

Pender Harbor, B.C. Beauty Spot



A VIEW OF PENDER HARBOR.

By F. H. POOLE.

PENDER HARBOR has not had the publicity given to it that it merits. It is, without a doubt, one of the most beautiful spots on the British Columbia coastline, and can be reached in a few hours by steamer from Vancouver. Just before entering the harbor, Mount Diadem (6050 feet) can be seen in all its grandeur and loneliness, lowering above the surrounding hills. As you round the bend into the harbor through the channel, the small Indian reserve on a little island comes into view, and also the many islets dotted here and there in the harbor and the series of wonderful bays and landlocked inlets.

FOREGROUND FOR B. C.'S SCENERY.

Looking over a late edition of a Vancouver paper, I was impressed with a remark made by the Rev. George Pringle, when addressing the members of the Kiwanis Club, and who, as master of the Sky Pilot, a boat that plies its missionary way from cove to cove and island to island, north of Vancouver on the British Columbia coast, is probably as well versed as any other man on the coast as to the many and varying beauties that abound.

He said that already speculators and investors from the United States were buying islands, developing resorts, etc., and generally beating us to that which is not a hinterland but a foreground for the Pacific Coast metropolis. He also said that the opportunities up the coast were worth far more to Vancouver than the Calgary oil fields would ever be. It is time that our people got busy

and prevented our beautiful coast pleasure resorts being lost to us and our children.

That there are some lovely places to be seen on the mainland and on the islands goes without saying, as witness the way Bowen Island attracts our visitors, and it is only necessary to see the beautiful pictures being sold on the street and in the shops to get some idea of the beauties close to the city which can be reached so easily by steamer.

One gets a splendid view of the rugged coastline all the way to Irvines Landing, Pender Harbor, where the general store, postoffice and hotel will be found. Across the harbor from Irvines Landing are other general stores, one owned by Mr. Pope and one by Mr. Donley. Garden Bay is a favorite rendezvous for yachts of the Vancouver Yacht Club and visitors from the States, where they can lay in perfect safety at anchor while their owners and friends go fishing in the harbor or in the nearby lakes, or ramble through the lovely woods that everywhere abound. Supplies can be obtained from the stores mentioned, or from the large new store built by Mr. Brynelson from Bella Coola, who has done a great amount of improvement here. There is also a fine salt water swimming pool, one of the best and safest on the Pacific Coast. This fills and empties every tide. Mr. Brynelson also has cut miles of trails through the woods and along the lake.

A large number of fishermen have made their homes around the harbor on account of its sheltered position and good fishing and have added to the picturesqueness of the place. Captain Frost, I am told, left here

last summer, but there are still plenty of captains ashore, to wit: Captain Morrison, the harbormaster and "M.P."; Captains Armstrong and Martin, and if in any doubt of the identity of the first man you meet when you land, call him "Captain" and you will probably be correct.

They also have a western writer of note in Mr. Bertram Sinclair, some of whose books may be found in our own library.

Pender Harbor is a connecting point for Jervis Inlet. The Indians of the district are mostly settled on the island just inside of the harbor, and are a peaceful and law-abiding body of people.

A few minutes' walk from Irvines Landing will bring you among the big green timbers on the government road. The lakes on the roadside give added charm to the surrounding scenery. On walking through the woods, Hotel Lake is the first one to be reached, and one can enjoy this lovely spot, where the water comes close to the roadside. Half a mile further through these evergreen woods, covered with ferns galore, we come in full view of beautiful Bear Lake, which is about three miles long. There are two pretty timbered and moss-covered islands in the middle. A little further along we come to Bear Lake Lodge, the home of Mr. W. Dawson, a veteran who, for the last six years, has been a resident here. Entering the flower garden, situated on the lake shore, you pass under a rustic bower covered in season with climbing roses, honeysuckle and clematis. You then cross over a rustic bridge, almost impassable with its honeysuckle and other beautiful climbing flowers, to

the quaint rustic log cabin almost hidden with flowers.

In all directions are flower beds, borders and rock gardens. Peonies, dahlias, roses, gladiolas, large perpetual flowering carnations and the Sunbeam Iceland poppies are only a few of the delights to the eye. They will not easily be forgotten, and will call for a second visit and a chat with the genial owner, who is always proud to show anyone around.

RICH SOIL FOR GARDENS.

Close to the lake shore are natural meadows, where the soil is so rich that tobacco, tomatoes and melons grow in profusion. Few Vancouverites know anything of the beauties of this district so near. Kathryn Lake, Garden Bay Lake, Saginaw Lake, Ruby Lake, Killarney Lake, North Lake and others are all in close proximity.

Salt water surrounds part of this district, and here you find a climate with more sunshine and less rainfall than Vancouver. When the government road is completed from Irvines Landing, by way of Half Moon Bay, Sechelt, Selma Park, Roberts Creek and Gibsons Landing, it will open up one of the finest scenic drives on the continent. Good hunting, fishing and shooting are to be had around the lakes, and in the near future it should become one of the show places and playgrounds of Greater Vancouver. Grouse and other birds abound, and the government stocked the woods around Pender Harbor with pheasants this last season.