
G L O R I O U S K O O T E N A Y

"ment in Kootenay. Some time ago I estimated the profits of a good orchard at \$265 per acre, and further observation has not changed my opinion. Single trees, or a small portion of an orchard, might exceed this, but taking one year with another, the whole orchard would average this return. I look forward to a steady demand and good prices in the prairie provinces of Canada for all the apples we can grow. Pears will also continue to be a very valuable crop. This fruit will bring a little higher price than apples, and the trees will require a little more care."

Mr. Charles Lucas, the Provincial Government Assessor of the District, after speaking of the merits of land favorably situated on the Kootenay, Howser, Slocan and Arrow Lakes and on the streams entering or flowing out of these lakes, says :

"A well selected, well-cared-for apple orchard, five years old, is worth \$500 to \$600 per acre, and at ten years \$1,000 to \$1,200 per acre. The districts named are, from a climatic and soil point of view, particularly well adapted to growing apples, plums, cherries, strawberries and most small fruits of first-class quality, quite equal, in the opinion of experts who have investigated them, to the best known districts of British Columbia, Oregon and Idaho. I am convinced that the West Kootenay is equal, if not superior, to any other known district for growing first-grade apples, and their keeping qualities are unequalled. I conclude that a first-class five-year-old orchard will cost the owner \$360 per acre and is worth \$550 per acre. After five years, it will pay an increasing annual profit, and in ten years the orchard will be worth \$1,200 per acre."

Climate, soil, the absence of insect pests and the proximity of good markets all tend to the success of Fruit Growing in West Kootenay.

British Columbia is a province possessed of vast natural resources as yet only partially developed. The construction of railways, the opening-up of its mines and timber limits, the establishment of manufactories all at present only in the state of infancy, will make the province not only exceedingly populous, but in all probability the richest in the Dominion. In the neighborhood of Nelson there are many opportunities for the employment of capital other than in fruit growing. Money on loan on first security, not exceeding sixty per cent. of the present value of the property, commands from eight to ten per cent. per annum interest.