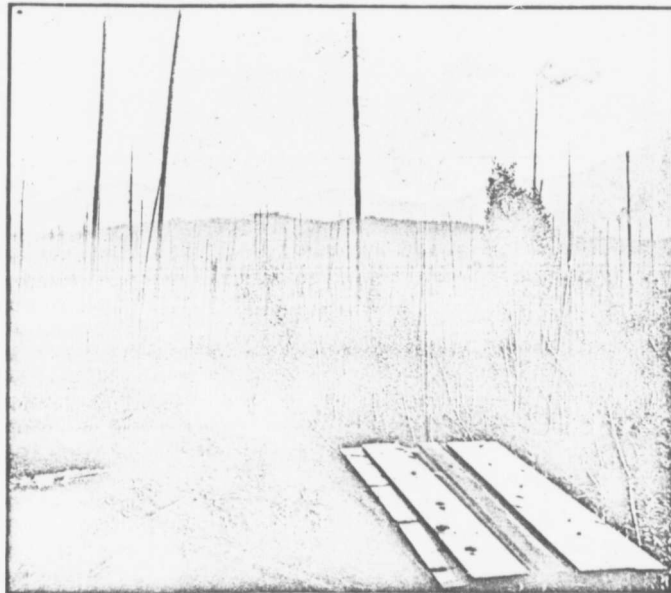


Fruit Growing as a Commercial Occupation

GROWING fruit as a business has come to be regarded as one of the most attractive and profitable occupations which anyone having a desire for outdoor life can choose. Here in British Columbia there are numerous fertile valleys and tracts of suitable soil which are eminently adapted for the growth of fruit trees. Broadly speaking, the lands so adapted are situated in what is termed the interior belt, which can again be divided into land which requires irrigation and which receives enough natural moisture to be independent of scientific assistance. The settlement of these districts, which in time will become the garden lands of the Province, is of comparatively recent growth. Not until the tremendous possibilities of fruit growing were demonstrated by the farmers of the State of Washington, which is in so many ways analagous to British Columbia, did the industry receive any serious attention here. Up to very recent times our leading varieties of fruits—such as the apple, pear, peach, plum and cherry—were cultivated more for domestic requirements than for export. Even to-day a large percentage of what is consumed in Vancouver is imported from the United States, and it is obvious that this market will be dependent on outside sources until such time as the production of fruit is equal to the demand of the great prairie provinces, which, in the opinion of those competent to judge, is never likely to happen.

¶ In view of these circumstances which are self-evident, for the prairies are not adapted for fruit growing and are capable of sustaining a large population, it follows that the cultivation of this market will be a source of great profit to the fruit grower of British Columbia. At the present time this is true on a small scale, but once the bearing orchards now approaching maturity and those of future growth are producing their crops of apples, peaches, pears, etc., the wealth which will return to farmers of British Columbia will make each man in-



Looking Up the Valley

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