

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BUREAU OF PROVINCIAL INFORMATION, 1906.

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VICTORIA, B. C., April 17th, 1907.

*Captain the Honourable R. G. Tatlow,
Minister of Finance and Agriculture,
Victoria, B. C.*

SIR,—I have the honour to present my report as Secretary of the Bureau of Provincial Information for the year ending December 31st, 1906.

The work of the Bureau increased very considerably during 1906, the number of letters of inquiry received and the number of visitors seeking information being greatly in excess of previous years. Of the correspondence, fully fifty per cent. was from persons asking for descriptive bulletins and maps of New British Columbia, and the probabilities of railway construction in that part of the Province. The interest evinced in the Central and Northern Interior indicates that those districts will secure a large number of settlers in the near future. Many inquiries were made for fruit land, land for mixed farming, for stock-raising, and timber lands, and there were numerous queries, by individuals and companies, as to the possibilities of securing large blocks of land for colonisation purposes. The natural resources of the Province and the opportunities for the investment of capital in existing or new industries were subjects of inquiry by many correspondents.

It is a noticeable fact that a large percentage of the letters received were written in behalf of groups of families—as many as twenty or twenty-five in some instances—all prepared to move to British Columbia, and that most of these declared themselves possessed of considerable cash capital, as well as live stock, farming implements, etc.

Much of the work accomplished in the way of attracting the attention of intending emigrants to the advantages of British Columbia can be traced directly to the policy of exhibiting British Columbia fruit in the centres of population in the Middle West of Canada and in the United Kingdom.

During the year the following bulletins and pamphlets were prepared and published under your instructions:—

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| Bulletin No. 10, Land and Agriculture (two editions) | 40,000 |
| " 17, Game (new edition) | 3,000 |
| " 21, Timber (Supplement) | 7,000 |
| " 22, New British Columbia | 10,000 |
| " 23, Handbook of British Columbia | 10,000 |
| " 1 (Supplementary), Bush Lands | 3,000 |
| Fruit cards (coloured) | 10,000 |
| Booklet, Fruit-growing in British Columbia | 20,000 |

 103,000

Of the above, the whole of the first edition of the bulletin on Agriculture, and the bulletins on Bush Lands, New British Columbia, and the Handbook of British Columbia, were distributed partly from this office and partly from the office of the Agent-General, in London. The coloured fruit cards were distributed at the exhibitions at Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, and other points in the Middle West, and the booklet on Fruit-growing was sent to England for distribution at fruit shows and fall fairs.

The number of letters received and answered during the year was 9,280, as compared with 4,255 for the previous year. In addition to the above-mentioned regular publications of the Bureau, a large number of maps, departmental reports, Acts of the Legislature, bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Mines, and other miscellaneous publications, were distributed in the course of the year. A small sketch map of the Province was sent out with every copy of Bulletin 10, and a map of the Northern Interior with Bulletin 22.

The great number of inquiries received during 1906, upon all subjects within the scope of the Bureau, would indicate that in the coming year it will be found advisable to publish larger editions of the bulletins most in demand, viz., those dealing with agriculture and horticulture, and those devoted to descriptions of the Province, its natural resources and industries. The practice of the bureau is to place the bulletins, maps, etc., in the hands of bonâ fide seekers for information, and care is exercised to guard against their indiscriminate distribution.

New and revised editions of Bulletins Nos. 22 and 23 were prepared for publication early in the present year, as the first editions were practically exhausted. It is also proposed to publish revised editions of the bulletins on Mining and Fisheries early in 1907.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. PALMER,

Secretary.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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1907.