
Irrigation—Crop Insurance

THE rainfall in the Okanagan Valley, lying as it does within the Dry Belt, is so slight that irrigation is a necessary feature in connection with successful fruit-growing. Extensive irrigation systems store and distribute water in all parts of the district, the slight

additional cost to the land-owner being more than compensated by the fact that irrigation is practically crop insurance, rendering the grower independent of rainfall, and assured of results when once cultivation, pruning and thinning have been carefully attended to.

Mixed Farming

CLIMATIC and soil conditions in many portions of the district tributary to Vernon are, also, admirably adapted to vegetable growing, dairying, and mixed farming; and in the future, when the acreage of orchard land has been greatly increased, areas capable of varied production will have a constantly growing value. In the Lumby District, some sixteen miles from Vernon, are great stretches of the finest dairy and hay land, while nearer the city, in the neighbourhood of Swan Lake, and at the head of Okanagan Lake, are extents of splendid vegetable growing lands. The development of this industry, which has proved so profitable in and near Armstrong, and which should prove equally profitable here, has been left, for some inadequate reason, almost entirely, up to the present, in the hands of orientals.

Wheat, oats, barley, etc., give excellent crops in many parts of the district, and fodder crops, such as alfalfa, timothy, and clover yield large returns. It

may be well to emphasize what has been suggested above, that the general tendency to concentrate upon fruit production will make the position of the mixed farmer an increasingly strong one, as the process of subdivision and settlement goes on. Average yields of hay and grain and vegetables are as follows:

Wheat, 35 to 40 bushels per acre.

Oats, 75 to 80 bushels per acre.

Barley, 50 to 60 bushels per acre.

Timothy Hay, 2 to 3 tons per acre. Average price \$20 per ton.

Alfalfa Hay, 6 tons per acre—two and three crops per annum.

Potatoes, 9 tons per acre.

Onions, 12 to 15 tons per acre.

Cabbages, 6 tons per acre.

Climatic and market conditions in the Vernon District are eminently suitable for profitable poultry raising.

Much of the territory tributary to Vernon in Lumby, White Valley, Coldstream, etc., is shortly to be connected with Vernon by an electric railroad.