

all is open for settlement, except mineral lands and certain tracts reserved to aid enterprises for the public benefit. The naturalization laws are very liberal. All that is necessary to become a citizen, possessed of all political and other rights, is a declaration of intention to become such, supplemented by three years' residence and the oath of allegiance. An alien can transact business and hold real estate. The land laws are extremely liberal, and render it easy for any one to secure a home for almost nothing. The provincial government maintains a general immigration office at Victoria, at which strangers should apply for information, and to which letters of inquiry should be addressed. The government has guides and agents, who not only supply needed information, but assist immigrants in selecting locations.

On Vancouver island are to be found splendid locations for hundreds of families, and the opening of the railway reserve will supply hundreds more. It is estimated that there are three hundred and ninety thousand acres of arable land on the island, of which three hundred thousand are well suited for agriculture, the greater portion, however, being heavily timbered. This mammoth island, and the numerous smaller ones along the coast, will, in a few years, be settled upon by thousands. The chief arable tracts are found in the extreme southeastern portion, where a margin of low and tillable land, varying from two to ten miles in width, lies between the mountains and the water. This embraces the Colwood, Metchosin, Sooke and Highland districts. Along the eastern coast lie the Cowichan, Saanich, Chemainus and Sominos districts, through which runs the Island railway, from Esquimalt to Nanaimo. Farther north, are the Comox, Alberni and Salmon river regions, where much valuable agri-

cultural land exists. The extreme northern end of the island has an extensive area of comparatively level land, lying in the vicinity of Fort Rupert, an old post of the Hudson's Bay Company. On the west side, but few settlements have been made, though along the multitude of bays and inlets there are many acres of valuable land, besides which, lumber, fish and coal are there in abundance. During the next decade, Vancouver island will settle up rapidly, and the close of that period will see a continuous line of flourishing settlements encircling the island, with extended railway and steamer transportation routes linking them together.

The soil of the cultivable lands on the island consists, in the main, of drift deposits of clay and sand, over which, for the most part, there lies a brownish-black surface soil, varying from two to four feet in thickness, and containing a large proportion of vegetable matter. In many localities, very rich loams appear. When properly cultivated, the average yield per acre, of cereals, is twenty-five bushels of wheat, fifty of oats, forty of Chevalier barley, and fifty of rough barley. Rye, buckwheat, corn, hops (in certain places), beans, peas, potatoes, melons and garden vegetables produce abundantly. All fruits of the temperate zone thrive and bear prolifically. Cattle, in small bands, do well and support themselves the year round by grazing upon the edible plants and grass of the more thinly wooded districts, and browsing on the tender brush and the nutritious lichens which hang from the tree branches. Little care is required, except to provide shelter, where a dry bed may be found by the animals during the rainy weather.

Lying along the Fraser river, as far up as the town of Hope, are numerous tracts of arable land. The delta lands about the mouth of the river, are not ex-