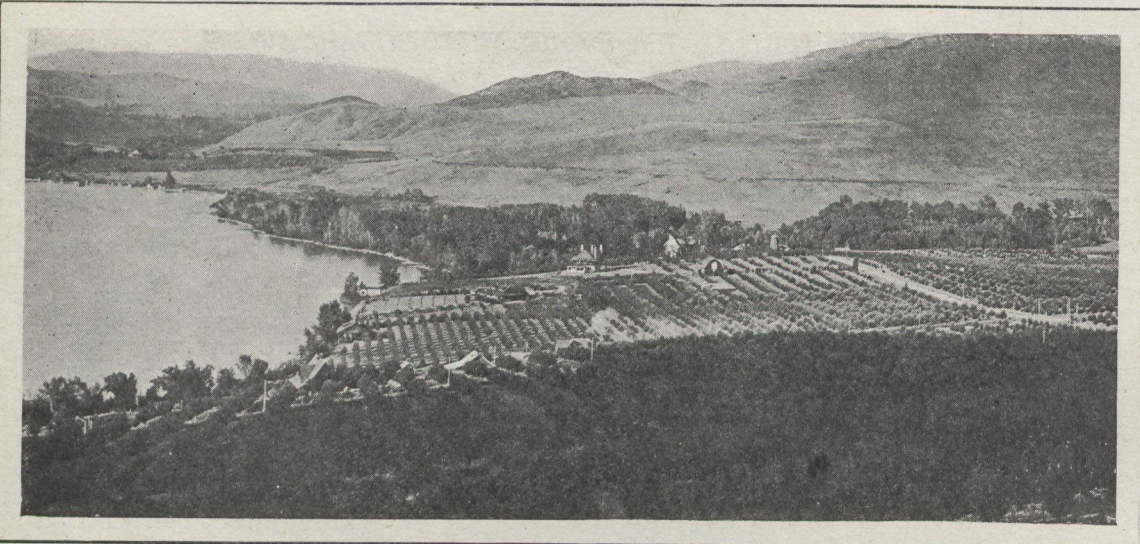




Many of the Orchards in the Okanagan are Planted Upon the Benchlands, or Lower Levels of the Hills. Our Picture Shows a Type of Young Orchard in the District of Vernon.



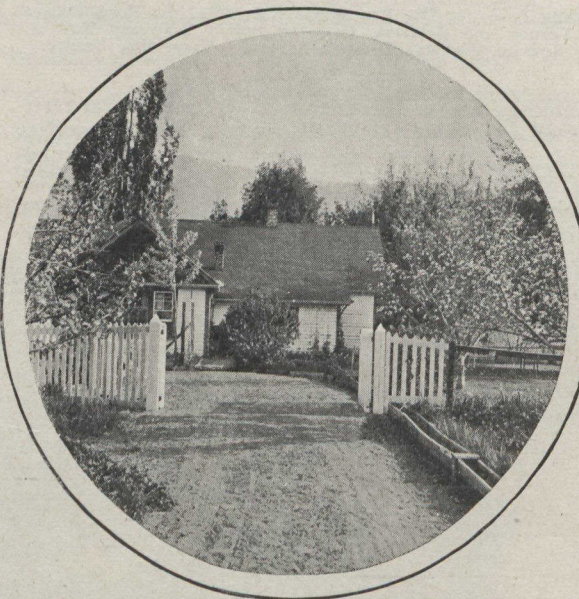
The Coldstream Ranch, a Thousand Acres of the Finest Orchard Land in British Columbia, Lies in the Okanagan Valley and is Owned by Lord Aberdeen.

level of a series of lakes and for a dozen miles follow the outline of the shore, which winds in and out like the button-holed edge of a huge green centre-piece. The purr of the motor here, breaking into the silence of the scene, seems almost a sacrilege. The wild-duck resting on the water swims hurriedly away at the sound, and the grouse rises with an angry cry from the bushes as you pass. The brown squirrels scurry across your path and hurl maledictions on your head from the branch of the tree where they have run for safety. The sportsmen of the party make a mental note that this is the spot for game when the season opens. And, indeed, the district abounds in duck, geese, prairie chicken, grouse and partridge, while in the less settled country may be found the larger varieties, such as the deer, caribou, mountain goat, and bear—a very paradise to the hunter of big game.

KELOWNA, the second city of the Valley and familiarly known as "The Orchard City of the Okanagan," lies about mid-way up the Valley, and has the advantage of a delightful situation on Okanagan Lake. It is a notable fact that for the year 1912 Kelowna headed the list in increased percentage in building permits for Western Canada and was second in the whole Dominion. Its natural beauties and recreative advantages have attracted a very desirable class of residents, not alone bent on building up fortune and departing for other climes, but with the intention of making permanent homes there and surrounding themselves with friends. Many organizations of a social nature flourish in the town; already there have been formed jockey, baseball, lacrosse, bowling, gun and rifle clubs, and a wide interest is taken in these different sports. Go to a ball game in Kelowna when the Vernon nine is playing the home team and see the enthusiasm! The whole town is there—a quarter of a mile of motors and buggies lined up and the grandstand full. True it only holds a hundred or so, but you might think Ty Cobb was at the bat judging by the interest they display. Nothing is lacking, even the man with the peanuts is on hand and the small boy with the tray of cones or a basket of "Ice-Cold Drinks." Here, as well as Penticton, at the foot of the Valley, an Aquatic Club has been established and the excellent clubhouse built upon the water-front is the headquarters of much of the social gaiety of the town. Facilities for water sports of every description are ideal, and the annual

regatta is an event of considerable importance in the Valley.

PENTICTON was just recovering from the gaieties of a tennis tournament week, when we arrived there one evening early in June. As members of the C. W. P. C. we had, through the courtesy of the Canadian Pacific Railway, been "seeing the West." Having viewed British Columbia from the platform of our observation car, and been fascinated by the prodigality of its beauty, we became more ambitious and determined to slip away from the beaten track of the tourist and make



Cherry Blossom Time in the Okanagan. A Rancher's Home in the Vicinity of Kelowna.

a short journey of exploration into the interior. We chose for this purpose the Okanagan Valley, which was to us at that time little more than a name (though at least we did not pronounce it as if it were spelled with an apostrophe after the O and an accent on the *kan*). Leaving the main line at Sicamous Junction we took the stub line of railway which carried us to Okanagan Landing, and there boarded a steamer making daily trips between that point and Penticton at the head of the lake.

It is a seven or eight hour journey to Penticton, broken by landings at the various towns scattered

along the shore. At the present time this is the only available means of transportation, but it will not be long before the Kettle Valley Railway, for some years under course of construction, will be completed, and this will make it possible for passengers from any of the principal points within the Valley to leave in the afternoon of one day and find themselves arriving in Vancouver on the following morning. The Canadian Northern Pacific Railway is also to operate a line from Kamloops through Vernon to Kelowna.

At Penticton, the tourist traffic which will surely follow on the heels of these new railways, has been anticipated, and an excellent tourist hotel, the Incola, provides accommodation for travellers. Fortunate, indeed, it was for us that the hotel was comfortable, for a long day of rain preceded our arrival and made out-of-doors impossible. The day was not entirely lost, however, for in the evening, when the sky had cleared, there was still time for a motor-drive through the town and far out upon the old stage road that leads to Keremeos. We drove until the light began to fade, and were sorry to return, for what we had seen of the country surrounding Penticton made us feel that we had not come in vain upon our journey in search of beautiful lands. It was not, however, until we visited for a few days with friends upon their ranch half a dozen miles out from the city of Kelowna, that we realized to its full extent the charm of a country which combines the beauties of high mountains, deep woodlands, green valleys, and rich orchards to form a perfect whole.

AND speaking of ranches, isn't it strange how much more attractive it sounds to the ear of an Easterner to say "we visited a ranch" than to tell of having stayed with friends upon their "farm"! Much of the romance of Western life is suggested by the word, while we are sometimes inclined to think of farm life as being a very prosaic affair indeed. As a matter of fact ranch life in the Okanagan Valley is coloured by romance—the romance that surrounds a new country that is steadily advancing, developing, and expanding under the eye of the beholder—a country that has in a few years transformed its rough mountain trails into smooth highways and turned its silent places into busy centres of life and trade. Though the Okanagan Valley retains all the charm of a new land very few of the hardships usually experienced by dwellers in unfamiliar countries exist. Our host's six-cylinder motor car was the power which overcame the difficulties of distance; a daily rural mail delivery operating from both Vernon and Kelowna kept us in touch with happenings in the outer world beyond the Valley, and the tinkle of the telephone bell made as many demands on the time and attention of the mistress of the ranch as it would on that of any busy housewife in a crowded city. The newest fiction and latest magazines might be found upon the living-room table, and if you cared to hear the music from the latest operas, there was the player-piano or the graphophone only waiting the adjustment of a needle or the pressing of a key.

It is not in pursuit of ease and luxury, however, that the rancher has taken up his land in the Okanagan. Hundreds of acres are still waiting cultivation and work there is a-plenty to be done if the products of orchard and farm are to take their place among the finest in the markets of the world. It is toward this end that the rancher toils, and it would seem that nature, by the great assistance that she has lent, has clearly signified her intention of crowning his endeavours with success.

Shakespeare Galore

THE advance notices of the coming theatrical season indicate that the boom in Shakespeare which "happened" last season is to be sustained and intensified in the season to come. William Faversham is producing several of the plays not so frequently seen. He is to be assisted by Cecilia Loftus, well known to every London playgoer and to New York as well. Julie Opp (Mrs. Faversham) is another star in the cast.

Margaret Anglin is going in for Shakespeare. From the point of view of the critic she will be a success—but financially—well, you never know.

Sothorn and Marlowe are continuing. Miss Marlowe's health is much improved, and she will be able to play this—and, we hope—many more seasons. Robert Mantell still plays in Shakespearean repertoire. A notable entrant—or, rather, re-entrant—to the ranks of Shakespearean players is Miss Percy Haswell, well known to Torontonians. She opens at Cleveland almost immediately and will play right through the Shakespeare festival there.