REPORTS

OF

IMMIGRATION AGENTS

AT

VICTORIA AND NEW WESTMINSTER,

BRITISH COLUMBIA,

FOR THE

YEAR 1883.

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To the Honourable CLEMENT FRANCIS CORNWALL,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the First Annual Reports of the Immigration Agents at Victoria and New Westminster, British Columbia, for the year, 1883.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

JNO ROBSON

Minister of Agriculture

Victoria, 21st January, 1883.

REPORT

IMMIGRATION OFFICE, VICTORIA,
29th December, 1883.

SIR:

In my report to your Department of 31st July last (Appendix A), a concise account was given of work done in the Immigration Office during the three months ending 30th June; also, the approximate number of immigrants that arrived in the Province from 1st January to that date.

Continuing that report, I beg to state that up to September 25th, when I was instructed to examine a portion of Vancouver Island from the Sooke settlement along the railway reserve, there were 185 visits to the office, the ratio of trades and professions being nearly in the same proportion as that enumerated in the above-mentioned report. The same may be said of the nationalities of these new arrivals. In November and December visits again increased considerably.

As the summer advanced there was a slight falling off in the number of immigrants arriving in the Province. A very decided change also took place in the line of route as the Northern Pacific railroad approached completion. After this event took place, the daily boat from ports on the Sound did a large proportion of the passenger traffic, which earlier in the year was performed by the San Francisco steamers.

After making due allowance for general travel, the immigration from 1st July to 20th instant, was—whites, 3,350; Chinese, 1,335. Those, added to the figures for first half-year (2,500), make a total of 5,850 whites. Arrivals from 20th to end of year, certainly number over a hundred, so that 6,000 whites have been added to the population of the Province during 1883. Of Chinese, there were approximately 1,325, who arrived from 1st July to 20th December. These, added to 1,622 for former half-year, make 2,957. As there have been a few arrivals since 20th instant, the increase of the Chinese element during the year has been in round numbers 3,000. From all sources, therefore, immigration foots up about 9,000 for the year just expired. The value of settlers' effects entered at the Custom House is $35,424.

Inquiries for information by letter are still numerous from Provinces east of the mountains, many of the States, Great Britain, Northern Europe, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Africa. Those indicate very strongly that next Spring and Summer will witness a large influx of population of a desirable character to this Province.

Nearly the whole edition of the hand-book published last Spring has been distributed. Also, about 2,000 copies of "West Shore," published two and-a-half years ago, devoted exclusively to British Columbia and profusely illustrated. Besides the above, several hundred copies of the essay on Vancouver Island, by Dr. Forbes, R. N., and printed twenty years ago, have been put in circulation. Descriptions, of the physical features of the Island, which of course remain unaltered, are very excellent in this pamphlet, as well as those of forest trees, shrubs, animals, birds, &c., &c. To parties seeking information about the Island exclusively, this has been of considerable value. Maps of New Westminster, Nicola and Thompson River, part of Osoyoos district and the south-eastern districts of Vancouver Island have also been supplied to those seeking lands in these localities. In the Spring and early Summer a number of Mr. A. C. Anderson's appendices to Directory, and Chittenden's "Guide to British Columbia" were likewise supplied to parties abroad seeking information about this Province. From month to month, the "Resources," an excellent magazine published in this City, has been mailed to where they would likely be of service. These and all other publications have been forwarded, in considerable numbers, to the Agent for the Province in London, as well as the High Commissioner in that City, and Agencies in Paris, Liverpool and elsewhere. Last month 430 copies of new edition of British Columbia Directory were mailed to Mechanics' Institutes, Young Men's Christian Associations and Reading Rooms in Ontario, Y. M. C. A.'s in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Manitoba. Also, to over fifty Y. M. C. A.'s in the States. Fifty copies were forwarded to Mr. Beeton, the Agent in London, and ten to Mr. deKnevett, in Paris. Universities, Colleges, Normal Schools and other seats of learning in the Dominion were also supplied with this book. As it was made much more attractive than the original edition, and interspersed with excellent wood-cuts, it cannot but be of great service to the Province, and supplies, in part at least, a want that has long been felt in many places from which immigrants are likely to be drawn.

More than five hundred letters have been written in reply to correspondents during the nine months that have elapsed since the establishment of this agency. As a Government

Labour Exchange, the office has been doing considerable business. A large number of people have been put in the way of obtaining employment. Parties wishing to sell their farms have also been enabled to do so to persons coming to the country and seeking improved homesteads.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

The demand for female domestic servants is very pressing, the supply having been and still remaining almost *nil*. At one time during the Summer there were about fifty applications at wages varying from $12 to $25 per month. Some fifteen residents of this City expressed their willingness to contribute $100 each for the purpose of bringing good domestic servants from the country villages and districts of Ontario, and running all risks of obtaining a refund, by monthly instalments, after their arrival. This question of importing good servant girls, with or without Government aid, is one well worthy of favourable consideration, and might be carried out with mutual benefit to housekeepers and servants.

IMMIGRANT SHEDS.

The question of immigrant sheds was touched upon in my report of 30th June, and I beg again to call attention to the pressing necessity for the immediate erection of suitable buildings in this City. Last Spring and Summer the want of accommodation for new arrivals was severely felt, and very early next season this want is certain to be of tenfold greater magnitude. Hotels and boarding houses for nearly twelve months past have been taxed to the utmost in making provision for the wants of immigrants and the travelling public. Nor is it at all likely that this pressure will be relieved in the future, notwithstanding that hotel accommodation has nearly doubled within the past few months. Everything indicates a heavy tide of immigration next Spring and Summer. Representatives of numerous families as well as neighbourhoods in various parts of the Eastern Provinces, several of the States and from the Old Country, are already in British Columbia, and have located Government lands in New Westminster District, the Upper Country and Vancouver Island, and are only waiting for the incoming season for their families and friends to join them. When these people arrive, even if the outlay could be afforded, the chances are that the hotels will not be able to accommodate them. Hence the imperative necessity for immigrant sheds, so that families can be sheltered for a few days after landing. Several communications have reached this office expressing the hope that such accommodation will be provided here, so that slender means may be husbanded in order to make a fresh start in life in a new country. In view of these facts, I would respectfully suggest that the Local Government, as well as the City Council, do all they possibly can to strengthen the hands of our representatives at Ottawa in securing a suitable grant for this purpose, and thus place Victoria on the same footing as Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Toronto, Winnipeg and other Cities east of the Rocky mountains.

DWELLING-HOUSES.

The scarcity of dwelling-houses has also been severely felt. Several families have been obliged to go to New Westminster and Nanaimo, and not a few to Seattle, Portland and elsewhere from sheer inability to secure houses of any description in Victoria. Unless property holders bestir themselves and erect a large number of medium sized tenements with as little delay as possible, this loss to the City will be much intensified next Spring and Summer. The demand for residences is sure to increase as Spring advances, and as house property is paying largely, and will continue to do so for some years to come, it is to be hoped that the supply will keep pace with the requirements of a fast and steadily increasing population.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

Perhaps it is not necessary, in view of the early transfer of the immigration bureau in this City to the Dominion, to again refer to the want of better office accommodation. Rooms should be provided large enough to exhibit properly and to advantage, specimens of farm and other produce from various parts of the Province. The advantages accruing from such exhibits cannot be over-estimated. A small sack of wheat of last year's growth, which was kindly forwarded to the Immigration Office by Mr. J. F. Hawks, of Soda Creek, has been admired and favourably commented on by several hundred people since April last, and has done a great deal in creating good impressions of the agricultural capabilities of the vast interior of the Province.

DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENCY.

That arrangements for establishing a Dominion Agency here are made none too soon is evidenced by the number of bonus certificates already in the Province, issued by the London, Liverpool and Belfast Agencies. Parties holding these certificates are constantly arriving. Some of them have been here for several months and are clamoring for payment. They can scarcely be made to understand why the money should not be forthcoming on demand, as they were promised it would be at the Agencies from which the certificates were issued.

AGRICULTURE.

During the month of July 1,600 circulars and forms (see Appendix B) were mailed to farmers' addresses throughout the Province, as found in the Directory and Voters' List of 1883. Farmers were thus solicited to forward samples of produce for exhibition here and at Ottawa; and also to give such information respecting the agricultural capabilities of their several districts as would enable the Department to formulate a report on the agricultural and grazing resources of the Province for presentation to the Legislature. The response to this appeal was so limited as to prevent much being done in this direction. But in justice to those who did comply with the request, the following list is appended:—

Victoria District—Robert F. John, M. P. P., G. A. Knight.

Esquimalt District—*Nil.*

Cowichan District—*Nil.*

Nanaimo District—Alex. Kennedy, Alex. Shaw.

Comox District—*Nil.*

New Westminster District—Thos. Turner, S. Miller, Wm. Scratchley, W. J. Gossett, McMyn Bros., John Maxwell, S. Brighouse, Cory S. Ryder, S. Greer.

Yale District—C. M. Beak, J. B. Greaves, Wm. McLeod, Thos. M. Hamilton, Thos. Schawtz, H. D. Green-Armytage, Fred'k Brent, A. Lamie, Marcellen Michaud, R. M. Woodward, W. H. Clarke, Henry Nicholson.

Lillooet District—*Nil.*

Cariboo District—Henry Yates, A. Isnardy, R. A. Collins, Charles B. Eagle.

Kootenay District—Rev. Father Fouquet.

Cassiar District—*Nil.*

Considerable valuable information has been supplied by several of the above-named gentlemen, a synopsis of which will be found in Appendix C, together with Mr. Henry Nicholson's letter from Osoyoos in full, and that of Mr. John McMyn of North Arm of Fraser River.

While it is to be regretted that statistical information, agricultural and grazing, has been so meagre, yet returns that have come to hand show that both farming and stock-raising in this Province pay uncommonly well. The value of produce represented by the twenty-eight gentlemen who responded to the circular last Autumn, for three forms contained only explanatory matter without returns, is $36,798, an average of a fraction over $1,314. In stock they represent $173,169. It must be remarked, however, in this connection, that one firm of stock-raisers who reported from the Mainland represents $125,000 in cattle and horses.

It would have been interesting, and of great value statistically, if an approximation could nave been made of the value and acreage of each crop raised last season in the Province, as well as the number of head and value of stock. Data, however, is not sufficient this year as only about one in fifty of the farmers and stock-raisers sent in returns. It is to be hoped that next season's returns will prove ample for such a purpose. The fact cannot be too widely known among settlers in all parts of the Province that these statistics are indispensably necessary in order to note the progress made from year to year. It is a mistaken notion to suppose that these returns are of an inquisitorial nature. The aggregate under each head only is required annually, so that the people may ascertain from time to time what substantial improvement has been made. This most desirable information can only be secured by furnishing the Government with returns similar to those asked for in July last.

ISLAND LANDS.

Although the general character of Vancouver Island is rocky and mountainous, yet there are numerous valleys of greater or lesser extent admirably adapted for agricultural purposes. These, as a rule, are covered with timber of various descriptions, which of itself is becoming

valuable Numerous grassy swamps and meadows, however, are found here and there, which, when drained and brought, under cultivation will make excellent farms. Alder and maple bottoms are also met with, and in some localities fern patches, from a few roods to many acres in extent.

From a personal examination of Sooke, Cowichan and Alberni Districts in September and October last, under instructions from your Department, and report thereon, I beg to make the following summary:—

Back of the Sooke settlement there are several thousand acres well worth looking after, both for farming purposes and lumbering. In the vicinity of Sooke Lake a few good pre-emption claims may also be found. A large portion of the wide-spreading district of Cowichan is yet available for settlement. At the head of Alberni Canal there is a valley about six miles in length from east to west, and nearly four from north to south, a large proportion of which will make excellent farms. Between Englishman's River and Qualicum, twenty miles, there are a number of swamps and valleys that might easily be brought under cultivation; the same remark applies to the country from Qualicum to Comox. Extensive areas of desirable land are known to exist north of Comox, in the Salmon and Campbell River Districts, and towards the northern part of the island, as well as in many other localities.

Inducements for settling on the East Coast lands are now immeasureably greater than ever before. Not only is the railway reserve virtually taken off, but the land is available to actual settlers at the nominal price of one dollar per acre—an important concession secured by the Local Government under the Settlement Act. In addition to this, the construction of the railroad from Victoria to Nanaimo, with the probability of an early extension to the Comox coal fields, will remove all isolation from every settlement now existing, or likely to be made, for many miles west of the line of route, besides creating an exceptionally good market for all kinds of farm produce. The demand for labour, skilled and unskilled, which the prosecution of this work will bring about, will give hundreds of intending settlers a chance of earning money, while at the same time they will have an opportunity of selecting locations for themselves and friends.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN JESSOP,
Immigration Agent at Victoria.

Hon. John Robson, Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

APPENDIX A.

IMMIGRATION OFFICE, VICTORIA,
31st July, 1883.

SIR:

I have the honour to forward, for your information, a synopsis of work done in this office and the visits made during the first three months of its establishment, ending 30th June; together with the approximate number of Immigrants that have arrived in the Province for six months to that date:—

PASSENGERS ARRIVED AT PORT OF VICTORIA FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH JUNE, 1883.

	Puget Sound.		San Francisco.				Portland.		
	Whites.	Chinese.	Cabin.	Steerage	Total Whites.	Chinese.	Cabin.	Steerage	Total Whites.
January.....	240	25	81	42	123	.....	2	1	3
February.....	229	24	73	34	107	.....	1	.....	1
March	581	22	138	359	497	.....	6	80	86
April	625	15	206	427	633	399	35	69	104
May	729	33	206	134	340	712	14	13	27
June.....	540	41	154	130	284	351	2	8	10
	2,944	160	858	1,126	1,984	1,462	60	171	231

Total—Whites, 5,159; Chinese, 1,622.

Taking 20 per cent. of Puget Sound passengers to this city; 50 per cent. of cabin passengers from San Francisco and Portland, and 90 per cent. steerage passengers as new arrivals, the increase of white population from immigration for six months ending 30th June, is 2,031. Add to this a probable 500 railroad carpenters, labourers, and others shipped direct from San Francisco to New Westminster by steamship "Victoria"; and at least 2,500 white immigrants have arrived in the Province during the first half of the year. A considerable percentage of these have left, after a short stay, from various causes, chiefly through inability to obtain Dominion lands in New Westminster District; but, nevertheless, the permanent accession to our population must have been fully 2,000.

Visits to Immigration Office from April 1st to June 30th, 1883:—April, 152; May, 145; June, 81; Total, 378.

Of these 129 were from Ontario; 36 from Manitoba; 34 from Eastern States; 27 from England; 27 from California; 22 from Quebec; 15 from Scotland; 13 from New Brunswick; 12 from Nova Scotia; 10 from Germany; 9 from Sweden and Norway; 9 from Oregon and Washington Territory; 6 from Prince Edward Island; 3 from Ireland; and 2 from Italy. The rest, 24 in number, are from various other places.

An analysis of the above as to trade and profession, shows that 159 were farmers enquiring after lands; 55 of the mechanics were also seeking land; 8 were looking for stock ranges; the remainder were in search of employment, and in most cases were directed to where it could be obtained. The classification is as follows:—21, labourers; 12, axemen; 8, machinists; 15, clerks, or accustomed to mercantile life; 6, millwrights; 5, masons; 4, coal miners; 3 in each of the following trades: fishermen, millers, teachers, engineers, and painters; 1 in each of the following: plasterers, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, waggon-makers, harness-makers, and telegraph operators.

Many of the new arrivals were representative men with considerable money at their command. They were not only heads of families, but deputed to ascertain the prospect for farmers in the Province, the facilities for obtaining land, and the price and quality of it, with a view of others following them from their respective neighbourhoods. The reports of several have gone east, as I am informed, with very favourable representations as to the climate, resources, and soil of such districts as they visited; particularly those of New Westminster and East Coast. But the discouraging fact of the lands not being in the market and the uncertainty as to when and on what terms they would be available, prevented many from immediately settling down. Some of these, instead of recommending their friends to come out and bring their families, deterred them from so doing while the public domain, or at least such a desirable portion of it as is contained in the railroad belt, remains locked up. To this fact may be attributed the comparative falling off of immigration as the summer advanced.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks, and the natural antipathy of the best classes to squatting, many have done so, and have forwarded applications to purchase both to the Dominion Agent and the Provincial Land Office.

During the three months 256 letters, chiefly of enquiry respecting farming lands, resources, and many other particulars, were received and answered. About 4,000 copies of Provincial Government pamphlet, as well as other pamphlets and papers, were distributed.

The very excellent hand-book recently issued from your department has been widely circulated, and much attention is being attracted to this Province in consequence. Unfortunately the edition of 5,000 is altogether inadequate to meet the demand for information which it is so well calculated to convey. I have the assurance, however, from the Secretary of Department of Agriculture, in Ottawa, in a letter dated 10th instant, that the British Columbia hand-book, now being published by that department, "will be ready in a few days." This will probably be to hand before our own supply is entirely exhausted, and will tide us over till another edition of the provincial work can be issued from the Government Printing Office.

I would respectfully call attention to the necessity that exists for better office accommodation, and more especially for the erection of sheds or some other means of providing for temporary housing of immigrants. On several occasions during the earlier part of the season, the want of such accommodation was seriously felt, and exerted a very discouraging influence on many who met with great difficulty in procuring shelter of any description in the overcrowded hotels and boarding-houses in this city.

I need scarcely say, in conclusion, that every effort has been made to give all new arrivals the fullest and most accurate information respecting any and every portion of the Province. Many of the visits are very protracted and numerous questions are asked, to which, of course, full replies are given. Applications are constantly being made for labourers and mechanics of various trades, from almost every part of the country, and, as far as practicable, those wants are supplied.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN JESSOP,
Immigration Agent.

The Hon. Jno. Robson, Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

APPENDIX B.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Victoria, B.C., July 12th, 1883.

SIR,—A Bureau of Immigration and Agriculture having been established, the Government are anxious to procure, from each locality in the Province, samples of cereals (such as wheat, barley, oats, peas, &c.,) to place on exhibition, both here and at Ottawa. I have therefore to request you will forward to this Department, not later than 15th October, samples of, say, 10 pounds each, of the above-mentioned grains, or as many of them as you have successfully raised. You will please accompany each sample with a brief description of the kind of soil from which it was grown, the approximate yield per acre, and any other information you may deem useful.

Observations respecting the agricultural interests, or capabilities of your district, will be thankfully received, as the Government are very desirous of obtaining as full and reliable information as possible regarding the agricultural resources and products of the Province, in order that they may be in a position to report upon the same to the Legislature, at its next session, and to make the capabilities of the country better known abroad. With this object in view, I have further to ask you to fill in the enclosed blank Form, or as much of it as you can, and forward the same to this Department on or before the 15th of October next.

I have, &c.,
JNO. ROBSON,
Minister of Agriculture.

To

AGRICULTURE.

District Range Section Township

Name.	Number of Acres occupied.	Number of Acres cleared and fenced.	Number of Acres cultivated.	Number of Acres of Each.							Stock—No. of Each and Value per Head.				General Remarks.
				Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Peas.	Potatoes.	Turnips.	Hay.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
											$	$	$	$	
				Yield per acre, in lbs., value per lb., (place the value under the lbs.)											
				$	$	$	$	$	$	$					

APPENDIX C.

To the Hon.
The Minister of Agriculture,
Victoria.

OSOYOOS, B.C., October 6th, 1883.

SIR.—I have the honour to send you a sample or two of wheat and corn raised in this section. Owing to the absence of most of the settlers, no proper collection could be made, and therefore a very poor idea formed of the agricultural capabilities of the Similkameen, Okanagan and Kettle Rivers.

The soil is sandy loam, and where there is water there is scarcely anything which cannot be raised and brought to fair perfection. The farming is principally confined to the bench lands, the bottom lands being reserved for hay and winter pasture for the cattle. Stock-raising being the principal industry, farming has been much neglected, or only carried on in a small way, settlers raising just sufficient for their own consumption.

The average yield per acre is—wheat, 25 bushels, and oats, 40 bushels. Potatoes and all kinds of vegetables yield abundantly. The melon and tomato come to great size and perfection. Fruit trees also do well. At Mr. Ellis's ranch, at Penticton on the Okanagan River, is a very fine orchard. At Osoyoos Lake, where the heat in summer is almost tropical, Mr. Haynes has an orchard, and also raises the finest kind of vegetables. On the Similkameen River, the Indians raise quite a large quantity of wheat, and as Mr. Price has a very good flouring-mill there, quite a business is carried on.

But, as mentioned above, stock-raising is the great feature; and when it is considered that the cash value of the stock in this district will foot up in the neighbourhood of a quarter of a million of dollars, it will be seen that the interests are large, and absorb the attention of the majority of the settlers.

Mining is also likely to form a very important feature in this district. The quartz mines of Mr. Allison, on Similkameen (B.C.C. Mng. Co.), are prospecting most favourably, and the best kind of results may be anticipated. The mountains of the Similkameen, it is well-known, are rich in minerals, and it only requires the success of one mine to cause the whole country to be thoroughly prospected, and consequently a large influx of men and capital.

Though this section is apparently not so favourably known as other portions of the Province, owing greatly to its inaccessibility, the recent rise in the price of stock and the very hopeful quartz prospects, are not only likely to bring it to the front, but place it second to no other district.

Trusting another year to be able to send you a greater variety of samples and earlier,

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY NICHOLSON.

FRASER RIVER, NORTH ARM,
September 24th, 1883.

SIR:—As requested, I have sent you a sample of "Surprise Oats," grown on our farm of Balcarry. They were grown from a rich clay loam, and sown on the 24th April, harvested in the middle of August, and yielded forty bushels per acre, twenty bushels per acre below the average yield of this land owing to the dry season. The same oats grown from the same land, but under a more favourable season last year, produced ninety bushels per acre. It is quite common for this land to produce one hundred bushels per acre.

Yours most truly,
(Signed) JOHN MCMYN.

Mr. Thos. M. Hamilton, of Bridge Creek, 100 miles above Clinton, remarks that the altitude of that section of country is too great to raise grain, with the exception perhaps of rye, on account of Summer frosts; vegetables also suffer from this cause. "The soil" he says "is of the very best description if the climate would admit of farming." Within eight or ten miles of his ranch there are many places where all kinds of grain and hardy vegetables can be raised. "For dairy and stock-raising purposes it (Bridge Creek) cannot be surpassed (with the exception that fodder must be provided for winter). The country is intersected with small lakes and streams. There are also innumerable large meadows or swamps of wild grass which, when cured, makes much better winter feed for horned cattle than timothy hay. If desired, however, the finest timothy I have ever seen can be raised on the high land."

Mr. C. B. Eagle, of Williams Lake, sent down fine samples of wheat, barley, oats, peas and potatoes raised on his farm in the Cariboo District.

From the same locality Mr. Isnardy writes that he could easily put five hundred acres of choice land under crop if the market would warrant the expenditure. He also forwarded a sample of excellent wheat.

Mr. Michaud, of Lone farm in the Yale District, complains of hired help being so scarce and dear that only the richest soil will pay for cultivation. He also says that drainage is very necessary for successful farming.

Mr. W. H. Clarke's wheat crop, consisting of eighteen acres in Okanagan, yielded 1,700 pounds or nearly thirty bushels to the acre. He says "the soil is a rich sandy loam. Melons, tomatoes and all half hardy vegetables, fruits and plants do exceedingly well. Water melons last year weighed twenty-five pounds each. The locality being high table land is not liable to early or late frosts."

Mr. John Maxwell, of Langley, describes the soil in his neighbourhood as loamy with clay bottom, very rich when put under good cultivation and the soil well mixed. His fruit crop last season was remarkably good.

Mr. R. F. John, M. P. P., of South Saanich, reports crops in his district as being only about one-half the usual average, in consequence of the dry season.

From far-off Kootenay, Rev. Father Fouquet, of St. Eugene R. C. Mission, says that not one head of stock has died in consequence of severe weather in nine years. During the winter wheat straw is chiefly used for fodder. Bunch grass is abundant.

Mr. F. Brent, of Okanagan Mission, sent down fifteen pounds of choice wheat as a sample of his crop of twenty-five acres.

APPENDIX D.

The Government Agent at Kamloops, Mr. Tunstall, has, with considerable care and trouble, compiled a tabulated statement of agriculture and stock statistics, in that Polling Division that came to hand too late to be included in appendix B., of which the following is a brief summary. This does not include Cache Creek, Nicola, Okanagan or other contiguous divisions. Only two farmers and stock raisers are included in the general summary:—

Value of grain raised, $18,932; horses 1378, value $41,340; cattle 11,449, value $263,327; sheep and hogs 1256; value $7,536. Total value of stock $312,203. Mr. Nicholson, of Osoyoos, is of opinion that the value of stock in his district is $250,000. Grand total, therefore, of grain returns from these localities is $55,750, and of stock $735,373.

REPORT.

PPOVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION OFFICE,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., January 2nd, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report, with tabular statements annexed, for the period of seven months (during which this office has been open) ending the 31st December, 1883.

The total number arriving at this Agency during the above period, was 1,095 souls. There are, as is always the case, a large number of arrivals on the Mainland who enter without coming under my notice, and this is more especially the case with those possessed of considerable means, and I have no doubt that fully one-third more than those reported enter in this way.

The immigrants arrived in good health, and were generally well fitted for settlers, the larger portion of them being farmers and mechanics, and just the class adapted for the wants and works of this country, and as a general rule strong, active, vigorous, men and women. It is a truism that only the most energetic and self-reliant men have pluck enough to leave their homes and seek to better their condition in an unknown land. The very fact that they have the courage to face the trials and difficulties necessary to be encountered in a new land, is sufficient index of their strength of character, and to such we should give all the inducement and encouragement possible.

There has been no difficulty in locating the immigrants on arrival, and the demand for labour throughout the country, and this district in particular, was greatly in excess of the supply. Not only has this been the case with farmers and general labourers, but mechanics and artisans of all descriptions have met with ready employment at good wages.

It will be seen, from the accompanying tabulated statement, that a large proportion of the immigration for 1883, came from the Mother Country, the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion, and particularly from the Western States of America, Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Washington Territory. This influx, in a large measure, is due to the efforts made by the Department of Agriculture to have the wealth and resources of our Province made better known abroad. Both farmers and others have naturally sought with eagerness to better their condition in a land where there is room for all, and where, with proper efforts, the soil yields so bountifully. Consequently, no sooner have means been taken to spread a knowledge of the fertility, and the many other natural advantages enjoyed by this favoured region, than the stream of immigration was turned this way, and we are now reaping the benefits.

Another and very important move is the active measures taken by the Government in opening roads for the settlers just locating, thus affording ready means to reach a market with their produce, making each and all of them feel that the Government has their interests at heart, and that they are appreciated.

If this liberal policy be continued, and if vigorous measures be taken to advertise the advantages afforded to the capitalist, farmer, mechanic, and labourer in British Columbia, there can be no doubt that in a few years the country will have a teeming and thriving population.

The immigration we have received this year, in consequence of these efforts to make known the advantages of the Province, is only an earnest of what may be expected in coming years, when the knowledge of these resources is more widely spread. This is foreshadowed in the great number of letters received at this Agency from the Mother Country, the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion, Manitoba, the United States, Queensland, and New Zealand, and I feel safe in estimating that not less than ten thousand will be added to our population next spring, and nearly all possessing considerable means.

It will be proper here to advert to the important concession secured to the Province under the "Settlement Bill," whereby the agricultural lands within the Railway Belt are available for settlement at the nominal price of one dollar an acre, an arrangement which cannot fail to prove a powerful factor in attracting settlers to these lands.

I am also pleased to state that during the past seven months, forty-two have taken the Aliens' declaration oath, principally Americans, and of a superior class.

It is desirable for all intending emigrants to leave early in the spring, and this cannot be too strongly impressed upon all parties intending to settle in this country, for by so doing they will be able to take advantage of the most favourable season to explore for locations.

The Provincial Exhibition held here in October last, was largely attended, and the exhibits showed a marked improvement over previous ones. The samples of grain, fruit, and dairy products, were the best ever exhibited here, and must have left a favourable impression upon the minds of those who were there.

During the past year there has been a great improvement throughout the Mainland in all branches of business. Real estate has advanced, both in city and country, far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine; public confidence has been restored, and there has been developed a general feeling of activity in all branches of industry; works that were closed have been re-opened; capital has been furnished by joint stock companies, private individuals, and firms; new manufactories have been built, and old ones enlarged; new houses have been established in various branches of trade, to meet the growing demands; and failures have been very few.

In this city more buildings have been erected than in any previous year, and still the population is so rapidly increasing that there is not an empty house in the city.

The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway west of the Rockies in 1884, will speedily turn that vast and largely unoccupied and fertile region into cultivated farms and thrifty homes.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM ROSS,
Immigration Agent at New Westminster.

To the Hon. John Robson,
Minister of Agriculture, Victoria, B. C.,

P. S.—Since closing my tabular statements A and B, and during the last three days, thirty-five persons have arrived from abroad, among them one family, from California, numbering ten souls, and all intending actual settlers.

I shall forward, per next mail, Statement C, which will show the actual location or quarter section taken up by each individual settler in this district.

WILLIAM ROSS.

A.

RETURN showing number, occupation, sex, &c., of Immigrants recorded at the Provincial Immigration Office, New Westminster, during seven months ending 31st December, 1883 and their ultimate destinations.

Sexes.				Nationalities.														Trades and Occupations.					General Destination.																				
Males.	Females.	Children.	Total Number of Souls.	English.	Scotch.	Irish.	Ontario.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia.	Prince Edward's Island.	Manitoba.	New Brunswick.	United States.	Germany.	Norway and Sweden.	France.	Other Countries.	Farmers.	Farm and General Servants.	Mechanics.	Clerks, Traders, &c.	Female Servants.	Delta—New Westminster Dist.	Surrey, do.	Langley, do.	Matsqui, do.	Sumass and Chilliwhack, do.	Richmond, do.	Burrard Inlet & North Arm. do.	Maple Ridge, New West. Dist.	Mission & River Settlement, do.	Douglas, New Westminster Dist	Spallmucheen, Yale District.	Kamloops, do.	Similkameen, do.	Destination unknown.	Value of Settlers' Effects, in dollars.
696	185	214	1095	144	101	29	390	41	108	26	6	26	134	22	19	9	40	537	60	75	24	1	13	79	49	48	16	29	73	33	51	7	10	9	4	116	4296

B.

ALIENS WHO HAVE TAKEN DECLARATION OATH.

United States	33
Germany	1
Denmark	1
Sweden	3
Japan	1
Holland	1
Norway	2
Total	42

C.

STATEMENT showing the actual number of locations taken up and settled upon in the several townships, groups, blocks, and ranges, and unsurveyed lands in the New Westminster District.

	No. of ¼ Section.
Township 1	27
" 2	8
" 4	10
" 7	19
" 8	8
" 9	1
" 10	4
" 11	25
" 12	18
" 13	12
" 14	27
" 15	7
" 17	8
" 21	1
" 23	8
" 40	7
Group 1	25
" 2	10
Blocks and Ranges	13
Unsurveyed Lands	92
Total	330=52,800 acres

WILLIAM ROSS,
Immigration Agent, New Westminster, B. C.,