the Motherland and the Empire than it is under the present system. There is not the slightest reason why women, provided with a small capital and the necessary expert knowledge in different branches of agricultural and horticultural science, should not co-operate and work with excellent success on the cleared land in the vicinity of Victoria; and there is no district where conditions are more favourable for the woman-worker than in the beautiful portion of Vancouver Island lying at its Southern extremity."



"Sherwood"

Photo by A. F. Frewing

**Country Homes.**—As has been stated, few localities present anything like the attractions of these districts for country homes. Many Victorians have homes on which they reside part of the year, and many Old Country people, or people from the East, have bought small and large properties and are en-

gaged in the most pleasing of outdoor occupations. It is significant of the desirability of this section that no less than four Governors have made their homes here, the most notable being the new place of the Hon. James Dunsmuir, at Hatley. An ex-speaker of the Provincial Legislature has his country place at Goldstream, and several ex-members of the Legislature have had farms in these districts. All kinds of people have found the districts attractive, professional men, workmen, sportsmen, men of leisure, photographers, farmers, retired merchants and artists. Further on is what one artist has to say of it, and it is plain that she speaks for many others.



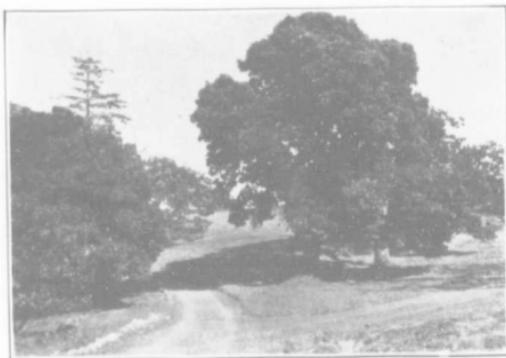
"Rosebank," Esquimalt Harbour

**Land Available.**—There is certainly land to spare where hundreds of comfortable homes may be made. No part of these districts is in the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Belt. For the most part it has been taken up in large holdings. Already some of these have been sub-divided, and shortly, it is expected, a great deal more will be available to buyers who wish small acreage. As modern methods of farming are better understood this will be more and more the case. This is indeed an ideal spot for a home. It would be hard to so place a house as not to command a splendid view of land and sea. The home will be surrounded by trees of great beauty. The enthusiastic can make a Garden of Eden in a few years. There is no wilderness. It is already blossoming like the rose, and

needs only to be seen to be at once hailed as the place families from less kindly climes are looking for.

**Charmed With Metchosin.**—Mrs. C. Bamfylde-Daniell—a noted English artist—writes:—

"I am charmed with Metchosin. I have nowhere else yet in British Columbia seen such a variety of trees of the country in one place. The cedars and firs grow in their beauty here as elsewhere. The arbutus is exceptionally large, and the oaks are of a fine growth and not stunted as they are in so many places. All the way from Colwood their grey trunks stand out against the dark green of the firs, a welcome contrast. It is spring and the delicate green of the



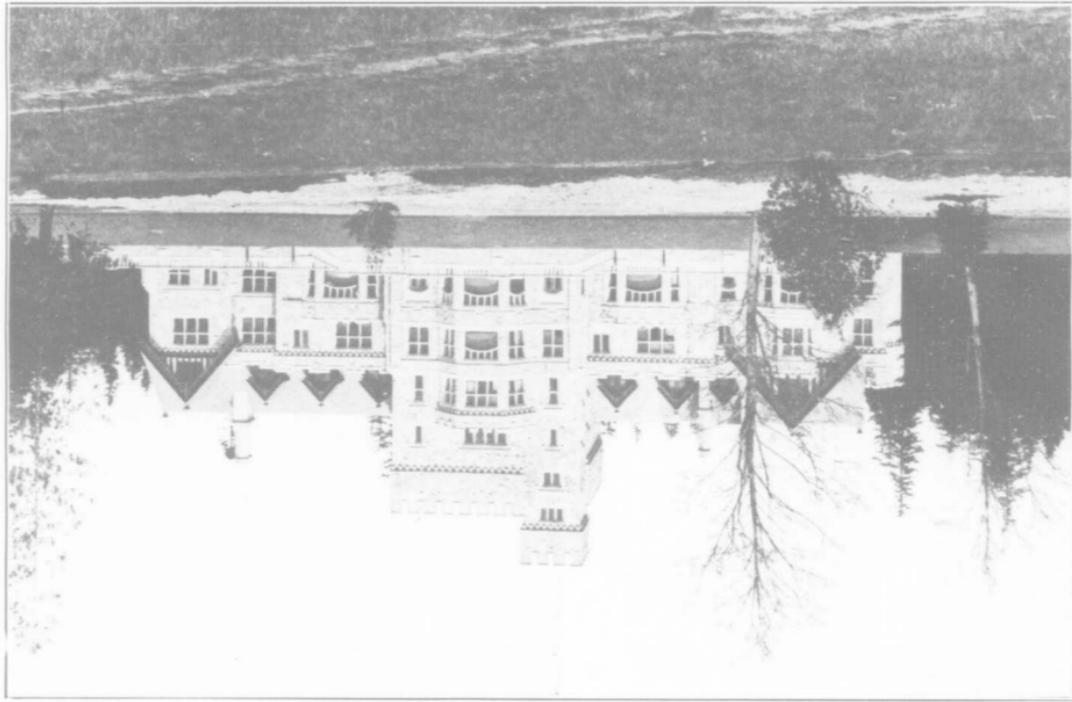
**Arbutus and Maples, William Head**

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

oak leaves, just coming out, is well set off by the golden brown moss on the trunks, and forms a glorious middle distance between the wealth of apple, pear, cherry and peach blossoms of the ranches and the belts of the forest trees that top the hills behind them. Very pretty are the houses with their white walls and red roofs, with verandahs covered with roses and honeysuckle, just budding now, and around which the humming birds are beginning to hover in anticipation of the coming feast. It is difficult to describe the beauty of the lagoon at Sandy Bay. It has to be seen on a spring morning, when the clouds are reflected in it as in a mirror and the sun shining on the sea, which is now a brilliant, sparkling blue. Here nature has her way, and the fallen trees are left as they fell and overgrown with moss; a beautiful foreground lies amongst the great yellow lilies and their sub-tropical leaves. Away between the distant trees is seen William Head, separating the sea from the distant Olympic range. On the other side you look across the lagoon and see Victoria—where the houses are plainly to be seen. Groups of trees are left here and there in the fields and by the road-side, and the wild rose bushes, with their sweet scent, are here in profusion. I never saw before the tree so prized by the Indians (who use the buds medicinally, I am told), the trees rarely found which they call here "Balm of Gilead." I asked what it was that scented the air so sweetly, as we drove past,

Photo by Fleming

„Haley“



and was much interested in these trees, so like the Old Country limes. Dogwood is plentiful here, and the sweet flowering currant and gooseberry. The ground has been carpeted with lilies and the ladies' slipper, both of which grow here in profusion."

All over these districts are places dear to artists in search of material. They will always be heartily welcome in any locality and will be able to find pleasant stopping places or good sites for homes.

**A Country Estate.**—The finest country place in British Columbia, or for that matter in Canada, is the new home of Hon. James Dunsmuir, at Hatley, Colwood. This charmingly situated residence, in appearance a baronial castle, fronts the Straits, and, seen from there, presents an imposing and beautiful appearance. The style of the house is Fifteenth Century Domestic Gothic, and has been cleverly adapted to modern requirements. It is eminently suited to its surroundings. Along the south front extends a paved stone terrace with balustrade, from which stone steps lead down to fountain and lily bed and thence to the gardens. The use that can be made of native materials is interesting; native cedar interior and granite boulders exterior makes a fine combination.

The setting of the house will be in every way benefitting. The noble trees and magnificent driveways and a chain of little lakes and streams give opportunities which the landscape architect will realize.

The architect of this castle—Mr. S. Maclure—has most flattering appreciations of these districts as sites for country homes. He says that many other properties here, especially along the water front, are possible building sites of great beauty and effectiveness. The foreground of water and the background of dark hills and the environments of beautiful trees and flowers make wonderful setting for homes.

**Garden Possibilities.**—Mr. McLean, the landscape architect, is enthusiastic on the region as to its possibilities for gardens. He is kind enough to write his opinion, as follows:

"As regards the possibilities of the districts of Colwood and Metchosin for the formation of gardens, few finer places could be found. The soil is of a light porous loam, formed by the breaking up of the country rock, easily worked and very hard to beat for the successful growing of plants, especially herbaceous ones, as can be seen by many of the varieties of wild flowers. Where rock is present a fine scope is given for that most delightful form of gardening. Apart from the numerous wild rock plants, nearly all the alpins will flourish and do well, and the cost of upkeep of such gardens is practically nil and the general effect can hardly be surpassed.

"And as to the vistas and peeps which make a garden so interesting, the whole country abounds with them. The only thing is to

arrange the trees to get the best effect for framing the view. In some places, for instance, at Hatley Park, with a slight judicious thinning of trees, parks equal to the finest examples in England can be obtained without having to wait a few generations for the trees to grow up.

"These things—combined—go to form a most ideal place for residential houses, and whether the ground for the garden be large or small it must of necessity be interesting, being so bountifully supplied by nature."

**Horticulture.**—The possibilities of horticulture are so great that no homes are without flowers. It is a paradise for

bulbs of all sorts. Bulb growing could be made here a profession. There are all the proper conditions for bulb farms on much of the land, especially on the sea-bordered stretches. Many of the gardens of this locality are beautiful sights in the early spring months with bulbs and primroses and violets. Primroses and violets are in bloom much of the winter. But about March there is a luxuriance of bloom that seems almost tropical.



"Vistas and Peeps," Parry Bay

Photo by Miss Williams

**Prizes for Flowers.**—Probably the best hyacinths in the Island are grown by Mr. W. Fisher at "Ferncliffe," that is, if the winning of prizes is a criterion. A William Head garden



Evergreen Rose—Four Years Old

Photo by Mrs. Watt

is always a prize winner in dahlias, which here attain perfection. Great varieties of flowers can be grown, all the sorts of northern and southern climes. The wealth of roses for many months of the year (there being always roses on some vines, except in January and February), adds to the joy of the home-builder. All the choicer varieties flourish. On a quite ex-

posed farm house here and in quite uncared-for condition there has bloomed for many years a Marechal Niel rose, with the most gorgeous golden blossoms, a sight indeed. The beautiful Reine Marie Henriette blooms four times in the year. The Gloire de Dijon is a common climber on cottages, and hundreds of others run riot; shrubs make wonderful growth and flower profusely. All the old familiar garden flowers are at home. Perennials are as plants glorified, so great is their size and so fine their coloring. In the floral line, perhaps the greatest happiness, is in the length of time flowers stay in bloom. Herrick's lines on blossoms are inappropriate here. They do not "haste away so soon." They live on for weeks, a joy to the eye and heart. In a comparatively short time, moreover, a garden will realize one's hopes. Trees, shrubs, vines and flowers make great growth and bloom early. A garden here five years old is more finished in appearance than a garden in the east twice its age. There is no tiresome waiting for a place to grow. Houses take on the mellowed look in so short a time that there is never the distressing appearance here of newness, so characteristic of the middle West.

**Gardening.**—Gardening is a delight for all times of life and is one of the healthiest occupations. It is good for the



"Happiest Memories"

Photo by Mrs. Watt

children, too, to grow up in a garden. Parents who, through carelessness, do not give their boys a garden of flowers and fruit, such as they can easily have here, are depriving them of present pleasure and happiest memories.

The love of flowers, early implanted, will give a life-long interest. It is wholesome and uplifting and will be for ever a good influence.

Here we can enjoy the garden all the year round and find something new every day. Winter is no barrier to garden work. Frost has no terrors. Generally speaking, the cold frame work begins with the new year, and, as has been said, planting goes on all winter. Seeding in open ground is in March. By April it is all done, except the succession crops. These are planted until July. It is another charm of this climate that

there can be so much in succession. One can have young green peas in September, quite as delicious as those of June. So, too, with the flowers. The September roses are as fine as those of May and June and almost as luxuriant. There are comparatively few people who can resist the fascination of gardening on this end of the "Treasure Island."

**Relation of Climate to Success.** — The

thoughtful homeseeker will, of course, consider the climate as a big item. On it depends his welfare. "Plant life, the growth of crops, the range of products and their quality are intimately connected with the weather." The question of temperature, clouds, sunshine, absence of storms, of floods, and the relation of the rainfall to the



Growth of Crops

seeding and harvesting of the crops must be considered. Not only the production but the health and comfort of the family depend on the climate. And we make the modest claim for this Southern end of Vancouver Island that its climate is unexcelled for the home-maker.

**What a Mild Climate Means.**—The wonderful influence of the Japanese current is often not enough considered. When it is remembered that we are here in the same latitude as countries of severe winter and hot summers and yet have a mild and enjoyable climate we must be grateful to the warming current of Japan, the Kuro Siwo, and the prevailing south-west winds. These make the difference, and so great a difference is it that we have the balmy air of the south about us and yet are of the north-west people, hardy, adventurous and vigorous. A happy combination indeed! Nor is the rainfall here excessive, as in some parts of the Pacific Coast. Most of the rain falls at night, and light showers, alternating with sunshine, are characteristic of the late winter months. As farmers, more summer rains would not hurt us, but as home-makers we can never complain of the bright summer. There is no excessive drought, the moisture of the sea breezes and the heavy dews on the slopes near the sea, and the more frequent showers on the hills, making up for the heavy rains elsewhere.

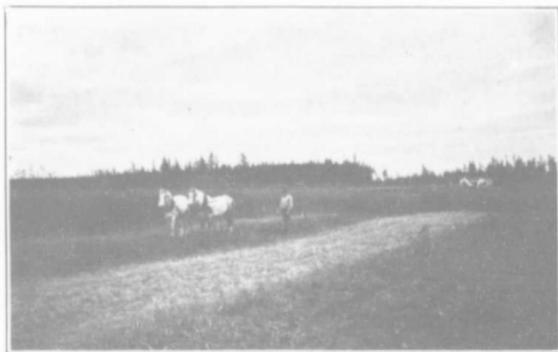
**To the Settler.**—A mild climate means so much to the settler. It means economy in construction of houses, the less expensive wooden houses being sufficiently warm and allow-



**A Home in the Making, Colwood**

Photo by A. F. Prewing

ing of charming effects in paint and roofing and climbing flowers. It means economy in consumption of fuel. It is not needed to toil for months to get the winter supply of coal and wood. It means that work need never be interrupted on account of the weather. There is no struggling against cold



**Rye and Vetches Early 'n May**

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

winters, snow and storms. One sees ploughing going on at almost any time in the winter, and all the winter months are planting time. An orchard can be set out any time from October to March, with the best results, however, in the spring.

Nature is on the side of the farmer and not against him. There are friendly skies and friendly air and friendly soil. Further, too, the mild climate means great variety of plant life. "The whole gamut of vegetable life is run," cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, kale, cauliflower, beans, artichokes, peas, lettuce, cress, radishes, squash, marrows, onions, leeks, corn, citrons, pumpkins, cucumbers, parsnips, carrots, turnips, mangels, potatoes, salsify, shallots, beets, celery, tomatoes, asparagus, hops, and herbs of all kinds, parsley, savory, sage, majoram, lavender, thyme, horse-radish, mint, lavender, the latter making wonderful growth.

**To Stock.**—The steadfastness of the climate makes for the comfort of stock in a manner much to be desired. All of the animals and fowl, except horses, in use, and dairy cows can be out of doors all the time, although open sheds for shelter from wind or rain are of course often used. The housing of animals, so great a charge elsewhere, need not here be an item of expense; there being little frost is another advantage. There is no anxious looking for winter killed trees in the spring. No protection is needed for orchard trees or bushes. What is important, too, is the fact that the climate makes possible a wide diversity of farming interests.

**Shooting.**—Little mention has been made of the prospects of shooting, fishing and athletic enjoyments. It is usually taken for granted that any part of Vancouver Island will furnish these requirements, and a detailed description seems unnecessary. The sportsman and the settler will not be disappointed in these localities. The appearance of deer is more familiar than many a rancher would wish. Venison, however, makes a welcome change in the diet of the settler. There is always a couple of months of open shooting for pheasants, and the sport is greatly enjoyed. The willow grouse and blue-grouse are to be had in great numbers. Last year, moreover, the imported quail which, like the pheasant, has taken most kindly to this part of the Island, were seen here in coveys of great size, often as many as fifty being counted in one covey near the farmhouse. Wild pigeon are found in some years and not in others, a few years ago such quantities of them being seen that they could often be shot from the house verandahs. Generally speaking, the shooting of deer, grouse, quail, pheasant and duck is excellent. All kinds of wild ducks and geese abound along the water-front, especially in the inlets and lagoons; mallard, widgeon, teal, butter-balls, blue-bill, pintail, canvas backs and brant. It is a good thing in this way, also, for a family of boys to be brought up in the country. The chances are good that they will become excellent shots and good sportsmen generally. Most of the boys and young men

of this locality are strong and athletic. The amateur light-weight boxer of B. C. was born in Metchosin, and also the holder, at one time, of the B. C. Ladies' Championship in both golf and tennis.

**Social Conditions.**—The social conditions of these localities differ in accord with their distance from Victoria. But it is safe to assume that in all parts the Western spirit of love of enjoyment prevails. It takes a great deal to daunt the Westerner. It is nothing to drive ten miles to a dance. But pleasure of sorts he must have. There are several social halls erected, which are the usual meeting places. Here are held the Farmers' Institute meetings, the neighbourhood festivals, Harvest Homes, and so on, and the frequent dances. The Provin-



St. Mary's Church, Metchosin

Photo by A. F. Frewing

cial Government, in sending out lecturers to the Farmers' Institutes, creates a demand for a good class of entertainment. And nowhere are there more attentive listeners to lectures than in these country parts. Pleasant social gatherings always follow these instructive evenings. There are organizations also among women, such as The King's Daughters, Women's Institutes, etc., which aim to present entertainments of an educational order. Then there are charitable and church organizations, each adding an interest in the lives of those too isolated to partake of city life.

**Churches and Schools.**—There are several churches in the districts, Presbyterian and Anglican, and the residents are broad-minded enough to worship in the nearest church, whatever their especial denomination may be. There are a number of district schools where advantage of the good educational system of the Province is to be had. Wherever there are ten

pupils the Provincial Government starts a school, so that there is abundant educational facility. The Government also sends out circulating libraries, which are a boon in rural life.

**Fishing.**—Fishing of many kinds is possible here. There is trout in many of the smaller lakes and streams. Salmon, Halibut, Cod, Bass, Perch, Herring, Smelts, Flounders, are in the water of the Straits adjoining. At Langford the lake has been stocked with that game fish—the black bass. Grilse fishing in the inlet at end of Finlayson Arm—in the Goldstream district—is great sport in the early spring months. Salmon trolling at Peddar Bay, Becher Bay and off Belmont is especially good.

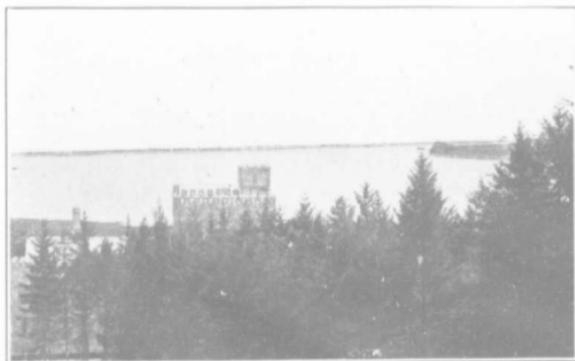
**Special Points of Interest.**—There are many points of special interest to sightseers in and about these districts, and many beauty spots pre-eminent even in a land of beauty.

**Beach Drive.**—The proposed Beach Drive will pass many of these places, and will be in time one of the famous drives of the world. Starting from the Esquimalt Ferry landing at Belmont, near Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken's beautiful summer home, "Rosebank," passing under the forts and along the spit in front of beautiful Hatley, and so on, with matchless sea view, it winds through a lovely park-like country to Albert Head and its scenic environments of lagoons, water and beaches.

**Forts of Belmont.**—One will pause to notice the Forts at Belmont, with the lighthouse adjoining. These fortifications command the approach to Esquimalt Harbor. The forts are on Rod Hill. The picturesqueness of the scene, the grassy slopes, dotted with moss-grown rocks and gnarled old oaks, is decidedly peaceful. But one need be under no misapprehension. The great guns are there and ready.

**Royal Roads.**—The Royal Roads anchorage is in full view from this drive, a perpetual source of pleasure. It is impossible not to become interested in the movements of ships and of those that go down to the sea in them. Here are lying ships from all parts of the world, with all their mystery and charm of the sea about them. Breezes of other lands have unfurled their sails; sailors come from every port. Quaint songs, with foreign words, are often heard across the water. There is a charm about the Royal Roads which those on the near-by shores can well explain.

**Lagoons.**—Near Belmont and beyond the Forts is the Esquimalt Lagoon, a favorite resort for Victorians. Here is a sandy bathing spit a mile long with a tide water lagoon behind it. In the lagoon are trout and the fishing is excellent. In the



Esquimalt Lagoon—"Hatley" Tower

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

shallow part crab spearing is a great sport for the boys and girls. Cockles and clams abound. The water is warm and delightful for bathing. Altogether a picnic on the Esquimalt Lagoon is a treat indeed.

Of other lagoons, that sheltered by Albert Head is the scene of many a jolly camping night. It is a favorite short sail for yachts, and many anchor there and spend the night in the sheltered bay. Every week-end sees jolly camping parties at the lagoon. Dainty yachts dot the anchorage and glowing bon-fires twinkle on the shore. This is an ideal spot for campers and is rarely unoccupied in the summer months. Supplies can be had from adjacent farms, and it is an easy cruise from Victoria with the prevailing summer winds.

There are three other lagoons between Esquimalt and Peddar Bay, and one of them, Witty's Lagoon, is an equally enchanting spot. Here, in the channel formed by the tide, is bathing to dream of; all the exhilaration of sea-bathing, with the warmth of the fresh water on the southern parts of the Great Lakes. Above this lagoon from the sea are cliffs of unusual beauty down a gorge, off which tumbles Witty's Falls, a beautiful fall of water, below which there is good trout fishing. The stretch of sand here, fine and white and firm, is a paradise for the little ones.

At the lesser known Sandy Bay, still further on, the lagoon is the resort of wild fowl, and the beach, though smaller, is equally beautiful. Hardly so well known to the city folk and less accessible by water, it has remained the picnicking place of the district. The beach itself is wide, of white firm sand, an infinite delight to the babies and their elders. The

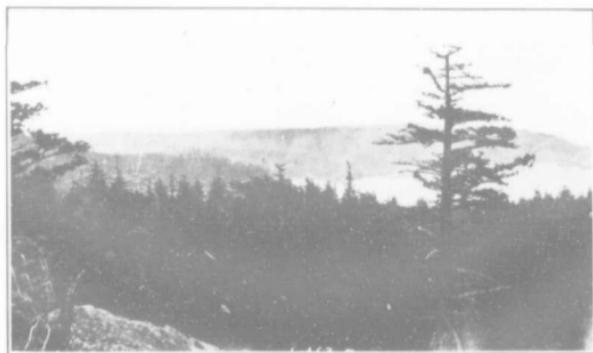
Metchosin road is just back of this lagoon, making it easy of access for trap or motors. Mrs. Bamfylde Daniel's beautiful oil painting of this spot will be familiar to many readers.



**William Head Quarantine Station**

Photo by Fleming

**William Head.**—Then comes William Head, the site of the Dominion Quarantine Station of that name, with its interesting group of wharves and buildings, some for residences for the doctors and the staff, others for the enforced sojourn of passengers from ships, others as hospitals, and still others for housing the great disinfecting apparatus. Seen from Metchosin and Albert Head the long point jutting out into Parry Bay, with its red buildings and magnificent trees, it is indeed a picture. While at night, the dark point with its twinkling electric lights—seen over the water—with the background of mountains beyond it, presents from Albert Head especially a scene of great beauty.



**Becher Bay**

Photo by J. C. Hoard

**Peddar Bay.**—Between William Head and Rocky Point lies Peddar Bay, dear to the heart of sportsmen. This lovely

inlet extending for two miles inland up to the charmingly situated farm and country home, "Glenrosa," is like the arm in Victoria, a succession of beautiful sites for homes. On either side are charming woodland scenes, and from the shore or water alike unparalleled views of the snowy mountains. Here and at Beeher Bay is the best salmon fishing in the southern part of the island. One may troll with line from the end of row-boat or rod (the latter for the better sport) and in the later summer months be sure of a catch. Then in autumn and winter there is great duck shooting up the bays. These are favorite runs for launches, and ardent shots spend many a day here with the ducks.



Indian Encampment, Parry Bay

Photo by Lally Bernard

**Benetinck Island.**—On Benetinck Island, at the farther entrance to the Bay, is a military Reserve. The greater part of the year Indians are camping on many of the beaches near Peddar Bay, which they consider especially good salmon trolling ground. The constant passing of their picturesque little canoes, whether sailing or paddling, gives life to the scene. In the passage between Benetinck Island and Rocky Point there is also good shooting and fishing, the narrow channel and rip tides seeming propitious.

**Race Rocks.**—In the Straits at the southernmost end of Vancouver Island lies the group of rocky islands called Race Rocks, with their great lighthouse. By these rocks the tides swirl with great velocity, often seven knots an hour. Steamers pass guardedly through "The Race," launches keep at respectful distance. Mariners the world over know the light at "The Race." It is a welcome beacon, and its lowing horn, often as music to fog-perplexed vessels. The great revolving light, flashing every ten seconds, a friendly winking eye, seems to those who journey in nightly sight of its flashing, a beacon of home and comfort, lending warmth and light to a cold and darkening landscape.

**Colwood Park.**—Inland, too, there are many pretty and interesting spots. At Colwood is a park of interest to horse-men. Here, for many years, the Victoria Hunt Club held their annual meet. And at the same place there is prospect for a winter training track for race horses. It has many advantages, especially that of a dry track, over other places at that time of the year. It is a beautiful spot, a meadow fringed with oak trees, moss-hung and spreading. The meet of the Hunt Club was picturesque indeed, with the red of the coats, the flashing of the horses, the gay steeple chases and the spectators in charming apparel. At Colwood, also, in a small lake near Langford, there is sometime in the winter a week or so's skating. But the frost is never so heavy as to make the day cold; and one may see there the pretty sight of a pond of ice with merry skaters having a rarely to be enjoyed game of hockey; while on all the banks adjacent are bonfires and little groups of friends having tea about them. There is all the fun of a picnic and a skating party combined, people driving, motoring or coming by train many miles to have the far too rare skating pleasures.

**Drives.**—The new Mill Bay Road, nearing completion, the great scenic route to Cowichan, will pass partly through Colwood, Goldstream and Highland districts, and will be a most popular drive, having most varied outlooks.

The cross road to Goldstream and along the Sooke Road takes one through a wild but interesting stretch of country and passes the ex-Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney's pretty country place, "Cogan's Farm," with its fine juniper trees and meadow land.



**Goldstream**

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

The drive along Happy Valley is another scene of beauty. Unlike the panorama of sea and land, of cliff and beach along Albert Head, it is a pretty sylvan scene of forests and homes. The little stream which foams and sparkles along the roadside for many miles, the wonderful growth of wild vines and bushes and the enchanting glimpses of rock and forest growth make it a delightful drive.



Goldstream Falls

**Goldstream Falls.**—Possibly one of the most fascinating places on the Island is the Goldstream Falls. Easily reached from the railroad it is a favorite picnic ground for city folk. And one will not readily forget the sight of the silvery waterfall, over cliffs glorified with the daintiest of ferns, the maidenhair. Below, the river clammers over a bed of rocks, mosses and wild water plants, between luxuriant ferns of many kinds and undergrowth of flowered bushes. The water from lakes adjacent forms the household supply for Esquimalt, and is the source of power for the electric light system and the electric railway system of Victoria and its suburbs.

**Lakes.**—The chain of lakes in the Goldstream district, of which Langford is the largest, extends through a scene of wild beauty. The hilly country affords wonderful views, and the shining presence of dotted lakes brightens the sombre grandeur. The charmingly situated country places of Mr. J. S. H. Matson at Aldermere and of Hon. C. E. Pooley at Goldstream and of Mr. Fitzherbert Bullen at Thetis Lake are examples to other Victorians of the joy of owning summer houses in this neighborhood. The woodland drives through this district are of unimagined beauty. Away from the sea and near fresh water of the lakes the atmosphere is both colder and warmer in season. The rarer air of the hills is here and the splendor of forest watered by streams fed by the clear little lakes.

**Transportation: Telephone, Postal Facilities, Electric Light.**—The produce from this neighborhood is sent in for the most part by stage and railway. Excellent stage services are maintained from Rocky Point, Sooke and Otter Point, Metchosin and other points, all passing through Colwood.

The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway passes through Goldstream and Colwood and is within a few miles of Happy Valley and in easy driving distance of Metchosin and Albert Head. The long sea front and the number of sheltered inlets



**An Albert Head Farm**

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

present so many natural harbors and afford natural and easy access to the water that as a convenient and economical method of transport it cannot much longer be neglected. During the coming summer a steamship service is promised to



**Oats in Stook, Goldstream Farm**

Photo by Miss Pooley

Jordan River and way points. The excellent roads, characteristic of these districts, and the usual mild weather make drives to town on business or pleasure, or both, most enjoyable. At

no point are we beyond a drive of a few hours into Victoria. Telephones connect many parts. But a system of rural telephones would be a great convenience. Electric lights can now be had at Colwood and wires will soon be laid to Albert Head and other sections. There is a bi-weekly mail service with every prospect of more frequent mail. Residents here will not be satisfied until there is a daily mail service.



Colwood Hall

Photo by A. F. Frewing

**Market and Prices.**—A word about market and prices. These are providentially questions which never worry the settler here. He knows there is a market for everything he produces and he knows that everything he produces will fetch a good price. Victoria is the market and there is not nearly enough of anything, fruit, vegetables, mutton, eggs, butter, poultry, etc., to supply even the City, sent in from all the adjoining districts. And above and beyond in the great North which will, for many years, have to get its supplies from the more settled districts, not to mention the great quantities required by the hundreds of steamers, schooners, etc., making this a purchasing point.

**Average Crop.**—A detail the practical farmer will want to know, is the average crop, per acre, of the following:

Hay .....	2 to 3 tons
Wheat .....	35 bushels
Oats .....	40 bushels
Carrots .....	18 to 20 tons
Turnips .....	16 to 20 tons
White Carrots .....	Often 24 tons
Potatoes .....	Very heavy crops

On a supposed "run out" farm, taken over a few years back by an experienced farmer from Norfolk, after several seasons' judicious working, returned nearly 26 tons carrots, 25 tons turnips, 12 tons potatoes and 3 tons hay per acre. All kinds of vegetables are very successfully raised, and in all cases where proper attention is given, heavy yields are made. As to fertilizers at hand it is often possible to secure large hauls of seaweed off the beaches, of which excellent use is made on both large and small holdings. A great number of examples could be cited, but any practical man can judge from other details given as to the opportunities in different branches of farming. It is only right to state, however, that the price of feed here is high. The farmer, therefore, who expects to make money out of stock must adopt modern scientific methods of farming. He must grow clover and other forage crops for chickens and give them a good run, must depend less on cereals and more on green food and vegetables from his own place. Further, he must adopt the now generally known and approved plan of raising crops and feeding and fattening stock for sale and not fall in-



Sheep In Clover

to the old error of raising grain, etc., for sale, and so impoverishing the land and putting nothing back on it.

**Group of Opinions.**—A group of opinions from residents will not be without interest. Why is this district well adapted for sheep, fruit and poultry? an old resident was asked:—

"Because we are, in the first place, situated at the most South-westerly point of Vancouver Island and have a light rainfall, but sufficient, less frost in winter than any other part and snow seldom lies long, stock thus being left out to graze all the year round. The land is cut up into valleys and has a natural fall towards the salt water; nowhere do you find big flat areas, and after heavy rainfall, water, even in winter, does not lie long. There is no need of expensive buildings for stock, as there are no extremes in temperature nor hot summer weather, but always tempered by breezes off the sea."

In another case:

"Irrigation is not necessary. No need to fear you will lose half your stock by sudden drop in thermometer, and I can be sure of finding my way from my barns to my house,"



A Farm in the Making

Photo by F. Ward

remarked an old prairie man, who had had experience of blizzards, and who felt this was a great relief.

Another prairie farmer says:

"I can put my crop in and know I shall get a return, although only a portion of what I had on the prairie. I shan't get my grain frozen—no hailstorms to beat my crops flat and small chance of fires sweeping across licking up crop, barns and houses. This cropping is a sure thing here, and even though on such a small scale, yet what you put in there is the sure satisfaction before you that you will have a return proportionate to the labour spent thereon."

Here is a newcomer's opinion after a year's residence:

"Prices of land may appear high, but when one considers the wonderful returns for careful and sensible working, combined with climatic conditions and the big market so close to our hand and compare this with other parts and conditions prices are not out of the way by any means. One must remember there is not an unlimited quantity. An excellent return is assured in these districts for the least amount of labour and hardship, and I find here conditions that give a good living with the least worry of any part I have visited. What more can a man desire?"

Another says:

"It may be said it is necessary for a man to have a fair amount of capital to settle here, as there are no free Government grants of land open whatsoever. Many small places can be bought and brought up to a high state of productiveness. A newcomer, with say \$3,000 or more, can make an excellent start and be assured of a permanent and increasing income."

An old Sussex resident considers this

"just the nearest approach to the old South of England's seaside country and to me much like the coasts of Sussex and Hampshire. The Britishers' craze for the seaside will easily be appeased here, and the children will find it a paradise."

**Like British Isles.**—In this connection it may be pointed out that people from the British Isles find themselves peculiarly at home here. They meet many compatriots. They are still under the British flag and they have a hand in the making of what is yet a new Province. The climate is like the best of their own. Their native flowers are native here. The delight of English people far from their home when they find here the holly, the broom, the violet, the ivy, the gorse, the thorn, the primrose and all the dear home flowers is often pathetic.

**Special Industries.**—There are a few special industries worthy of mention and there is room for many more.



Wild Flowers

**Gravel Pits.**—From the cliffs near Sangster's plains a company is taking out gravel. They have erected wharves and give employment to a number of people. The gravel being beside the sea is easily and cheaply shipped to both Victoria and Vancouver. It is sluiced out by hydraulic monitor. Another gravel pit is to be opened in the vicinity by another company, who will use an electric pump.

**Silica Bricks.**—In the Goldstream district is a plant for the manufacture of silica bricks, a very handsome brick, greatly esteemed for large buildings. The output of the ovens is very large and it is a flourishing industry.

**Rock Quarry.**—The contractors who are supplying rock for macadamizing Victoria streets have put in at Albert Head a large plant and building, with modern equipment, and are employing a number of men.

**Cannery and Traps.**—On the side of Esquimalt Harbour adjacent to these districts is situated the Cannery owned by the Empire Canning Co., which gets its salmon from the Company's fine traps near Sooke. There are other salmon traps along these waters. In Parry Bay and Peddar Bay both large traps have been erected.

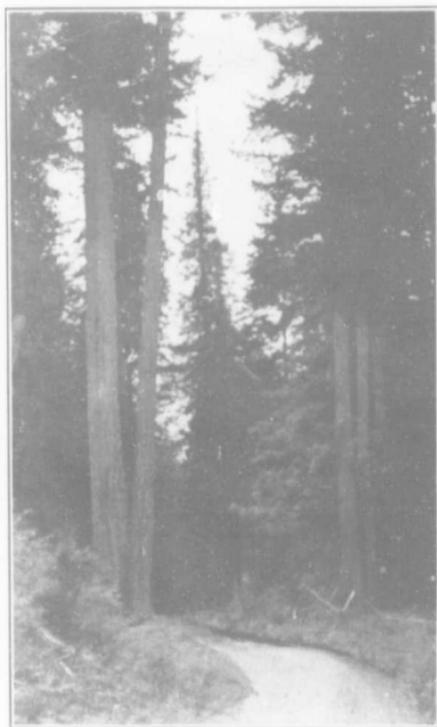
**Oyster Beds.**—A more recent industry and one which will, no doubt, receive more attention as investors realize their opportunities is that of oyster culture. The oyster beds now at Parson's Bridge, ideally situated, have been markedly successful, the Eastern oysters planted there when tiny spats grow to a large size and are easily the best oysters on the Pacific Coast market. They sell in Seattle for more than the best local product. The presence of lime in the water makes the shells white and greatly improves the appearance of the bivalve. The oysters do not spawn on this coast, the water being rather cold in this locality. Consequently the oysters are good and eatable all the year round.

**Cordwood.**—The cutting of cordwood is also quite an industry, especially near the waterfront or the railroad or in the portions of the districts near Victoria. There is a good sale for it and the farmer clearing land is thereby enabled to make some money and, at the same time, get his land cleared. At times hundreds of cords are sent in.

**Saw Mills.**—There is, at present, only one saw mill in the locality, but there are various places on the waterfront where there are good booming grounds, and where saw mills could

be located with advantage, especially when the Canadian Northern railway is put through.

There are also openings for summer hotels near the beaches, for stores, for saw mills and for farm helpers.



On Happy Valley Road

Photo by J. Howard A. Chapman

**Timber.**—There has been no attempt in this pamphlet to describe the natural resources of the district outside of its suitability for farming and a few special industries. But it need not be inferred in that regard that these are lacking. The mineral potentialities are for the most part unknown. Gold has been found, also copper, but no great amount of prospecting has been done. So with timber. While it is a region of beautiful trees, and contains much fine timber, we cannot here dilate upon it. This would not lie in the scope of the present pamphlet, which aims to present these districts as

places for pleasant homes and for farms on which the three leading lines which have been found here most successful, sheep, fruit and poultry. The forest wealth has been untouched in many sections. We can content ourselves with only a list of the trees native to this part: Maples, arbutus, balsam, alder, willow, elm, oak, dogwood, cherry, crab, spruce, yew, red cedar, firs, hemlock and birch. These varieties make great growth here. The particularly fine woodwork in the interior of the Parliament Buildings, Victoria, is an example of how the trees of Vancouver Island can be used.

**Prospects.**—The prospects ahead of this neighborhood are of the brightest. While its development has been certainly slow and its industrial life more or less lethargic, there are signs of awakening on every hand. A living has come too easily heretofore and ambition has been lacking. But a change is rapidly coming. Many land sales have been made and subdivisions of the larger holdings is beginning. The residents are coming in and now is the time for new-comers, while land is yet reasonable in price and while bargains may still be had. In a short time it will be hard to get land so near a city for country homes, for small farms and for investment. There is a favorable prospect that the Experimental Farm for Vancouver Island will be located on the Colwood Road. The re-opening of Esquimalt as a naval station by the Canadian authorities will greatly benefit these localities.

**Railway.**—Last year the Victoria and Barkley Sound Railway was surveyed for over half the route. This charter is soon to be taken over by Mackenzie & Mann, and the road will form part of the Canadian Northern Railway in British Columbia, so that these districts will have all the advantages which a transcontinental line can confer. With the building of the railway (and construction will begin this summer), new activities will come into being, as Mackenzie & Mann are known to push the development of districts in which they become interested. Colwood, Metchosin, Sooke and the districts beyond may therefore expect a new era, and the full development of their many natural resources and encouragement for all enterprises connected therewith. Just beyond Sooke there are iron and coal areas awaiting transportation facilities for their opening up, and one of the largest tracts of uncut timber on the island is there to be found.

Next in importance to the railway project which will be of incalculable benefit to this locality is the development of the Jordan River water power. It is the intention of the B. C. Electric Company to utilize this power for their tramway

system and electric lighting plant. The plant is now being installed. It is within the probabilities that the B. C. Electric Railway Company will extend its lines to these districts and to the Saanich peninsula. They will certainly do so in time, and it is not unlikely that the time is near at hand. The power from Jordan River will be transmitted through this district and will be available for local use. What this means in the development of the districts would be difficult to over-estimate, cheap power for farming operations and current for electric lighting being the most quickly realized possibilities.



Survey Camp, Victoria and Barclay Sound Railway

Photo by J. C. Hoard

It would be easy to dilate on the prospects and it is difficult to refrain from doing so. But it is not desired to put anything in this pamphlet which has not already happened or is quite certain to do so. There is no exaggeration whatever and no attempt to disguise drawbacks. So that the problems of transportation are dealt with under existing conditions. But it would not be fair to those interested to withhold appreciation of these efforts that are being made to give us quick transit, cheap power and different methods of communication. Therefore we have dwelt a little on our hopes in the full assurance of not being misunderstood.



A Sooke Home—Sooke Hills In the Distance



A Busy Corner at the West End of Sooke Harbour

## SOOKE

**W**ITH an alluring and enticing climate, surrounded by beautiful scenery—orchards, brooks, river, inlet, sea-shore and distant snow-capped mountains—within twenty miles of Victoria, the capital city of the Province; within easy reach of Seattle, Vancouver or even San Francisco, lie the fertile, well-watered lands of Sooke and Otter.

**Where They Are.**—Twenty miles southwest of Victoria and facing the strait of Juan de Fuca—one of the highways of the world's commerce—lies the "furthest south" harbour of Vancouver Island, and of the Pacific Coast of Canada. Here an arm of the Strait extends inland through a deep-water channel, terminating at its head in a broad circular basin, where a fleet of the largest ocean vessels might ride at anchor. At the mouth of the inlet Nature has built a magnificent break-water, behind which a canoe may lie in safety, no matter what storm may rage outside. Surrounding the basin and bordering the inlet lie wide stretches of fertile land and sloping hillsides. Basin and inlet, in short, drain a valley five or six miles long and three or four miles wide. The valley lands, however, do not terminate at the mouth of the inlet, but extend westward along the shores of the Strait for some distance. The district of Sooke comprises the land around the inlet; that of Otter comprises the neighboring land along the Strait.

**What They Offer.**—To the home seeker there are here offered:

- (1) Profitable investment for capital and labor.

(2) Delightful climate and beautiful scenery, combined with the absence of mosquitoes and other pests.

(3) Nearness to the capital city of the Province, with its splendid market, and easy access to other large cities.

(4) Abundant shooting and fishing.

(5) Schools, church services, and a pleasant neighborhood.

(6) Land at reasonable prices.

**Soil and Climate.**—The soil and climate are pre-eminently suited for the production of fruit and vegetables of the highest quality, and for these products the city of Victoria offers a constant market in which the highest prices prevail.

The soil is mainly loam on a clay sub-soil. In some places the loam is alluvial, in others vegetable mould. Everywhere there is good natural drainage, the general level of the land being from 30 to 80 feet above the level of the water at high tide.

The climate is temperate all the year round; both as to temperature and as to rainfall. The winters are short. Severe cold and excessive rainfall are alike unknown. Frequently there is neither snow nor ice during the entire year; and when these do occur they last for only a few days. Spring comes early; autumn lingers late. The long sunny summers, with their cool nights, are not only delightful to live in, but are also exactly what is required to produce the highest quality of fruit, both in appearance and in flavor.

**Water and Fuel.**—Excellent well water is found everywhere, and there are a number of streams whose water is pure and cool the year round. Fuel, in this land of giant forests, abounds everywhere, and can be secured in unlimited quantities for the cutting and hauling.

**Fruit Growing, Gardening, Poultry Raising, Dairying.**—Fruit-growing and market-gardening here offer exceptional returns. For poultry-raising and dairying, also, the absence of excessive rain or cold, the good drainage and the pure water are equally favorable. For the products of all of these, there is a splendid market in Victoria. As large quantities of these supplies have to be imported to meet the needs of that city and its shipping, there is always a steady demand at prices, higher, perhaps, than in any other large city in North America.

In addition to the Victoria market, there is also a local market afforded by the salmon fishing, logging and lumbering industries of Sooke and Otter.

**Price of Land.**—Now that the possibilities of the district in the way of fruit farming, and other forms of intensive

agriculture have been demonstrated, pioneer settlers are cutting up their large holdings and offering a portion for sale in five, ten, and twenty acre lots. Some of these are cleared; some partly cleared; others uncleared. Prices range from \$40 up according to location, area and cleared acreage.

Even on most of the uncleared land, the heavier growth has been removed for commercial purposes. Speaking generally, what remains is alder, maple, and young Douglas fir.

The cost of clearing may be greatly reduced by cutting up the timber to be removed for sale in Victoria as cordwood; or in the case of the maple, for sale to be sawn into material for furniture.

#### What the Sooke and Otter Districts have to offer to

- (a) The Farmer.
- (b) The Fisherman.
- (c) The Lumberman.
- (d) The Miner.

In a country where the proportion of arable land to hilly and mountainous must in the very nature of the case, remain comparatively small, and where those engaged in numerous other industries, such as fisheries, lumbering, mining, manufactures, etc., furnish a ready market for all agricultural produce, it necessarily follows that the cultivators of the soil, along lines which do not readily admit of successful competition from without, have an assurance of an independent and comfortable living seldom possessed by those in purely agricultural belts.

**Dairying.**—In the past, sheep and poultry raising have proved the most successful in this district. In the future we look for increased development of dairying and fruit growing, the district as a whole from its general aspect, gentle slopes, rainfall, sunshine, nature of the soil, and freedom from cold winds, being particularly well suited for the latter, as experience has thoroughly demonstrated.

Cattle on the hill ranges in summer, with a little helping out in the matter of feed in winter, require little expenditure of either time or money, and prevailing prices on the Victoria market have so far been sufficient to induce a large proportion of the local ranchers to maintain a few head.

Disease of any kind among horses, sheep and cattle is so rare as to pass unnoticed.

**Fruit Growing.**—With the development of the place as an industrial centre and summer resort, small fruits of all kinds will find a ready market on the spot, the quality of the strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, etc., grown here being hard to surpass. A market in Victoria already exists. Along



Sooke Is a Fruit Growers' Location

the sunny sheltered reaches of the Sooke River and numerous other favored spots, peaches, tomatoes and other choice fruits and vegetables will grow and ripen readily in the open.

**Canneries.**—The fact that the sooner the fish can be caught after entering the Straits and got to a cannery when caught, the better the quality of the pack, must ere long lead to the establishment of one or more canneries in Sooke Harbour. The fluctuating demand for labor during the canning season and the difficulty of getting additional men down instantly owing to the present imperfect means of transportation between Sooke and Victoria is the main obstacle at present. With the arrival of the Canadian Northern Railway this will disappear.



Salmon Laden Scow at Sooke Wharf

**Fisheries.**—Clean, fresh, untainted, straight from their sporting grounds in the ice-cold waters of the Northern Pacific, and hugging the south-western shore of Vancouver Island as they come, the vast shoals of salmon, spring, sock-eye, and coho, leave during the months of June, July, August, and September, a fraction of their swarming cohorts in the hook-shaped traps which the ingenuity of the genus homo "American" first prepared for them some few years ago on the waters of Puget Sound, and which now find their most successful locations along the coast from Sooke westward.

Of this industry Sooke Harbour is and must continue to be the permanent headquarters. It employs on the traps alone in a big year some hundred men at wages ranging from \$55.00 per month upwards, with excellent board and comfortable quarters. Local men, if duly qualified, are invariably given the preference, and, to the bachelor of limited capital bent on doing his own clearing or working roughly cleared land into shape during the winter months, trap work offers for some six or eight months in the year an excellent opportunity of amassing a considerable few dollars in a healthy, interesting, and never at any time over-arduous line of work.

**Lumbering and Logging.**—The Michigan-Pacific Lumber Company, operating at the mouth of the Jordan River, some eighteen miles by water or twenty-three by land from Sooke wharf, with which it is in direct telephonic communication, can be reached either by its own tug-boat (the Beatrice), which calls in frequently on its way to Sydney with booms of logs, or by one of the trap tugs operating at or near this point. By road it is some sixteen miles from Sooke to Shirley, and some seven by trail on from Shirley to Jordan River. The B. C. Electric Railway Company are now, however, at work on a first class wagon road between the two points.

The lumber company employs at present 80 to 100 men, at wages ranging from \$2.25 to \$5.00 per diem. A stoppage of \$5.00 per week is made for board, which is of first-class quality. The bunk houses are roomy and comfortable, and the general treatment of the men is all that can be desired. Several cottages for married men have recently been put up. The extent of this company's timber limits is sufficient to furnish steady work for the next fifty years, and it is expected that before long the output will be railed to Sooke Harbour.

On a smaller scale the Milligans, father and sons, are established at Kemp Lake, four miles out of Sooke by road, with fourteen men employed at wages from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per diem, and the usual stoppage for board. They have ten years' work before them, at least, and are settling down and making themselves comfortable accordingly, being within easy reach of stage and school, and a young settlement springing up around them. Charter's saw mill on the harbour and Peatt's and Phillips' logging camp up the river employ a few men.

With the arrival of the Canadian Northern railroad and branch logging roads to tap the inner timber, saw mills of the largest capacity will be established in Sooke Harbour, or on the Straits at Sooke Bay, as a matter of course.

**Mining.**—Copper mining on the slopes of Mount Maguire and adjacent lands on the East Sooke side is still in the initial or prospective stages, although many claims have changed hands and others are still on the market at fancy figures.

Some fine samples of good copper have been got out, and it is reported that others with sufficient traces of gold and silver to pay for the working have been found. A rise in copper values would with the superior advantages offered by ready water communication lend to the development of this industry, and as the depth of water in both the outer and inner harbours runs from 2½ to 14 fathoms all along this side, dredging for shore communication would be merely nominal.

**Canadian Northern Railroad.**—We wish to call especial attention to the building of the Canadian Northern Railroad

through Sooke, with the immense expenditure of money and the great number of men that will be employed, giving occupation to the incoming settler. Sooke will be a station of the railroad on its way to the port on Barclay Sound. Settlers can take up pre-emptions west of Otter Point.

The B. C. Electric Railway Company are expending one and a half million dollars on their power plant at the Jordan River and on the transmission wires to Victoria. This will give employment to at least five hundred men. It will give to Sooke electric light and power when demanded and should eventually give Sooke an electric train service to Victoria.

Regarded as a residential locality the District of Sooke leaves little to be desired, either by the lover of country or sea side life. With its fifteen miles of water frontage on the beautiful land-locked harbour, the home seeker may choose a site on one of the wooded promontories projecting into the bay, or should still more seclusion be desired, the numerous peaceful little bays which indent the shores of the harbour afford ample choice to the jaded city dweller where he may recruit his weary body and brain, throw off the cares and worries of business and society, and live the simple life, "the world forgetting, by the world forgot."

**Plant Life.**—To the lover of Botany the flora of the hills and lowlands presents a boundless field for study, while to the devotee of horticulture, the rich and friable soil combined with the most genial climate to be found on the Island, make gardening a delight, the shores of the Bay being so sheltered from the rude winds of the north that the camelia, the most delicate roses and many other fragile plants flower readily in the open, the dweller in this favored spot being able with a minimum of labour to convert the surroundings of his home



Sooke Inlet Scenery

into a bower of beauty, while for utility the grateful soil will provide the gardener with all manner of small fruits in abundance, besides apples, pears, plums, peaches, etc., of the finest flavour and colour; even grape vines grow vigorously and bear freely, though they do not come to maturity. Roots of all kinds grow to perfection with ordinary care.

**Scenery.**—For varied scenery, ranging from the grand to the pastoral, the district of Sooke is well known. A lovely view may be had from the inlet, of the pine clad shores with their rocky points, the home of the otter and mink, and their peaceful bays where the stately heron may be seen standing in the clear water still as a piece of sculpture, till quick as a flash he darts his long bill into the water, seldom reappearing without a finny prize.



Sooke Harbour Looking East

In passing the little islets in the harbour, in summer all ablaze with the red leaves of the stone crop, the graceful seal, disturbed by the sound of oars or merry voices, silently glides from the rocks where he has been sunning himself into the water, presently to reappear in the wake of the boat, his beautiful eyes full of wonder and friendly inquiry at the strangers. On each side of the harbour are seen the evidences of the indomitable courage and energy of the early settlers, in the bright green oases backed by the sombre pines where the

hardy and aspiring farmer tends his flocks and herds and cultivates his fields, forcing the forest back and farther back by his toil, adding acre by acre to his homestead.

Ascending the hills surrounding the broad stretches of the valley, several of which rise to a height of 2,000 feet, the eye commands a grand and extensive prospect. To the northwest the scene presented is that of a succession of rugged pine-clad hills from which on a warm spring day the incessant hoot of the blue grouse is heard, and where deer roam in comparative safety from the rifle of the hunter.

From east to west stretch the snow-capped mountains of the Olympian range, at whose base lie the waters of the spacious Straits of Fuca, glittering in sunshine or torn into fury by the ocean winds, but alike in calm or storm bearing on their bosom the argosies of the world.



His Majesty's Mail—One of the Stages  
Between Otter Point, Sooke and  
Victoria

on the shingle. From the Point beauty and extent.

The road from Sooke to Otter Point, seven miles long, passes through a belt of majestic pines, tall, straight, and clean, their roots covered deeply with soft green moss, amid which may be seen frequent clusters of the dainty and sweet-scented little orchid, familiarly known as Lady Slipper, purple and yellow violets and masses of fragrant woodruff. The approach to Otter Point is usually heralded by the deep boom of the breakers on the beach as the swell from the Pacific rolls in to break in high flung spray on the rocks or in a smother of yeasty foam

**The People.**—The settlement is purely English speaking, the district having been fortunate in attracting settlers of the best kind from the prairie provinces, England, Scotland and Ireland. Other settlers there are none. The result is flourishing schools, church congregations, farmers' institutes, development associations, and other forms of co-operation—an ex-

tremely pleasant neighborhood to live in, rural mail delivery, and a healthy, wholesome, happy environment for the rising generation.



Members of the Sooke Rifle Association Shooting on the Range

A rifle club and other similar institutions afford facilities for sports and amusements in addition to those already mentioned.

**Sports and Pastimes at Sooke.**—Endless facilities are offered for out-of-doors sport, in a delightful climate, amid picturesque scenery. The river, a beautiful stream, with a tidal estuary at its mouth, offers trout fishing and canoeing of the most attractive kind. The inlet, the basin and the straits offer further facilities for many varieties of fishing, boating and sailing. Good bathing and swimming are offered both in river and inlet. Smaller trout streams flow into the river or directly into the salt water. Clams and crabs are plentiful.

**An Eminent Writer on Sooke.**—The following description of Sooke is taken from the published works of Mr. Bonnycastle-Dale, the eminent field-naturalist and nature writer, to whose kindness the compilers of this booklet are indebted for many of the accompanying photographs:—

“Let me first of all attempt to describe this ruggedly magnificent harbour and inlet of Sooke. Picture to yourself a red-topped range of hills, a veritable sea of mighty waves petrified in full sweep that runs along past your limited vision for many miles. Clothe this almost to the summits with gigantic red and white firs and tall, noble cedars. Fill in all the valleys and bench lands with alder and scrub oak, bull pine, and sallal, salmon berry and wild rose bushes, drape all the half exposed ridges and summits with waving fern and clutching moss and lichen, people all this with wapati and blacktail deer, black bear and cowardly panther. Cut up every mile of the shore into fantastic harbours, spit sheltered or rock guarded, some many

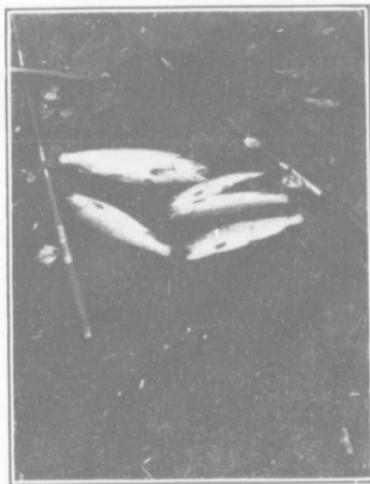
miles long, others wee bit shelters from the wind and the wave. In turn fill all these waters with every manner of invertebrate, with all the edible shell fish, with all the good food fishes, add the harmless sharks and the big soft devil fishes (dangerous only in magazine stories), add the seal and the sea lion. Literally spatter the water



**A Haunt of the Wild Duck**

with black dots: these are the innumerable flocks of sea fowl, the ducks of all the breeds, the brant, the geese and swans in days just gone by, add the plover and the snipe. Enliven the little clearings

amid the great forests where Man has wrested a few acres from the giant vegetables, with quail and grouse, with lordly pheasant. Into this scene of primeval beauty pour a shining, crowding, leaping host of salmon that no man may number—then you may have a conception of the bays and coves, the shores and benches, the hills and mountain tops, and the waters of this Nature blessed part of Vancouver Island.



**The Harvest of the Waters—Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout From Sooke River**

“At times the plunging blackfish, the so-called ‘whale killer,’ rolls in from the Straits of Fuca, filling the air with the roar of its vapourous exhaust. Up leap the mallard and the teal, the widgeon, pintail and bluebill, buffleheads spatter away, canvassback

and red head, coarse surf ducks and myriad divers mark the huge mammal's course by their leaping, while in the clearing alongside

the sweet voiced quail make music and the ring-necked pheasant calls with raucous note. 'Carrup, car-up,' scream the brant. The hosts of gulls call wildly. The odd sea duck, the Old Squaw, cries 'Kla-how-yah,' for all the world as though a native Indian were saluting you in the coast jargon called chinook. Now the great blackfish swims past the river—let us go up it.



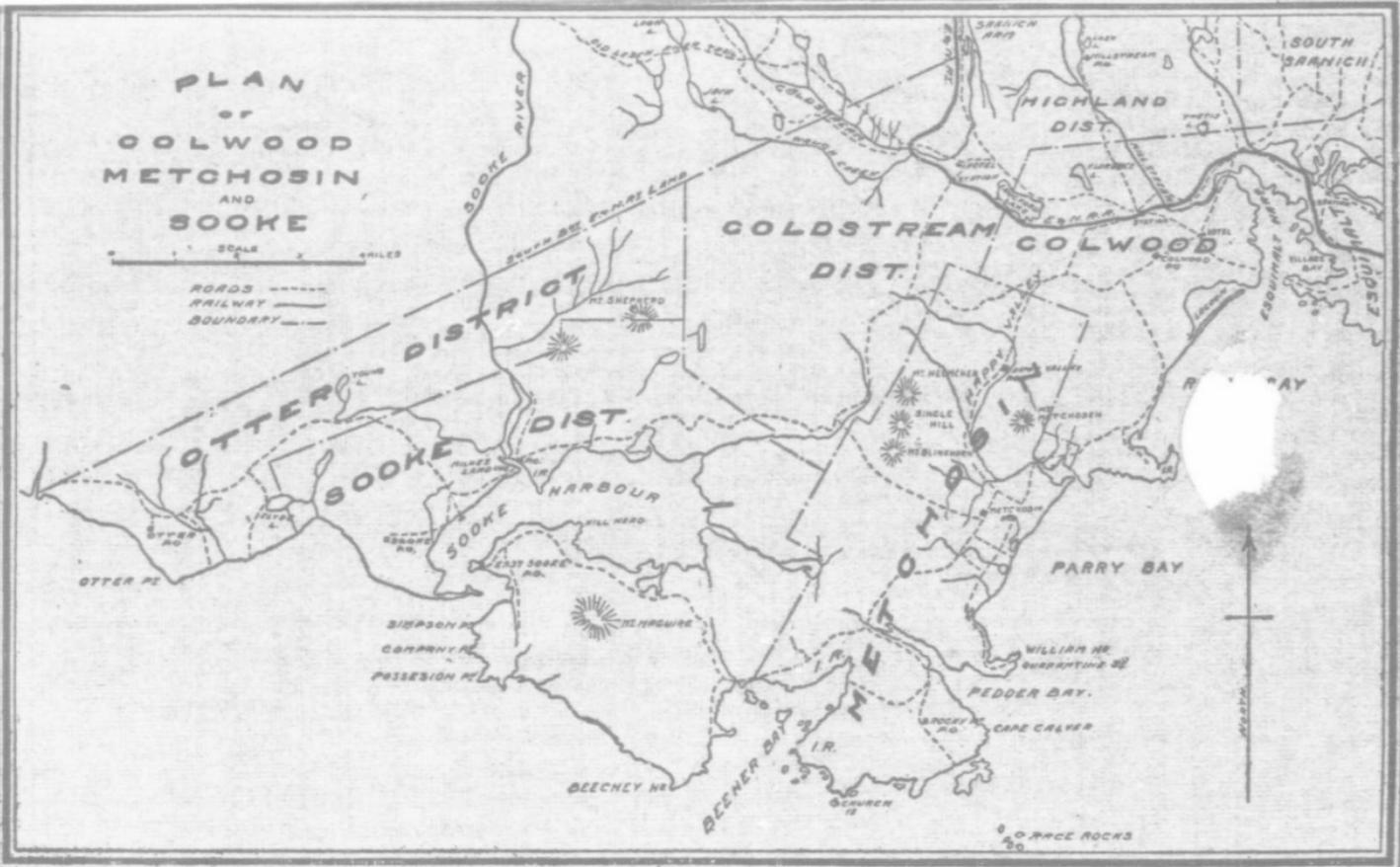
"The Forest Receding" From a Sooke Home

"Here is a typical island river—the Sooke—a brawling, rushing torrent in the rainy season—a thing of clean, blue waters and pebbly beds and dry reaches in the summer. Up through these transparent pools a mighty host of coho and dog salmon and steelhead trout are running. All the months of September and October and November this innumerable throng urge their way up. In the year of 1909 I would safely estimate that a quarter of a million fish swam up the Sooke river to deposit some billion and a half of eggs. These hosts have come from the unknown feeding grounds of the Pacific to exude their eggs and milt in, or near, the river that first gave them birth. On, ever on, the leaping masses urge—up swift current, over dry reaches, flapping, really sliding on their bellies over the shallows, wearing away fins and tails and scale and skin, fighting ever upward to complete the final act of their four years of life—to spawn and then to die. I have seen tiny lads spear a hundredweight an hour; my assistant has been almost thrown down, narrowly escaping wetting the camera, by the rush of disturbed salmon. At last the journey is ended, the spawning place is reached. A 'nest' is 'flapped' out and the big red eggs are discharged. In a few days the spawning act is complete, the now weakened fish drifts with the current, finally she lands on a pebbly bar, and her lord and master, that so often followed her swiftly moving shapely form, is dismayed by her strange actions. Her primal grace is gone, her powers have waned. For hours he swims about her still form, then the current dislodges her and she sinks, submerged, on her side, and down the brawling stream the dead fish and her faithful dying mate swiftly disappear—and the Story of the Salmon is ended."

PLAN  
OF  
COLWOOD  
METCHOSIN  
AND  
SOOKE

SCALE 1 MILE

ROADS - - - -  
RAILWAY = = = =  
BOUNDARY - - - -



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