RECONNAISSANCE
of
Certain Areas in the Northern Part of
VANCOUVER ISLAND
and adjacent islands

A. R. Woodhouse
1926.

No. 109

General correspondence File #053423. Separate reports on Lots examined are filed on individual files.

1. They Plan. 4 miles = 1 inch. Boundaries

Report collected April 1926.
REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES OF THE AREA

KNOWN AS THE SAN JOSEF VALLEY.

Covering Tps 37, portion of Tp 38, southern part of Tp 36, Tp 41, and the southern part of Tp 42.

This area was cruised in the month of May, 1925. The timbered areas were covered by a five per cent cruise and the non timbered areas by 2½ and 1½ per cent cruises, depending on the agricultural possibilities of the area under examination.

The area is situated in the valleys of the San Josef and Spruce Rivers and adjacent to Lakes William and Brink. A large part of the area is river bottom land. The remainder is sidehill and bench.

The San Josef River flows westerly to the Pacific. It is a small river about twelve miles long. It has no tributaries of importance. It depends on the excessive rainfall in the locality for its volume. The Spruce river enters the West Arm of Quatsino Sound at Holberg. It is similar to the San Josef River in size and origin.

The average yearly temperature is between 35 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The growing season is from late April to early October. Frosts are very slight and vegetables can be left in the ground all winter. The snowfall seldom exceeds 6 inches and soon melts. The winter rainfall is very heavy. Showers are plentiful during the summer months. The total annual precipitation is a little over 110 inches.

The river flats are very suitable for agriculture. The soil is mainly silt, and is very deep over the larger portion of the area. The sidehills are a sandy loam mixed with gravel. Although this type of soil is not as rich as that in the valley bottoms, good garden produce can be grown on it. The larger portion of the valley bottom is now alienated, but there is considerable crown land suitable for settlement. Clearing will be very expensive. The area is covered with salal and blowdown. During the larger part of the year, it is almost impossible to burn debris. It would not be a wise policy to allow settlers to take up land in this area without at least $1500.00 to carry them over the period required to clear and improve their land.

Most of the inhabitants of the area depend on the fishing industry for the major portion of their livelihood.

There are no schools in this area and the children are educated through correspondence courses.
There is about eight miles of road constructed from Holberg in the direction of Cape Scott. The right of way from Cape Scott to Holberg has been surveyed, a four foot trail constructed over the larger part of the distance. The road is in very poor condition at present even during the summer months. San Josef P.O. at the mouth of the San Josef River is connected with this main trail by a four foot trail which is largely corduroyed. Numerous trails have been constructed in the area, but they have now fallen into disuse, owing to the exodus of settlers in the past few years.

The logical shipping point for any produce which may be grown in this area is by way of Holberg. The Dominion Government constructed a wharf at this point and it was once a regular calling point of the C.P.R. West Coast Service. It has now fallen into disuse.

Photographs shewing typical clearings, etc are as follows:-

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Respectfully submitted,

ARW/

Junior Forester.
(1) Mixed stand on river bottom flat San Josef Valley. Soil—silt Land—alienated

(4) Swan Lake, showing pre-emption. Timber—poor.

Photo missing
Nov 19, 2007
(6) Timber on Swan Lake.

(5) Pre-emption at Swan Lake.
(7) Abandoned clearing near Lake Erie on trail to San Josef Bay

(8) Anderson Bros. clearing in San Josef Valley. Area 10 acres.
(9) Timber on Olansen's pre-emption, Tp. 38.

10) Second growth stand on Tp. 37, Sec. 20
REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES OF

AREA INCLUDED IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF TP42, TP42A, TP 43, AND TP 44.

This area was examined in June 1925. There was very little timber on the area. The largest part of the vacant crown land was covered by 2½ and 1½% cruises.

Townships 43 and 44 are on the Pacific Ocean. Township 42 is inland from the coast, and Tp 42A is on Goletas Channel.

A large part of Tp 42 and 43 are covered by muskeg. Drainage is very poor and gravel outcrops are frequent. The area has the appearance of being glaciated. The soil is a peaty loam and it is very sour. The area is unsuitable for agriculture.

The remainder of Tp 43 is on the bench land around Goose Harbor Lagoon. Agricultural land is found in scattered spots throughout this portion of the area. Part of Goose Harbor Lagoon has been dyked off and fair hay crops are grown there.

Township 42A and the extreme north of township 42 have areas of fair agricultural land.

Township 44 is adjacent to Sea Otter Cove. This area is hilly and rolling. The soil is very shallow over all of the area except at the water front.

On the whole, there is not sufficient agricultural land in the area described in this report to warrant any settlement movement.

Roads have been constructed in the area adjacent to Cape Scott. They are in a fair state of preservation. The main road from Fisherman's Bay was constructed with the idea of joining the area to Holberg. This road is necessary before the settlers can market any of their produce. The nearest market is at Port Alice.

The annual yearly temperature averages about 45 degrees F. The rainfall is slightly in excess of 110". Snowfall is negligible over the area. Very little frost at any time of the year.

There is a one room school at Cape Scott with about 15 pupils. Fishing is the chief industry of the settlers and they depend upon it greatly as a means of sustenance. Attempts at dairy farming are being made by some of the settlers.

Transportation facilities are very poor. The only contact the settlers have with the outside is by means of a small gasboat which connects with the Union boat at Shushartie once a week.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Junior Forester
REPORT COVERING Tps. 33, 34, 35, and 36.

This area was practically all covered by a 13/4% cruise. The whole of the timbered area is alienated. The vacant crown land is barren. Photographs have been taken of the barren area and are listed as A.W. W. 14-17.

The area is on Coletas Channel. The main drainage basins are those of Cache Creek and Nehwitti River and their tributary streams. The drainage on the whole is very poor. The country has a glaciated appearance. Rock outcrops and patches of muskeg meadows provide the topographical features. The area immediately adjacent to the coast is fairly well drained and portions of it are suitable for agriculture. The larger part of the area is only suitable for grazing. The grass is a coarse bunch grass. It dries up in the early fall. Winter fodder would have to be grown.

A road has been constructed from Cache Creek to Shushartie. It has not been used for years and is in very poor shape at the present time.

No settlers remain in the area, although a large part of the area has been alienated. Mining is the only industry. Zinc prospects are being developed on Cache Creek.

The average yearly temperature is about 40 degrees F. Snowfall is negligible throughout the area. The winter rains are very heavy.

The nearest shipping point is Shushartie.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Junior Forester.
Barren hills between Cache Creek and Nahwitti -Swampy-
Barren hills between Cache Creek and Nahwitti (Swampy)
REPORT COVERING TOWNSHIPS 23 and 24.

This area has practically no merchantable timber on vacant Crown land. The larger portion of the area was covered by a 1/4% cruise.

The area is drained by the Shushartie River and its tributaries. The area is rolling. The southern portion is a high bench behind the Shushartie saddle. The slopes are as a rule steep and rocky.

The average yearly temperature is between 35 and 40°C Fahrenheit. Rainfall is very heavy in the winter. Summer showers are frequent.

The bench behind Shushartie Saddle is suitable for agriculture, but it is practically inaccessible at present and should not be opened for settlement.

The Union boat calls at Shushartie once a week. A cannery has operated at Shushartie for several years, but it is now being dismantled.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Junior Forester.

ARF/MW
REPORT COVERING TOWNSHIPS 20, 21 and 22.

This area is a rocky, hilly plateau between the West Arm of Quatsino Sound on the south and Galeta Channel on the north.

Drainage is in all directions. Shushartie River flows westward and several small rivers and creeks flow towards the east. Several lakes are found in the area, of which Kems and Georgia Lakes are the largest.

The average yearly temperature is about 35°F. Rainfall is about 100 inches per year; snowfall is about 3' at elevations of 800' and over. Frosts are heavy. Growing season is from May to September.

Practically no part of the area is suitable for agriculture. Rock outcrops and peat bogs covered with scrub timber are found throughout the area. Practically no merchantable timber could be found in the area.

See photos A.R.W. 19-23

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Junior Forester.
Panorama of area N. W. of Port Hardy, covering portion of Tp. 21 and Tp. 22. This area is covered by extensive reconnaissance. (See map.)
Report Covering Tps 8 and 9.

 Vicinity of Port Hardy.

These areas are adjacent to Hardy Bay. Part of the area is alienated by Surveyed Timber Licenses. The timber on vacant crown land is of very poor quality. Occasional patches of shingle grade cedar are found.

The drainage is into Hardy Bay. Several creeks and small rivers drain the area examined. They are very low in summer and flood during the winter rains. The general slope is to the east and north. The surface is generally smooth. Slopes are moderate.

The average yearly temperature is about 35 degrees F. The growing season is from May to Oct.

The soil is generally a sandy gravelly loam. It is moderately deep on the lower benches. Portions of the area are suitable for agriculture.

The nearest port is Hardy Bay. Several boats call each week and the area is in close touch with outside points.

The community boasts a church, a school, a hotel, and two stores. It is the supply base for numerous small logging operations.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Name]

Junior Forester.
This area is situated on low lying land between Port Rupert and Rupert Arm.

The area has no important streams. Several small creeks are found on the area.

The average yearly temperature is approximately 35° Fahrenheit. Growing season is from late April until October.

No timber is found on the area, owing to a heavy blow-down approximately 16 years ago. The area is covered with dense salal and reproduction.

The soil is a fine black loam and is very suitable for agriculture. The vacant Crown land is so scattered and so difficult of access that it would not be wise to open this area for pre-emption at the present time. The nearest shipping point is Port Hardy.

Respectfully submitted,

A. R. Woodhouse,  
Junior Forester.
Report Covering the Vacant Crown Lands on the Islands in
Queen Charlotte Sound.

These islands are practically all barren and rocky. They have little or no water. The timber is scrubby and wind blown.

The soil is shallow and useless for agriculture.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Junior Forester.

ARV/MW
REPORT COVERING LOTS 1629 - 1649, C. R. 1, SHELTER BAY

The area examined was covered by a 1½% cruise. No marketable timber was found on the area. All the available cedar on the foreshore has been hand-logged. The area is drained by several small creeks which rise in swampy lakes.

The area is very irregular and cut up by rock bluffs and outcrops. Muskegs are scattered throughout the area.

The average yearly temperature is 35° Fahrenheit. Rainfall is heavy in the winter. Summer fogs are very heavy.

The area is not suitable for agricultural purposes. The soil for the most part is a sour, peaty loam. It would require considerable expense to clear and sweeten it and the results would not justify the expenditure.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Junior Forester.
BRIEF REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES OF VACANT CROWN LANDS ON MALCOLM ISLAND.

Malcolm Island is located at the entrance of Queen Charlotte Sound approximately 180 miles from Vancouver.

There are 8805.6 acres of crown land still vacant on the island, which is divided as follows:

- Area suitable for tilling: 7694.6 acres
- Area suitable for grazing: 1050.0 acres
- Absolute forest soil: 61.0 acres

Topography.

The island is low and flat, rarely exceeding 300' in elevation. Patches of marsh and muskeg are found in the centre of the east part of the island. The slopes are very gentle and regular. The shore line in many places is rocky and steep. The creeks are small and in the majority of cases very swampy.

Climate.

The maximum summer temperature is about 95 degrees F. The minimum winter temperature is in January. At this season of the year there is about three weeks of ice and snow. Snow falls intermittently during the winter, but it rarely exceeds six inches in depth. It does not stay longer than two or three days. The average yearly rainfall is about 90 inches.

Agricultural Possibilities.

The larger part of the area examined is suitable for small farming, berry growing, and grazing.

At the present time there are about five hundred people on the island. They are very industrious and the majority of them have fine farms. Good crops of berries are grown there. The people have their own dairy cattle and poultry. Apples, plums, and cherries have been tried on the island. The climate is a little too damp and cold in the winter for apples to do well. Fine vegetables are grown throughout the island.
Sointula, the shipping point of the island, boasts a fine co-operative store, a tailor, and a boat building establishment.

Eggs and poultry are shipped weekly to Prince Rupert and Vancouver.

Fishing is also one of the industries of the island.

There are three schools on the island.

There are practically 8000 acres of crown land left vacant on the island which would prove suitable for settlement. Clearing will be very expensive, and a settler would require at least $1500.00 before pre-empting. Road construction would be necessary over a good deal of the island before the area could be developed to any great extent.

The area should be sub-divided into forty acre blocks for pre-emption purposes. It would be absolutely impossible for the average settler to clear 160 acres, and if he were only allowed to pre-empt 40 acres it would make the settlement more compact, and also make it more worth while to expend money on road construction, etc.

Respectfully submitted.

[Signature]

Junior Forester.