

ceeded in fertility on the Pacific coast. A ready market is found for all products, at good prices. Hay and dairy and poultry products pay the best. The delta, as well as the alder, cedar and pine bottom, land of that region, is all taken up; but much of it is held for sale, and purchasers can procure either wild or improved land at fair prices. A charter has been granted for a railway south of Fraser river, running from Ladner's landing, seventy miles inland. In this region there are two hundred and fifty thousand acres of good land, either open prairie or lightly wooded. Such of this as is unoccupied, belongs to the Canadian government, being railway lands. Many locations are being made there, and all settlers will, no doubt, be justly dealt with by the dominion government.

The greatest abundance of land open to settlers is in the interior, which has been settled slowly because of its isolation from market. This state of affairs has been changed by the completion of the great railway, whose route, happily, is an intermediate one, affording an outlet to the greatest number of districts. It is estimated, by competent persons, that there are one thousand square miles of land east of Fraser river, in the southern portion of the province, which may be easily utilized. In the Nicola, Spallumcheen, Salmon, Okanagan, Kootenay and Columbia regions, there are thousands upon thousands of acres of arable land yet to be claimed. In these valleys may be found some of the largest and most productive farms in the province. Some of this land is so situated as to require irrigation, but the greater portion yields abundant crops without artificial watering of the soil. A railway has been chartered, with a subsidy of 4,000.00 per mile, to run south from the Canadian Pacific, through the Okanagan region, thus opening up the greatest extent of arable land.

There are quite extensive bench lands, where the soil is fertile, but the rainfall too light, and the land too high for successful irrigation. What can be done with such lands by means of artesian wells, has yet to be ascertained. They are, however, covered with the nutritious bunch grass peculiar to this portion of the American continent, and make unexcelled ranges for cattle. The bunch grass cures on the roots, as it stands, and remains as hay until it is renewed in the spring; cattle grazing upon it all winter. They do not require other food, except in occasional seasons, when the snow may, for a short time, be too deep for them, or have a crust upon it. With a little food on hand for such emergencies, the stockman is prepared for the hardest winter. The grass is so nourishing that cattle are fat and in condition for market early in the spring.

There is a large agricultural section, an extensive area of low land, lying west of Fraser river, and chiefly north of the fifty-first parallel, estimated at twelve hundred square miles. The soil is almost uniformly good, but, to a great extent, is covered with trees. It lies off the route of the railways, and is not likely to be opened up for some time. It is a region which there is every reason to believe will be occupied, eventually, by an agricultural population. There are, on Peace river, at an average elevation of two thousand feet above the level of the sea, twenty-three thousand square miles of good arable land, of which six thousand lie within the limits of British Columbia, in the northeastern portion of the province. Wherever wheat, oats and barley have been tried in that region, they have produced excellent crops. Potatoes grow to great size and perfection. There is no doubt that the whole area will eventually be cultivated. Professor Macoun, botanist of the Canadian Pacific Railway Survey, says of this region: "I