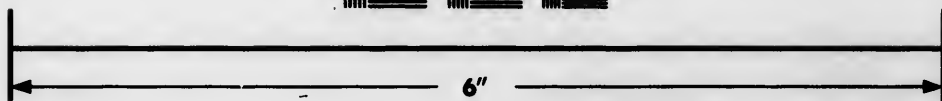
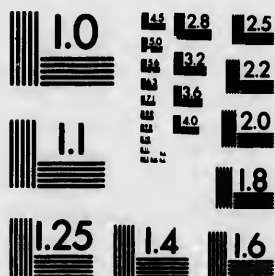


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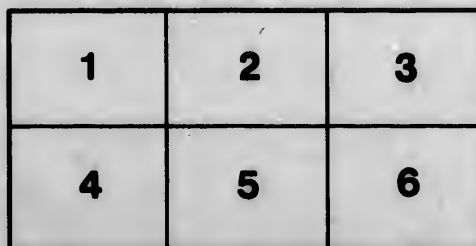
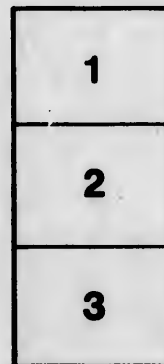
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Compliments of R. B. Gosnell, author

Land of ▶

# The Okanagan ▶



# British Columbia ▶

1891  
(147)

THIS little book is devoted to the interests of the country which it pages profess to describe. An effort has been made to do it justice, without exaggeration, or statements calculated to mislead. There are frequent pictorial illustrations, which give to the eye as clear a conception of the general character of the country as can very well be obtained without a personal visit.



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## THE OKANAGAN COUNTRY.

THERE are a number of valleys in the southern interior of British Columbia, forming part of a continental depression, extending as far as the Gulf of Mexico. That portion to which this little book particularly refers is known generally as Okanagan.

Okanagan is mainly in the Osooyos division of the Yale district, and is made up of Shuswap, Salmon Arm, Grand Prairie, Spallumcheen, Priest, Coldstream or White, Mission, Salmon River and adjacent valleys, and such tributary sections as Kettle River, Rock Creek, Similkameen, Keremeos, and part of Nicola Valley. The general physical characteristics of all this country are those of an undulating, elevated table land, varying in altitude from one thousand to three thousand feet, embracing rich open valleys, surrounded by grassy benches, intersected by rivers and low mountain ranges, dotted with picturesque lakes and woodland, and enjoying a dry, healthful and invigorating climate—a country of rich and varied resources, and yielding as wide a range of products as are to be found within equal limits in any known part of the world. As will be seen hereafter the fruits of the soil comprise all those indigenous to the north temperate zone in its widest extent: while in other respects the elements of wealth *in contiguity* are those contributing to the highest prosperity of a community—timber, grazing lands and minerals.

### GENERAL ADVANTAGES.

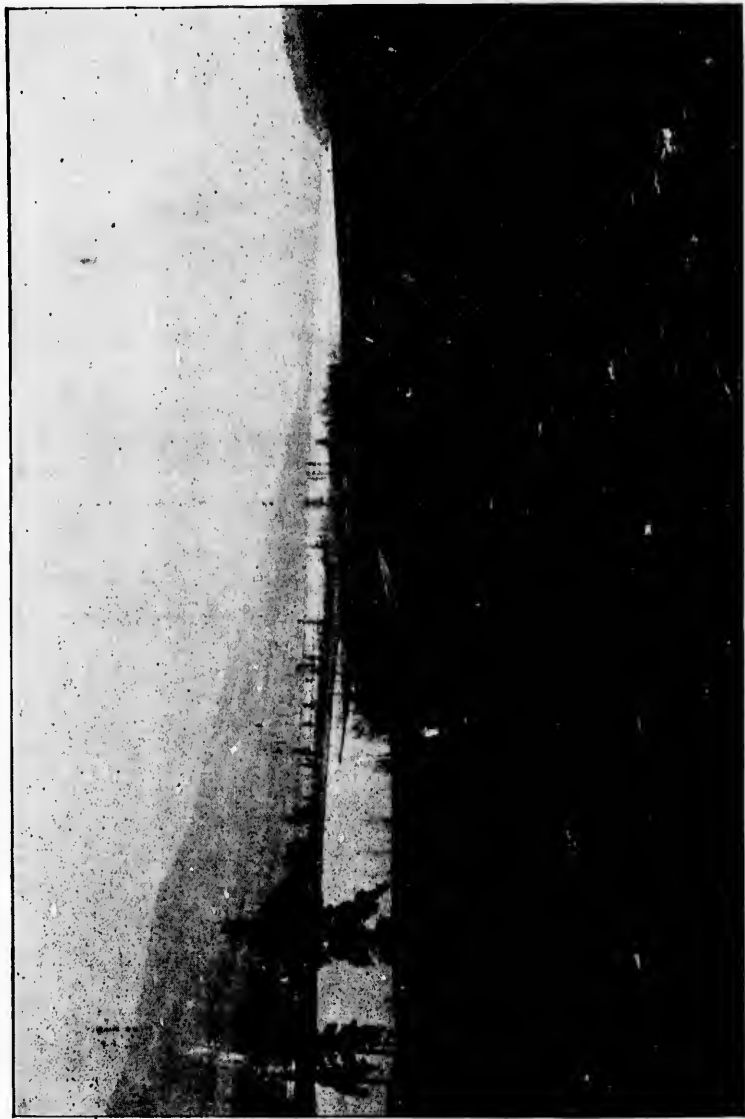
There are several important factors entering into Okanagan as a farming country, which ensure its future without a doubt:

The great fertility of the soil.

The ease with which it may be brought into cultivation.

Absolute certainty of crop returns.





VIEW ON LONG LAKE.

The immunity from destructive storms, insect ravages, and other natural causes of failure, by which farming is commonly beset, is a distinguishing feature of the entire district. It is unique in the respect that it is probably the only part of the American Continent where farmers can obtain cash advances from the mills on the prospective wheat returns as soon as the seed is in the ground. Other conditions peculiarly in its favor are:

A large and rapidly increasing home demand.

The distance from competing regions of production.

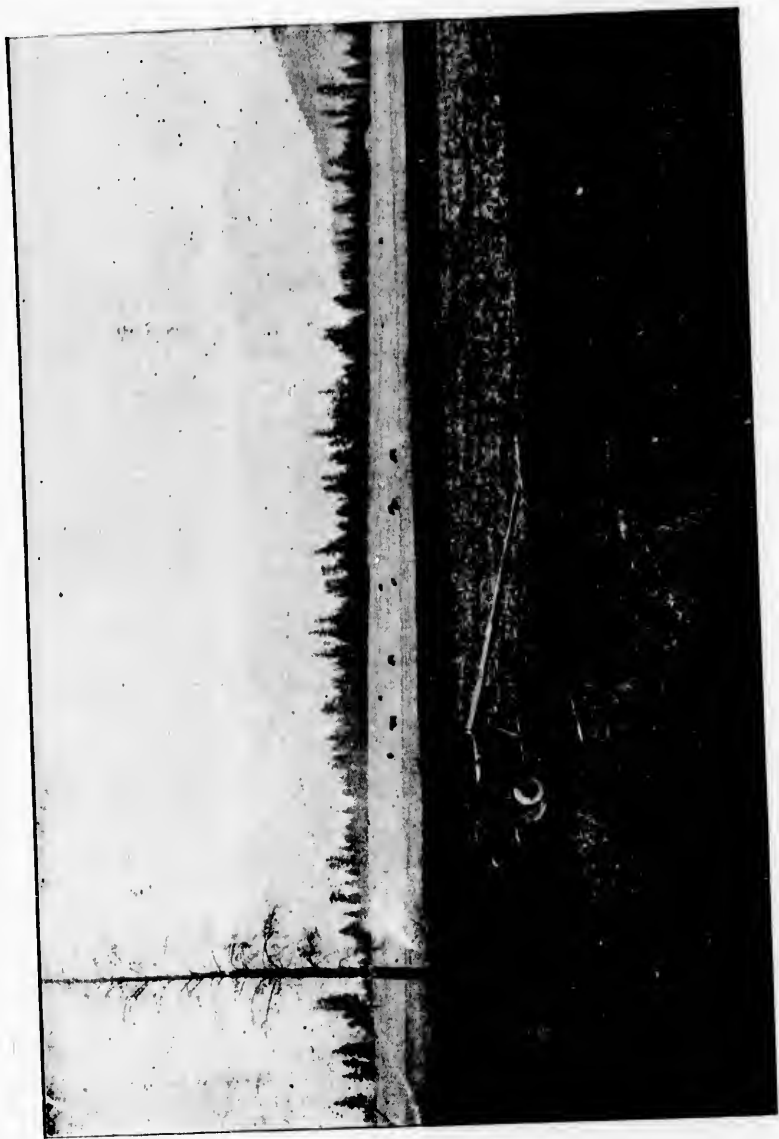
The comparatively limited area of farming lands in the present accessible parts of British Columbia.

A farmer in this way, apart from the tariff regulations, has a double protection, giving his acreage a relatively much higher value than where land is plentiful and competition keen. Another particular recommendation this district possesses is the combination of conditions for desirable residence—picturesque scenery, delightful climate and excellent sport.

#### CONDITIONS OF THE PAST.

The development of Okanagan was in the past retarded by lack of railway facilities and a consequent market, little or no incentive to production being offered. Now the Shuswap and Okanagan railway enters it from Sicamous on the C. P. R., and several other important lines have been projected.

Notwithstanding that for some years back settlements existed in this portion of the interior, little until recently was generally known about it. Enquiry was stimulated by the proposal to tap it by means of a railway. Since then, through official reports, and the knowledge acquired in various other ways, its character, as before briefly described, has been fully established, and now it is the point in British Columbia to which the greatest attention is directed. The successful inauguration of roller mills on a large scale, by which markets in all parts of the Province are supplied to a considerable extent, and the magnificent grain and fruit crops grown by the settlers, demonstrated that as a purely agricultural region Okanagan has no equal, either within or outside the Dominion of Canada.



PRAIRIE SCENE. OKANAGAN VALLEY.

## EXTENT OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

IN the absence of a complete system of surveys, which has not yet been undertaken, various estimates have been made of the extent of agricultural and pastoral lands contained in the Okanagan valley, some one hundred and fifty miles or more in length, with tributary branches. The purely agricultural portions capable of all kinds of crops—cereals, roots and fruits—have been placed, in area, at between 300,000 and 500,000 acres, both numbers being official; while the pastoral lands are put down at several millions of acres. New valleys have been discovered since the date of Government Engineer Farwell's report, published in 1887, which was ordered for the purpose of ascertaining the extent and character of the agricultural lands along the line of and tributary to the proposed Shuswap and Okanagan railway, and though official, and containing the most reliable information heretofore made public regarding the district in question, is obviously incomplete. So far as the Government offices are concerned there is little or no land left for pre-emption, but those competent to speak from a knowledge of the country, say that a complete survey would disclose considerable area of both agricultural and pasture lands not yet covered by Government patent, and settlers going in from time to time do find and pre-empt such land. Mr. Farwell's estimate of lands not requiring irrigation, and suitable for wheat, is 305,760 acres, as follows:

	ACRES
Surveyed townships.....	149,760
Shuswap River, head of Mara Lake, to north boundary of section 15, tp. 38.....	10,000
Salmon River Valley.....	12,000
Mission Valley, south tp. 26.....	15,000
White Valley and tributaries.....	15,000
Deep Creek Valley.....	10,000
	62,000

	ACRES.
Lands on Okanagan Lake .....	20,000
Cherry Creek.....	16,000
	<hr/> 36,000
Princeton to Keremeos.....	13,000
Keremeos to Custom House.....	15,000
Penticton to Boundary.....	30,000
	<hr/> 58,000
Total.....	<hr/> 305,760

The above refers to agricultural land and does not include bench or pasture land, all of which is more or less tillable with, and in many instances without, irrigation, even in places to the tops of the mountains. Mr. C. E. Perry, Chief Engineer of the Shuswap and Okanagan railway, estimates the area of wheat lands at 500,000 acres. The Government agent at Vernon, Mr. Dewdney, reports some 165,000 acres *pre-empted*, which, of course, does not include crown lands, or purchasers of large tracts, nor does it include Osoyoos, Rock Creek or the White and Similkameen valleys. Mr. Perry, who knows the country, on account of his official position, better probably than any other man in it, writes: "My estimate of 500,000 acres available for agricultural purposes, outside of purely pastoral lands, is within the truth." The greater part of the country is open prairie, the remainder being lightly timbered and easy to clear. A good general idea will be obtained from the frequent illustration appearing elsewhere.

#### CHARACTER OF THE SOIL.

Speaking generally the soil is black loam, with sedimentary clay sub-soil of great depth, and consequently inexhaustible in fertility. In one place, in digging a well, this fertile deposit was found to extend 60 feet below the surface. On some of the benches a lighter, sandy loam prevails, excellently adapted for fruit. The soil is everywhere wonderfully productive, as high even as 1,000 feet above the levels of the valleys, from which benches rise in succession back to the mountains.

## GENERAL APPEARANCE.

The whole country has a park-like appearance, with belts of timber sufficient for all the economic needs of the district, numerous beautiful lakes and streams being interspersed. Thus, a peculiarly inviting landscape is presented: The surface, level in places, rolling here, terraced there, dotted at intervals with trees and shrubbery, is invariably clothed with rich, nutritious grasses. The mountains are lightly timbered.

## THE STATE OF CULTIVATION.

It may be necessary to remark, in order to avoid a possible mistake on the part of readers, that this country, to which this little sketch refers, is comparatively speaking undeveloped as yet. Not one in every hundred acres occupied is cultivated. Farms are in holdings varying in extent from 160 acres upwards, very little of which has been tilled, for the very reason that, beyond local demand, no market existed. The principal crop has been wheat, for which a limited sale was afforded at the Columbia Flouring Co.'s mills, the largest, and practically the only, roller process in operation in the Province. About 90,000 bushels of wheat per season are here converted into flour. Situated inland, and many miles at its nearest point from the C. P. R., and a long distance from the coast, farming had little incentive to its prosecution, and was carried on more in anticipation of the railway era than for profit. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that stock raising became a predominant interest, a fact which accounts for the land having passed into large holdings for grazing purposes, and it will be found that the owners of valley lands, in a majority of cases, hold the key to the adjacent bench lands, upon which range thousands of head of cattle. In view, however, of railway communication being opened up, there has been large acreage recently brought into cultivation, and for several years back numerous orchards have been planted out. Already there is a number of young orchards in bearing, the fruit of which is of the very finest quality and cannot be excelled anywhere in Canada. Development henceforth will be very rapid.



NATURAL HAY MEADOWS.

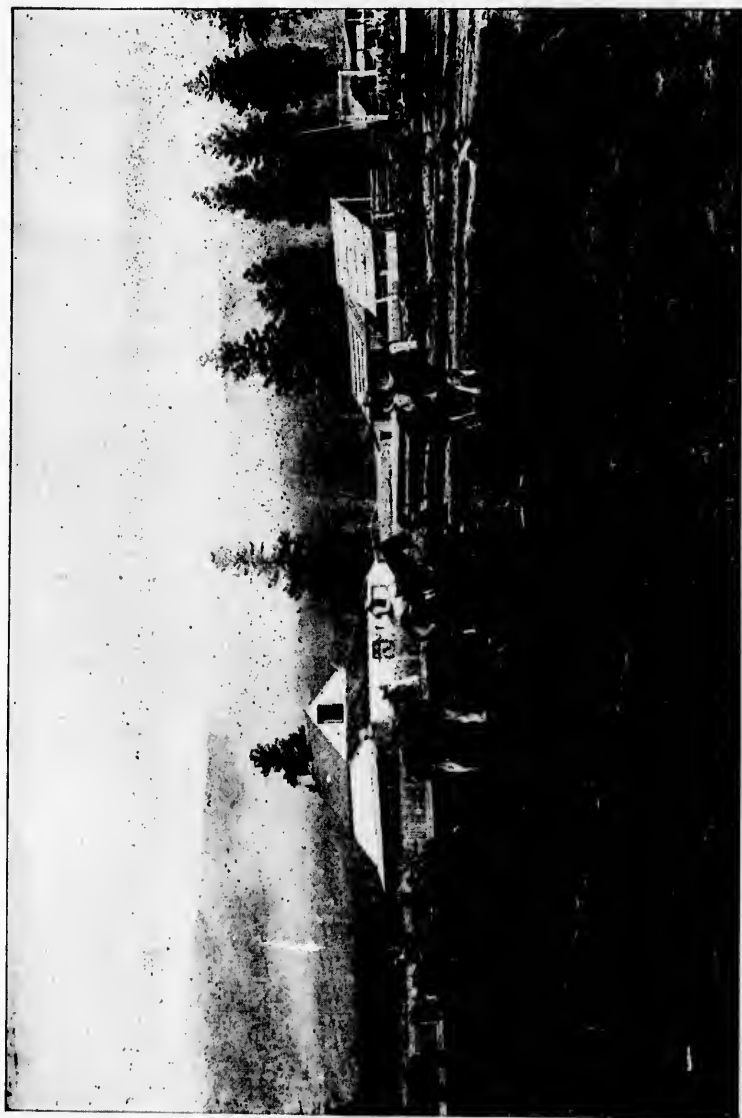
## CLIMATE.

○ F all the advantages which this land of valleys possesses, the predominant one is climate. To that element is due many of the possibilities of British Columbia, but to no part of it does the remark apply with greater force than to the Okanagan. All the Pacific Slope, to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, is tempered by the Japan current and the sea breezes by the intervening mountains are stripped of their excessive moisture. The general altitude is about one thousand feet above the sea level, varying in the outlying districts from 1,000 to 2,500, as at Grand Prairie and the Kettle River plateau, respectively, all well within the agricultural limit, as defined by Dr. Dawson. This altitude, with the modifying influences of the ocean, imparts almost absolute salubrity to the climate, which, now that it is becoming known to medical men, is being more and more recommended as a health resort, and especially to debilitated, malarial and consumptive patients. The climate is dry, and warm weather, with occasional showers, prevails throughout the year. Sometimes the thermometer goes as high as 90 in the shade, but rarely, but the evenings, without exceptions, are cool and pleasant, with protracted twilight and cloudless nights. There is absolute immunity from summer frosts. In winter, there is a slight snow fall and uniformity of temperature, the glass seldom showing below zero. Extremes of heat and cold are not felt to any great degree, and altogether the meteorological conditions are as perfect as they very well can be. The snow fall is never heavy and cattle graze the year round on the hills.

### METEREOLOGICAL DATA.

No official meteorological record has ever been kept in this section of the Province, but the following, from the diary of a prominent farmer in the Spallumcheen valley, gives a few interesting facts for five years from 1882 to 1886, inclusive:





RANCHE SCENE.

1882—finished seeding April 29th; plenty of rain in May; harvest finished September 10th; first frost October 31st.

1883—finished seeding May 15th, and cutting grain August 25th; first frost October 25th; thermometer 20°.

1884—finished seeding May 14th, and harvest September 8th; first frost October 3rd; second frost November 20th; thermometer 19°.

1885—finished seeding April 29th, and harvesting August 22nd; first frost November 11th; thermometer 20°.

1886—finished seeding May 3rd, and harvesting August 17th; first frost November 4th; thermometer 8°.

“In this district,” says Mr. Farwell, “the seeding is generally finished before the 20th of May, and all grain, as a rule, is garnered before the first of September.”

#### THE MATTER OF IRRIGATION.

Coming within the dry belt of the Pacific Slope the question of irrigation is pertinent, and upon this point has arisen a great deal of misconception. In no place in the district north of Vernon, or in the Coldstream or tributary valleys, is irrigation required, and wherever irrigation is required on the bench lands, the most ample facilities are at hand in mountain streams and lakes. Okanagan may properly be termed the wheat field of British Columbia, and of all the fine crops reaped, yielding all the way from 35 to 65 bushels to the acre, not an acre is irrigated, and the most astonishing yields are obtained in oats and barley, roots, vegetables, hay and fruits.





PRIEST'S VALLEY NEAR VERNON. 1903.

## GEOGRAPHY OF THE DISTRICT.

**A**FTER these general remarks a reference may be made to the geography of the district. Okanagan lies south of the main line of the C. P. R. from Sicamous, the point at which the Shuswap and Okanagan railway intersects it, extending 150 miles to the Boundary; to the east is the Columbia River and the famous mineral district of the Kootenay; on the west and northwest lies an immense ranching territory and the mountains which divide it from the coast; on the south is the northern boundary of the United States.

### ALL ROADS LEAD TO VERNON.

Near the head of Okanagan Lake is situated the townsite of Vernon, holding, it would seem, the commercial key to the whole of Okanagan, and tributary sections, because all lines of communications to and out of them must pass through it. Some seven or eight wagon roads lead out of Vernon in various directions.

To reach Vernon from the line of the C. P. R. there are several well-known routes travelled for years; for it must be understood that, though just now attracting unusual attention, it has a history reaching back nearly half a century. Coming from the south Jesuit Fathers established a mission among the Indians there in 1860. (The pioneer Father Pendozy, retired from his earthly labors but a few months ago.) Eli Lequime, an old rancher and trader, now wealthy and retired, followed soon after, and out of that and the search for gold, which first populated British Columbia, grew the settlements that now exist. The two principal wagon roads are: one by way of Sicamous, 50 miles southward; the other from Kamloops. The latter, which is excellent for travel, takes you eastward to Ducks on the C. P. R., thence to Grand Prairie in a southeasterly direction and thence to Vernon, passing through a very fine stretch of country, prairie, open and timber land, some devoted to stock raising exclusively, and some to mixed farming. There are a number of fine farms and farm buildings on the way, all the luxuries and conveniences of modern farm life being observable. The route henceforth will be from Sicamous by rail to Vernon at the head of Okanagan Lake, following mainly the line of the old wagon road.

## THE RAILWAY SITUATION.

**A**T the last session of the Provincial Legislature a charter was granted to the Vernon and Okanagan Railway Co., which will run a line from Vernon south to the Boundary, following the shores of Long and Okanagan Lakes and Okanagan River, where it will connect with a railway from the south.

### A RAILWAY TO NELSON.

A railway is projected from Vernon to run in a southeasterly direction, to connect by way of Lower Arrow Lake with Sprout's Landing on the Columbia and the Nelson mining camps on the Columbia and Kootenay Railway.

### NEW MAIN LINE OF THE C. P. R.

It is thought that the new C. P. R. route from Lethbridge through Crow's Nest Pass, to cut off the big and expensive bend through the mountains, will go by the way of Vernon, striking the present line of the C. P. R. at Ducks or Kamloops. In fact, on this point, a railway engineer of repute says: "A feasible route for a railway has been found from Vernon through the White Valley, and *via* Cherry Creek to the Columbia River. There can be no doubt that this will be the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the near future."

### A RAILWAY TO ALASKA.

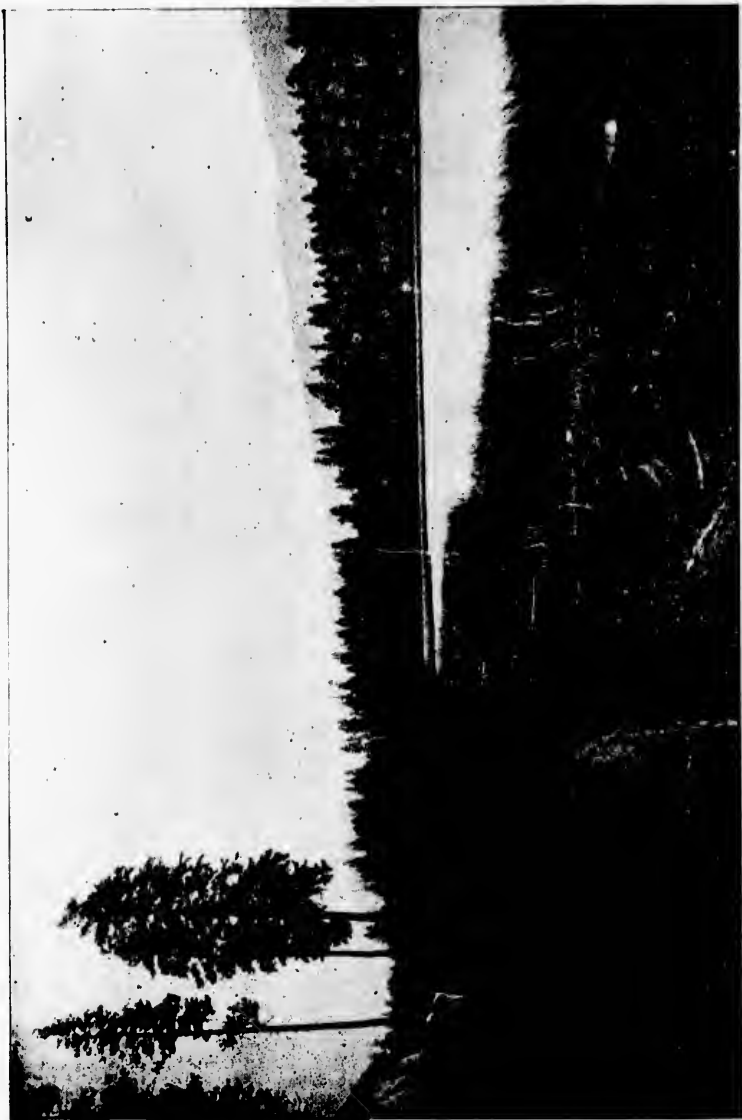
There is still another and equally important railway problem unsolved, *viz.*, the route to Alaska. The Vernon and Okanagan railway will be undoubtedly a link in the Alaskan Railway. "This, writes the engineer above referred to, "is the true and only feasible route, tapping as it does our rich wheat fields in the Okanagan basin, and our equally rich mining centres of Cariboo and vicinity, leaving the Columbia River in Washington, ascending the Okanagan River to Okanagan Lake, and thence *via* Shuswap and

“Okanagan and Canadian Pacific Railway to Kamloops and following up the right bank of the North Thompson River, until the interior plateau is reached and thence to Cariboo and the North.” Thus, from a railway point of view, the importance of Vernon and surrounding country can scarcely be over-estimated. It is violating no confidence to state that the C. P. R. Co. has had its engineers at work for several years endeavoring to locate a more direct route to the coast, and that their latest efforts have been in the direction indicated, which route has been discovered to be not only feasible but easy.

#### VERNON A SUPPLY CENTRE.

The present lines of communication, together with those projected, will bring the Okanagan in direct connection with the North-West, which will afford a great market for timber and fruit; the mining camps of Kootenay and Cariboo; the country south and west; the coast and Alaska, for all of which it will become a distributing as well as a supply centre. It is the food producing base of the Province and a large area besides. When the mining camps and natural industries are in full operation its energies will be taxed to the utmost.





OTTER LAKE NEAR VERNON.

## AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES.

**A** PART from the mining and industrial possibilities of this country its great future lies in its agricultural capabilities, farming, horticulture and stock-raising. Wheat has been and is grown everywhere throughout the district with great success, and the Columbia Flouring Mill Co., has been running night and day for eight months of the year at its full capacity of 100 barrels per day.

### WHEAT GROWING.

A safe average yield of wheat is 35 bushels per acre and occasional yields go as high as 60 and 65 bushels. The average named is certified to by Government officials at Vernon. In 1884 the return from a steam thresher in Spallumcheen for 500 acres showed an average of 47 bushels per acre: in 1886, which was an unusually dry season, the average was 35 bushels throughout the district. Last year Mr. Moses Lumby, one of the pioneer farmers, and a gentleman to whose enterprise is due much of the attention now being directed thither, threshed 62 bushels to the acre of Ladoga wheat. The general average last year was about 40 bushels. Wheat ripens hard and full and is of first-class milling quality. Ten samples of wheat collected from this district were submitted by the Vancouver Board of Trade, to W. W. Ogilvie, Esq., Montreal, Canada's biggest miller, and the Government expert there, who pronounced most favorably on them for milling purposes, as will be seen by the published report of the Board of Trade of 1889. The samples were all as they came from the thresher. Taking the valley lands of Okanagan alone, if two-thirds were turned to wheat growing the result would exceed the usual acreage of the Manitoba crop, a statement that may stagger those who have been in the habit of sneering at British Columbia as a "sea of mountains," but, nevertheless, beyond cavil.





HEAD OF OKANAGAN LAKE.

## BARLEY

No. 1 Barley can be grown with an average result equal to that of wheat. The safety of harvesting and immunity from rain ensures the best quality as to color and consequently the highest market price. The two-rowed barley so much in demand in England for malting purposes, would undoubtedly reach a high state of perfection. The fact that all the malt used in British Columbia is imported ought to stimulate the growing of barley, and the malting industry as well. The manufacture of "pot" or pearl barley could be profitably undertaken, more especially as the capital required is inconsiderable.

## PEAS AND CORN.

Peas and corn have been grown only for household use as yet, but in this limited way indicate successful cultivation. Corn gives promise of being a useful commercial crop, the climate being most favorable, and especially sweet corn for canning purposes, carrying a high percentage of saccharine matter. Oats do well and yield largely.

## ROOTS AND VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, and all root crops and vegetables yield enormously.

## SPECIAL PRODUCTS.

There are a few special products such as hops, sugar-beet, flax, tobacco, sorghum, etc., in which but very limited experiments have been made, but sufficient to prove that, without any qualification whatsoever, any one or all would succeed admirably. The climate and all the conditions verify this conclusion.

## HAY.

The average yield of hay is from two to three tons per acre. Silos, if introduced, would be of great advantage in wintering cattle, being five or six times more economical than feeding hay, and the country being especially adapted for ensilage purposes.



THE EARL OF ABERDEEN'S RANCHE, MISSION VALLEY.

## FRUIT GROWING.

**T**OMATOES and melons are usually classified as fruit and will be so considered. The conditions which govern their cultivation are analogous with those of peaches and grapes. All four do well on about the same isothermal lines. Tomatoes and cucumbers are grown and ripen fully in the open air, and melons of enormous size, weighing 30 and 40 pounds, are commonly produced, and tons have been sold, although in the past they have gone in a great part to waste for want of a market. This is nature's testimony to the wonderful productiveness of the soil, assisted by climate.

## GRAPES AND PEACHES.

The success of grape culture so far must rather be inferred than otherwise from the favorable conditions previously described. Peaches do well wherever tried, and a tourist writes about them being so plentiful in one or two orchards as to be fed to the hogs.

## OTHER FRUITS.

In addition to the fruits already mentioned, pears, plums, cherries, apples and all small fruits are apparently indigenous, and meet with the very best results, equal to those in any part of the province, which is particularly well adapted for their cultivation. The Okanagan valleys are remarkable for the fine apples grown. On this subject a writer in the *Kamloops Sentinel*, New Year's edition is quoted, who says:—"It will be found, however, that the most important fruit district will be developed in the North and South Thompson, Spallumcheen and Okanagan valleys, where not only extensive areas exist, but the most favorable conditions. The latitude and altitude are just right for apples of good flavor, size and shipping qualities, and after all apples are the most profitable of all crops and capable of the greatest expansion. These districts are well situated for controlling the markets of Manitoba and the North-West. These valleys are better adapted for

“peaches and grapes than the lower country, the greater heat and  
“drier atmosphere being conducive to early maturity and richness  
“of flavor. . . . The prospects of peaches, grapes and other  
“fruits requiring certain degrees of warmth for successful cultiva-  
“tion are excellent all over the Interior.” In the Okanagan, even  
almonds, which gave Californians some trouble, are cultivated with  
success. Mr. G. G. Mackay, writing about Mission Valley, says:—  
“Mr. Whelan had the best kept orchard and garden we saw. . . .  
“ . . . He had grapes and almond trees. . . . Having purchased  
“a pound of almonds at a store, he planted four of them and has  
“now four very flourishing trees, from which he says he took a  
“bushel of almonds last year.” It is quite needless to comment on  
the possibilities of a climate capable of this. An official report to  
the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association, says:—“There  
“are no insect pests, blights, vegetable-mold or moss.”

#### AN OFFICIAL REPORT.

The report in question (to Fruit Growers' Association) says:—  
“Grasses of different varieties yield heavily: there is a great variety  
“of wild flowers; all cultivated flowers do well; climate the best  
“in the world; winds do not prevail.” The report adds:—“I am  
“convinced that this is the garden of the Province of British  
“Columbia. It is capable of anything any other part of the  
“Dominion is.”



## AVAILABLE LANDS AND PRICES.

① IN regard to the land available for agricultural purposes, it may be repeated that thorough surveys would disclose considerable extent of land not yet taken up and a good deal not legally occupied; but apart from that altogether there are large tracts of land available at from \$5 to \$50 an acre, according to location and improvements. Heretofore, there has been little disposition to buy or sell. Most of the land was obtained at government prices by the present owners in large tracts, who have held it until the entrance of a railway would make it valuable, but who, in view of the increase of the wild land tax, are disposed to sell large portions of their holdings at reasonable prices. This seems to be a general disposition. Many of the oldest and most valuable ranches are now being divided up for sale. Considering the many advantages which this county possesses, already fully pointed out, these lands are relatively much cheaper than farms in any other part of the continent.

### AROUND VERNON.

The general character of the country around and leading from the north and west has been pretty well indicated already.

### COLDSTREAM VALLEY.

From Vernon to Cherry Creek is a good wagon road. The distance is 54 miles, the road passing through Coldstream Valley and Blue Spring. That embraces a large tract of country surrounded by bench lands, excellently adapted for grain growing and ranching. Much of this beautiful valley, which is one of the most fertile and attractive in the province, is owned by Hon. F. G. Vernon, Commissioner of Lands and Works. A colony of some forty or fifty French Canadians went into the valley about a year ago and took up land are reported as succeeding and well pleased with their location.



HON. F. G. VERNON'S RANCH.

## THE GARDEN OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Going from Vernon southward, the main road is followed, climbing the mountain for four miles, dropping again to the level of Long Lake, passing through timbered glades, bunch grass, meadow land and wheat fields and are brought to the end of a charming valley, thirty-six miles from the point of starting. Around Okanagan Mission, is the garden of British Columbia. The valley is about sixteen miles long and an average of five or six miles wide, and here Lord Aberdeen, on his visit last Fall, purchased through Mr. G. G. Mackay, of Vancouver, a fine ranch. Stock-raising is the principal industry, but mixed farming is carried on to a considerable extent, and with the most satisfactory results. A great many hogs are raised not only in this valley, but are a characteristic product of the country generally. Large shipments have been made to Calgary and to the Coast, and pork-packing promises to become a prominent and distinctive industry.

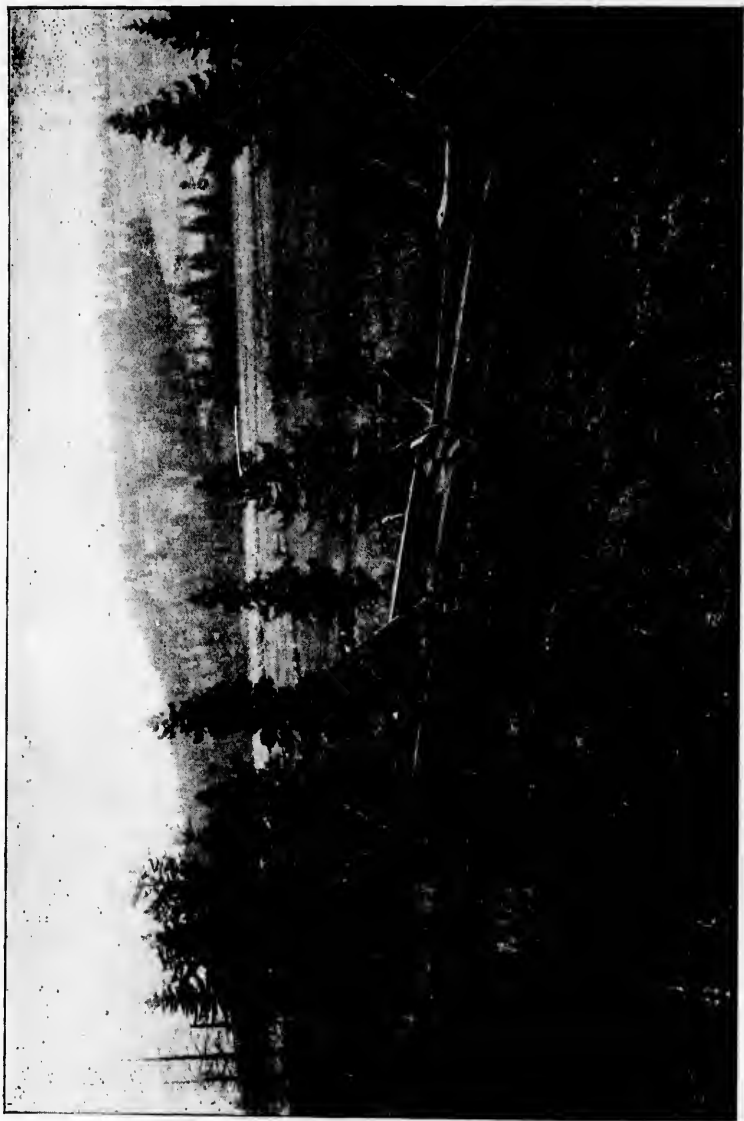
### SOUTH OF THE BOUNDARY.

Continuing from here, Penticton, seventy-five miles from Vernon, is reached by steamer on the Okanagan Lake and from there to Osooyos at the American Boundary is thirty-seven miles, travelled by stage or wagon. Along this line, which is the proposed route of the Vernon and Okanagan Railway, is considerable good land, much of which is not taken up.

### ROCK CREEK, ETC.

At Osooyos to reach Rock Creek, an important mineral district, it is necessary to cross the Boundary and return northward. From here Lower Rock Creek is fourteen miles, where farming lands begin again, and between that and the Boundary, fifteen miles distant, numerous farms have been taken up. Travelling on a good wagon road, Kettle River country is approached from this point. The Government is building a bridge over Okanagan River at Kruger's, at the head of Osooyos, and another across the Kettle River and constructing a wagon road to connect the two, thus opening up direct communication wholly within Canadian territory.





CATTLE RANGE NEAR VERNON.

### KEREMEOS AND SIMILKAMEEN.

West of Osooyos in the Osooyos division are the big bunch grass grazing districts of Keremeos and Similkameen, the bench lands of which, with irrigation, are capable of producing immense quantities of fruit. There are immense herds of cattle here, from which the markets of the coast are mainly supplied with beef.

### KETTLE RIVER.

In the Kettle River country, about which a great deal has been learned recently, several families have settled in the past year or two, and future settlement promises to be rapid, the various mining camps affording a good market. Kettle River and its tributaries are particularly rich in fine timber and the valley is well adapted for agricultural products of all kinds.

Grand Prairie, Kettle River, is a fertile valley about twelve miles in length and from two to four in width. Settlers are being attracted thither also, and are breaking up land. This locality is well wooded and watered, the Kettle River, one of the finest trout trout streams in the Province, running through it.

### WEST SIDE OF OKANAGAN.

Returning on the west side of Okanagan is another large tract of agricultural lands. On Trout Creek Mr. Jones has a fine stock farm, and is breeding extensively Percheron horses from imported French stock.

### A WORD OF CAUTION.

While dealing with the extent and character of farming lands, a word of caution is necessary to the intending settler. Indiscriminate immigration is not desirable, that is, a man should have sufficient capital to carry him through until his land begins to be remunerative. Settlers should avoid the mistake of discounting the future by assuming liabilities that will either burden them for years or swamp them altogether. Intelligent, industrious farmers with some means, are the kind of men who will succeed. To such no other part of America can offer such inducements, and the great advantage of the early settler, apart from the rich resources of the land itself, is the natural increase in the value of the holdings, which has made thousands in this province, as in all new countries, rich.



BUNCHING CATTLE ON ROAD TO MISSION, LONG LAKE.

## A SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE.

**T**HE interest which attaches to any county is always enhanced in degree by the opportunities which are afforded for sport.

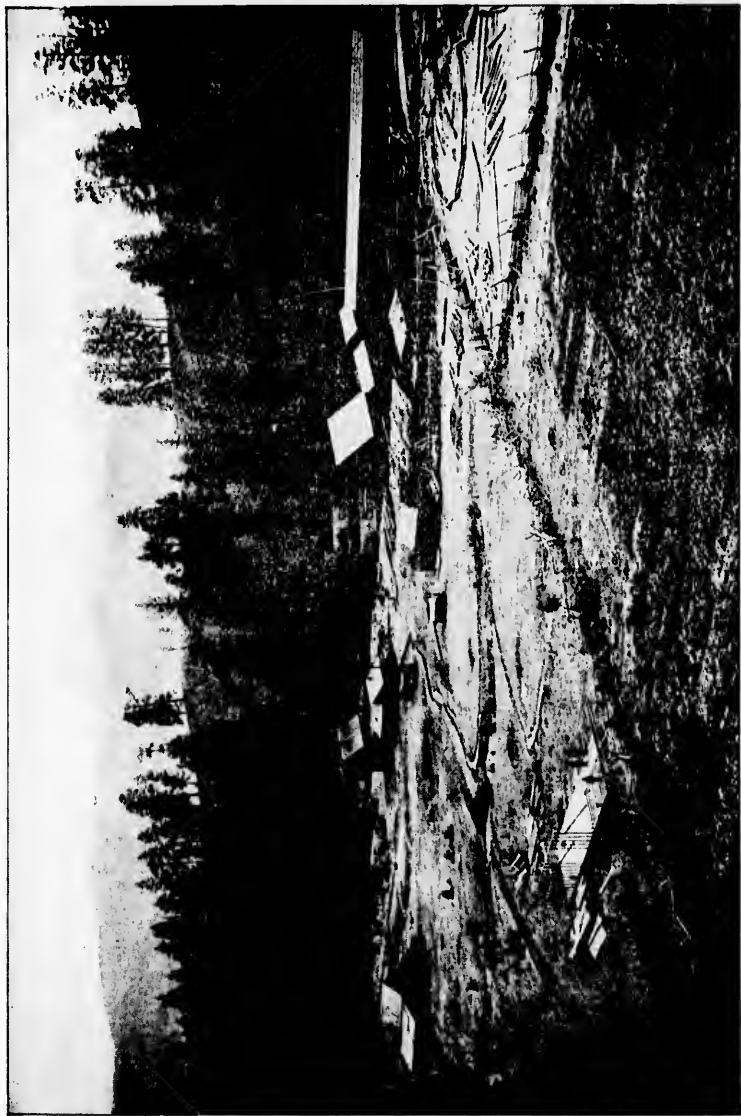
This region may be and has been characterized as a paradise for the hunter and sportsman. Big game abounds in caribou, white and black-tail deer, and on the higher mountains big horned sheep and goats. One firm alone last year shipped out six tons of deer skins. More remote are to be found the great black, cinnamon and grizzly bears. There are a few grey wolves, lynx, coyotes, and the king cat of the Rockies, the American panther.

### THE FEATHERY TRIBE

Is represented in millions of geese and duck, the former often feeding in large flocks on the stubble. Sandhill cranes and beautiful and stately specimens of the swan are met with early in the spring and late in fall. Grouse is abundant in sections and of several varieties, viz., prairie chickens, blue, ruffled and spruce grouse and ptarmigan on the mountains. Some wonderful bags are reported by the nimrods who at times visit this region of sport.

### FISHING.

The fishing is confined principally to trout caught in large numbers and often of enormous size. Trout are taken from ten to twenty pounds in weight, and reports have been published of trout caught in Okanagan Lake weighing thirty-five and forty pounds. In some of the interior lakes white fish are found and a species of land-locked salmon. Attention to the former might be made profitable. Millions of dollars' worth of white fish have been taken out of Lake Winnipeg and other Canadian lakes, and there can be no doubt of their successful propagation here in the numerous beautiful mountain lakes, creating an industry next in importance to the famed British Columbia salmon itself.



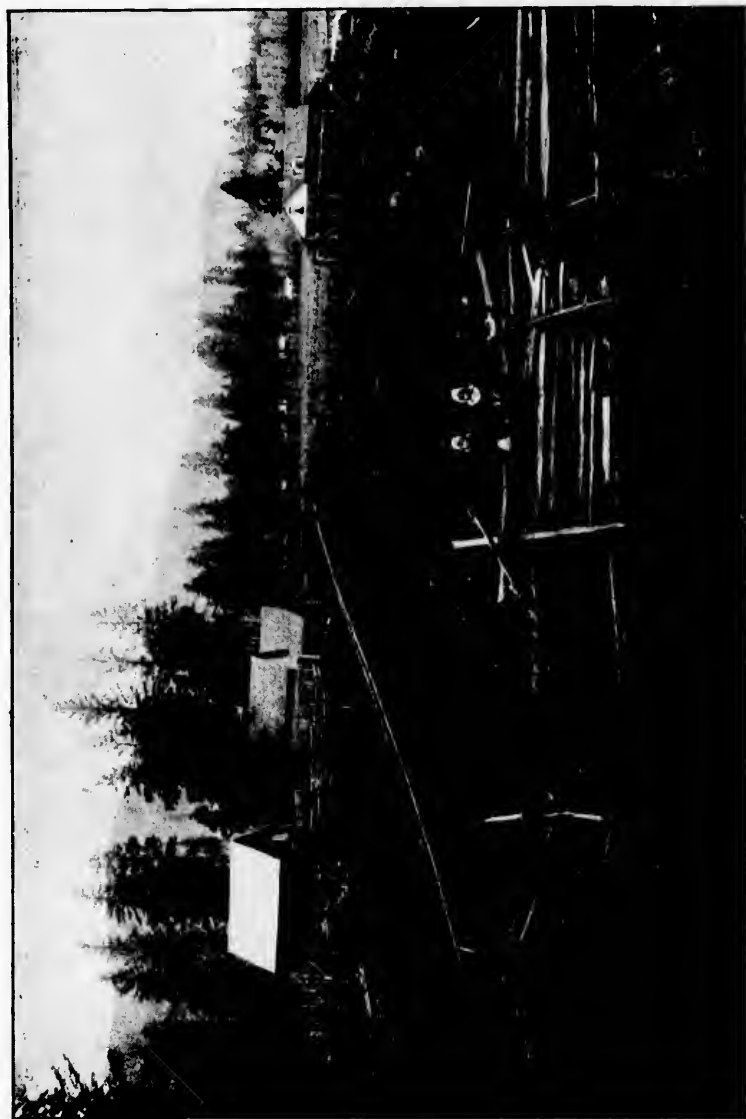
F. S. BARNARD, M.P., CORRALS.

## MINERAL WEALTH.

**D**IVERSIFICATION of industry is one of the chief mainstays of a nation and a really prosperous community is one that has many sources of wealth, or in other words, one that does not depend upon one or two things for success. While the Okanagan country has grain, fruit, timber, fish, pasturage, healthful and exhilarating climate, sport, picturesqueness and other advantages, it has also mineral wealth, apparently illimitable—coal, gold, silver, platinum, mica, galena, and iron. At Cherry Creek, Rock Creek, Siwash Creek, Okanagan Lake, Kettle River, Keremeos, Scotch Creek, Granite Creek and elsewhere the mineral indications are most pronounced and hundreds of claims have been recorded.

### CHERRY CREEK.

The Cherry Creek Mining Co. took up a claim on Cherry Creek in 1862, and the ore taken out was very rich, several tons of which was shipped to San Francisco for treatment and yielded as high as \$1,200 to the ton. The vein, however, pinched out, and owing to the lack of funds the mine was abandoned and the lode has not since been discovered. There is little doubt of its existence, as plenty of silver is found in the washings of the creek and several veins have been found in the adjacent hills. In working for silver, gold was found in paying quantities and for years there was a large mining population working the placer deposits. One company, the "Christian Bros.," was very successful, and some valuable nuggets were taken out, one worth \$165. There are still white miners at work engaged in tunnelling with a view of starting a back channel, and are very sanguine of success. The Monashee Mine is situated on the head of the Creek, and the company, of which Hon. F. G. Vernon is a large shareholder, is without doubt in possession of a fine property. The ledge has been traced about three miles. A large amount of expensive work has been accomplished, and crushing commences this season. This mine is on the proposed line from Vernon to Nelson and other valuable discoveries are anticipated *en route*.



PRICE ELLISON'S RANCHE, VERNON.

### ROCK CREEK AND OTHER LOCATIONS.

Rock Creek, where considerable mining existed some years ago, is another important mining point. Quartz of a high grade is found there in large quantity, only waiting a railway for development.

At the mouth of the Rock Creek Junction is a fine hydraulic property owned and operated by Messrs. Moss & Grant, of Victoria.

There are several successfully worked locations at Fairview, where excellent quartz has been brought to the surface and sufficient development work done to show that it is in true fissures and drifts.

It is understood that at Granite Creek there are platinum beds considered the largest in the world. Good quartz is reported at Newton in the adjoining district.

All through and around the country and to the southward of Okanagan Lake, there are mining locations of great promise. There is a distinct mineral belt of evident richness, extending from Similkameen River to the Columbia, embracing some of the places already mentioned and Amelia, Maple Leaf, Kettle River, Camp McKinney, Copper Camp, Boundary Creek and so on. Very many of the claims are held by poor men, unable to develop them themselves, but waiting for capital and railways to come along.

A large quantity of gold has been taken out of Siwash Creek, not far from Vernon, and a rush of miners took place last year with the result of a number of important claims being recorded. At Scotch Creek, near Sicamous, on Okanagan Lake, and on White Man's Lake, locations have been made and assessment work done.

### EXTENSIVE COAL BEDS.

According to Dr. G. M. Dawson, Canada's greatest geologist and mineralogist, extensive coal beds exist extending throughout the southern portion of British Columbia. On Mr. Connell's ranch, Nichollson's ranch and at other points on Rock Creek, coal of excellent quality has recently been discovered, and an American company has recently taken it in hand. A correspondent on mining in the *Inland Sentinel* writes:—"A vein of coal has been opened up near the mouth of Rock Creek. The seam is some five or six feet in depth, and the quality of the coal excellent, giving 64 % of carbon."

Very considerable deposits of iron ore are found near Kamloops.





G. G. MACKAY'S LODGE ON OKANAGAN LAKE.

## THE FIELD FOR INDUSTRIES.

**P**ERHAPS most important of all the considerations connected with this country is the possible industrial development of which it is capable. Considering the many and extensive districts of which it must eventually be the base of supply, and the diversified character of its natural resources, it is a foundation upon which to rear a magnificent industrial fabric.

### DAIRYING.

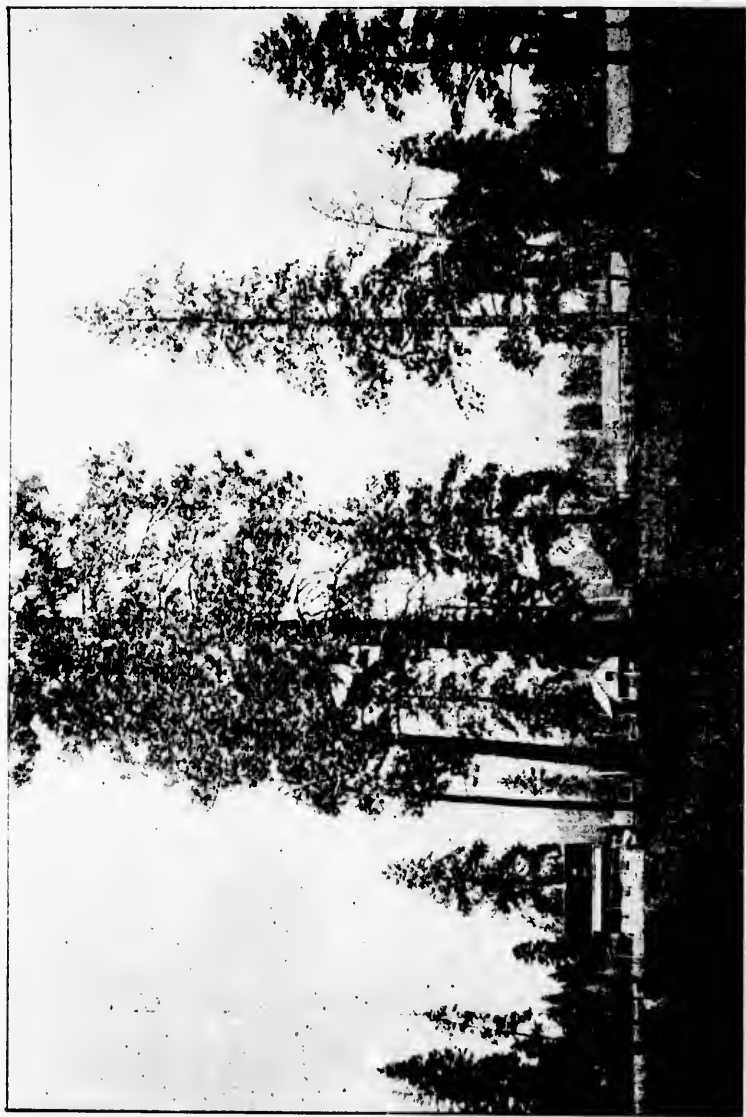
About \$150,000 worth of dairy products was imported in British Columbia last year, and that fact immediately suggests an industry for which Okanagan is peculiarly adapted—dairying. There is no end of rich pasturage, and the clean, healthful atmosphere, pure mountain water and the cultivation of grasses and roots without limit are just the conditions required for the manufacture of condensed milk, creamery butter and cheese of the very first quality. It has not been gone into as yet for the same reason that has kept the country back in other respects, but it could be made profitable beyond peradventure. There is room, too, for a considerable export trade. China and Japan are supplied largely from Europe.

### MALTING, BREWING, ETC.

Reference has already been made on page 19, to exceptional yields and quality of barley grown, and the probability of making malt and pearl barley. Brewing and distilling are corollaries of this proposition.

### PORK PACKING AND MEAT CURING.

Vernon as the railway centre of the great interior of the Province has one of the elements of a Chicago in it, *viz.*, a vast pork-packing, meat curing and fresh beef business. The annual kill of stock on the millions of grazing lands would build up stock yards and meat factories which would not appear inconsiderable in the great



LOOKING NORTH FROM VERNON.

western metropolis itself. It must be remembered, too, that the line to Alaska through this valley, which is the only really feasible route to that country, will tap the Chilcotin Plains and the immense grazing valleys that extend away northward, including the Peace River basin itself. Pork-packing has been successfully established and so far has been only limited by the means necessary to cope with all the business that could be done.

#### MANUFACTURES OF WOOD.

The impetus to building of all kinds which must follow the rush of settlers of every class, makes the manufactures of wood in all forms for some years the most inviting business in which to engage. Sawmills, shingle mills, sash and door factories, planing mills, etc., etc., have ample material at hand in the best of timber and a first-class market extending at least as far as Winnipeg.

#### IRON WORKS.

Foundries, machine shops and iron works in general are also a natural sequence.

#### SMELTING.

Smelting comes with the development of the mines as a matter of course.

#### LIME AND BRICK.

There are excellent lime rock and clay deposits close at hand of considerable extent, and lime and brick yards are being established at Vernon. Building material of every kind is plentiful. The clay is also suitable for pottery.

#### FRUIT CANNING, ETC.

No other place in the world, perhaps, could afford better opportunities for fruit and vegetable canning. Quality and quantity of stock are assured at the outset. Crops were never known to fail in the Okanagan valleys. A canning company, owning its own land and raising its own stock, can only fail for want of market. The trouble, however, in British Columbia has not been the lack of demand because it consumes more canned goods per head of population than any part of this continent, but to purchase produce cheap



PART OF VERNON TOWNSHIP.

enough to make canning pay. That will right itself by-and-by, but at present let the canner own his own land and raise his own stuff. Here sweet corn, tomatoes, vegetables of all kinds, and fruits cannot be surpassed for canning qualities and yield. The possibilities on this line are as endless as the manufactures which have grown out of it in all parts of the world—jams, jellies, pickles, sauces, relishes, vinegar, dried and evaporated fruits, and so on.

#### TANNERY.

A tannery should succeed admirably in a stock country such as this, and especially could a good business be done in the dressing of skins.

#### VINTAGE.

It is not known to what extent grapes for vintage will succeed, but the chances are very favorable to them being highly profitable. Grapes of very fine quality have been grown and rich natural vineyards are presented in the sunny southern slopes of the benches so characteristic of the interior.

#### FLOURING MILLS.

One most important industry has already been established and has reaped an unqualified success, the Columbia Flouring Mills Co. Arrangements are being made for another at Vernon of still greater capacity. Besides the home-manufactured flour consumed, \$300,000 worth of bread stuffs, almost wholly flour, were imported last year for use in the Province. The question as to whether flouring mills *will pay* under these circumstances need not be suggested, and the same might also be stated in regard to an oatmeal mill.

#### OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Carriage and wagon making and blacksmithing will be a good business in the future, and hints may be thrown out suggested by the character of the country as to numerous possible industries: wool growing and woollen mills, flax and flax mills, sugar beet factory, aerated water works, pulp mills, fish curing and importing, poultry farming, manufacture of sorghum (now growing to some proportions in the east), tobacco leaf, a rope walk, and others.



LOOKING WEST TOWARDS VERNON.

### HOP GROWING.

Special emphasis should be placed on hop growing, which is as capable of success here as in Washington Territory and Oregon, where a crop of from five to eight million dollars in value is sold in a year, finding a market mainly in Great Britain.

### NURSERIES.

In no part of British Columbia could a nursery be undertaken with greater advantage. It is peculiarly a garden and orchard district.

### SUGAR BEET.

The sugar beet grown in Okanagan carries the highest known percentage of saccharine matter, and when a demand arises by means of the establishment of a factory, it will be able to supply the same fully.

### INLAND NAVIGATION.

There will in time be developed considerable inland navigation. The Okanagan Lake is 90 miles long, and there are many natural resources to promote shipping. There are also the Shuswap and other waters that will assist in making an inland marine, and these are already breasted by numerous little craft.

### TIMBER.

AS already intimated, while the Okanagan is not heavily timbered, it has everywhere sufficient timber for all economic purposes and to spare, out of which can be developed an extensive lumbering trade. There are several sawmills at work and others are in contemplation. The timber woods have been categorized according to value, as follows: white pine, fir, yellow pine, tamarac, spruce, cedar, poplar, birch, cottonwood, vine maple and willow. There are some valuable timber limits located and the local demand for some years will be sufficient to meet the supply of lumber, and a good market will always exist in the north-west.





VERNON TOWNSHIP.

## VERNON.

THE beautiful townsite of Vernon, named after the Honorable the Commissioner of Lands and of Public Works, is situated at the junction of four lovely valleys, on an extended flat with scattered timber and watered by two streams at the head of Okanagan Lake. It is the terminus of the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway, and for picturesque surroundings and beauty of situation, could scarcely be surpassed on the continent of America. Long Lake, pronounced by the Marquis of Lorne to be one of the most beautiful sheets of water in America, and a rival of the far-famed Scottish Lakes, lies two miles from the townsite in one direction, and Okanagan Lake, to the head of which a branch of the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway runs, lies about equally distant in another, these two bodies of water affording excellent facilities for inland navigation, pleasure boating and fishing. Vernon, indeed, in every respect seems to have been intended by nature as the site of a city and the capital of the whole Okanagan country. As has already been pointed out, seven main wagon roads lead in and out of it. Two railroads will make it its terminus—the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway, now about completed, and the Vernon and Okanagan. Still another line is projected to run from Nelson to Vernon, through Coldstream valley. Railway engineers regard this new city of British Columbia as in line with the only feasible route of the new short line of the C. P. R., and the projected railway to Alaska. It is so situated that all lines of railway and all roads leading into the Okanagan must pass through it.

Vernon has thus many subsidiary advantages. It lies in the heart of the largest and finest area of agricultural lands in the province, and commands the way to and is the natural supply centre of its principal mining districts, as a study of the map will confirm. From the purity of the atmosphere and salubrity of the climate and the natural attractiveness of the country surrounding it on all sides it will become one of the most popular of health and tourist resorts. Many have already been attracted thither on these accounts.



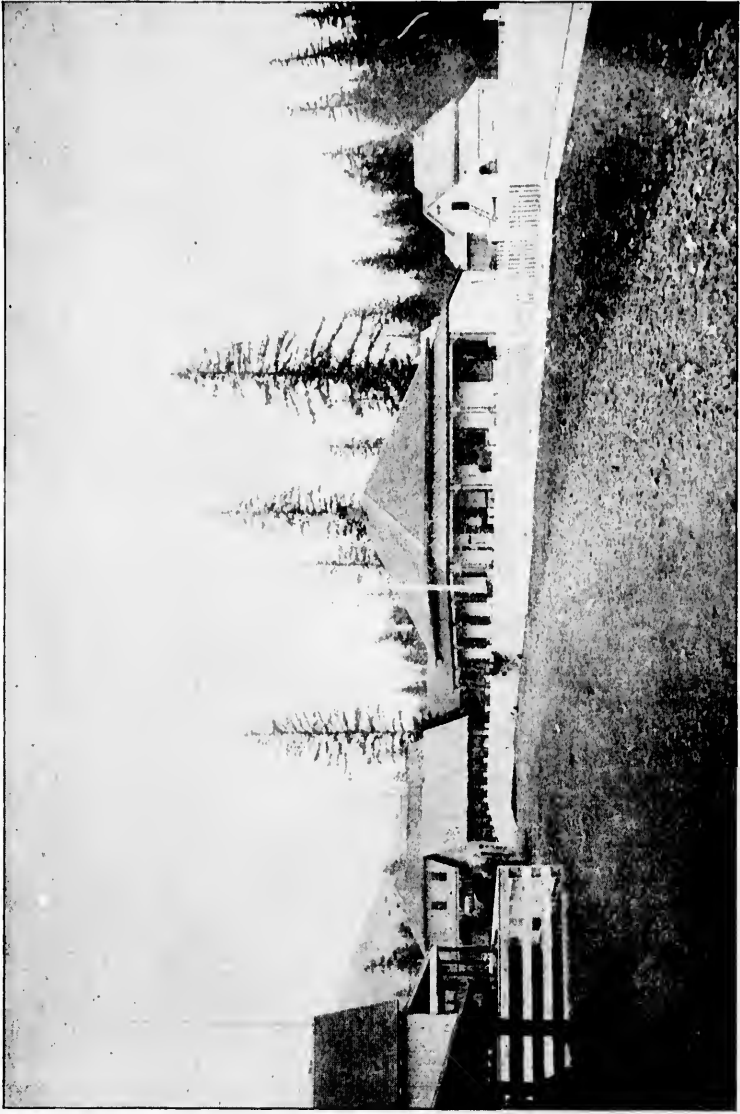
SCHOOL HOUSE, VERNON.

As a point for engaging in the industries growing out of the many varied resources of this district and briefly outlined in previous chapters, it offers peculiar inducements. And in the majority of instances the market would not be merely local but would extend to all parts of the Province and to the North-west. A large flouring mill has been decided upon with 200 barrels capacity a day, while a number of industries such as sash and door factory, planing and sawmills, brick and lime yards, are already established. A number of others are spoken of and being negotiated, including a fruit canning factory, pork packing establishment, and foundry and machine shops. A bright local newspaper, devoted to the interests of the district, the *Vernon News*, was started in the Spring of the present year.

In addition to the buildings previously in occupation, the local government offices being located there, new ones are being erected on all sides. The principal of these is a fine large hotel, costing \$20,000, and suited to all the requirements of the modern travelling public. New general stores are being opened and new businesses being started. Charters have been obtained for tramway and telephone lines, and altogether Vernon is rapidly assuming the dignity of a city with aspirations. Very liberal inducements are offered to those establishing industries of a substantial character, and practical men with a little money will find capital to assist them in any undertaking having prospects of success.

While Vernon does not claim to have prospects of being the "largest city on the Pacific coast," it is certainly the most advantageously situated, and has a greater number of elements to ensure growth and prosperity than any town in the interior of British Columbia, and, without any doubt, will develop into a large and thriving city of many thousands of inhabitants.





GOVERNMENT OFFICE, VERNON.

## AN UNEXPLORED REGION.

**L**AST fall a party of sportsmen made an important discovery in the Kettle River country, whereby a very extensive grazing country hitherto unknown was disclosed. The story is told by one of the party as follows:

After leaving Vernon we rode about 16 miles in an easterly direction along a good wagon road, traversing a magnificent valley. On either side were large fields of waving grain, dotted here and there with comfortable homes and luxuriant gardens, while back on the side hills could be seen herds of cattle and bands of horses quietly grazing. On leaving the road we entered another valley through which ran a stream called Harris Creek. We ascended the stream for about 30 miles, occasionally crossing the steep spur of a mountain, but as a rule riding along a park-like flat or bench, where the overhanging trees afforded a welcome relief from the September sun and preserved the velvety carpet of grass.

On leaving Harris Creek we ascended a steep mountain for about four miles, following a blaze which the keen eye of our Indian guide could alone detect. The ascent was very steep and led at times through heavy timber and across the broken surface of a land slide. It was curious here as elsewhere in this country how the different varieties of grouse marked the altitudes. At Vernon the prairie chicken abounded. At Harris Creek we left the willow grouse. After ascending some distance we reached the blue grouse zone, while the black game or fool hen was plentiful on the summit, but at no time did they appear to encroach each others territory. When near the summit we got a good view of a grizzly bear. For some time before we had noticed a rather over-powering odor, which we instinctively ascribed to bear, but although thus forewarned were hardly prepared to see Bruin come crashing through the forest at a gentle trot. We often saw traces of grizzly, but this was the only time we actually beheld one. On reaching the summit we found

### A VAST TABLE LAND

which had once been forest, but was now laid waste by fire, and the trunks of trees, varying from one to two feet in diameter, lay thick

over the ground. Through this desolate wilderness we travelled for a day, the monotony of the blackened surface being occasionally broken by the deep blue water of one of the many lakes that are scattered over this country. I do not think that while at this plateau we travelled at any time more than three or four miles without coming to a lake, while constantly crossing clear streams of water. On the second day we left the burnt timber and entered a beautiful park-like country, through which we rode for days, penetrating glade after glade, through group after group of spruce, fir and cotton wood, now crossing low, rolling hills, now following the shores of large and placidly transparent lakes. More than once upon entering a glade we disturbed the grazing caribou, which, after coolly surveying the intruders, would trot off with graceful, swinging stride. The fallow and black tail deer abound in this sportsman's paradise, and, as stated before, traces of bear are seen everywhere. Nor need one be a sportsman to partake of the delicacies of this region. The fool-hen, which abounds in the spruce groves, is (as its name betokens) an easy prey to the pot hunter. Rabbits are plentiful, and we seldom sat down to dinner without that most delicious of all meats—the succulent porcupine, the meat of which is said by experienced trappers to contain the flavor of every known variety. The many lakes abound in white fish, trout, and an occasional land-locked salmon. It is impossible to give an accurate estimate as to the size of the country traversed. I should say it extended over 500 square miles. It is, as I said, well watered, and fuel is everywhere abundant, and the rich wild grass affords the most nourishing of pastures. We abruptly penetrated the eastern side of the plateau, where it descends some hundreds of miles to a lower bench-like country, similar in every respect, except that it appeared more heavily timbered. As we stood here our view was one of the most magnificent it was possible to imagine. At our feet, far below, lay a broad bench, clothed in the deep verdure of the spruce, and dotted with lakes reaching to the clearly defined deep chasm, which bounded the Kettle River. Beyond rose the thousand peaks of Kootenay in all directions, while towering high above all in the back ground the bold outline of the Rocky Mountains closed out the horizon, as from its snow-crowned heights it reflected the bright beams of the mid-day sun.

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