

Columbia Valleys. Farmers who are desirous of farming in the West, where they can raise fruit, should enquire about these lands. The mining districts of Windermere, Cranbrook, Kimberley, Fort Steele, Elko and Fernie have now a large and increasing population of men employed in the development of the mines. A market for farm and garden products is thus to be had in the immediate vicinity of these lands, and the rapid development of the West Kootenay District also furnishes a desirable market. There is also an unlimited demand for fruit in the prairie districts of Manitoba and the North-West Territories. These lands are sold by the Company at practically the same low prices and on the same easy terms as are asked for the prairie lands in Manitoba. Throughout the district are scattered farms and ranches, but as yet little attention has been given to the cultivation of cereals, with the exception of oats. Of these magnificent crops are grown annually. The nutritious grasses of the foot-hills on both sides of the valley afford ample food supply for horses, cattle and sheep. Abundance of good water, a light snowfall and a moderate climate in winter make this an ideal country for stock raising. The bottom lands are generally prairie and hay meadows, requiring little or no clearing. The grassy bench lands are dotted over with pines. The absence of undergrowth permits an uninterrupted view in every direction, and allows the herder to ride without obstruction in rounding up his cattle.

Apples, strawberries, raspberries, plums, etc., grow luxuriantly and with very little attention. Mr. N. Hanson, of Wasa, twelve miles north of Fort Steele, grows excellent crops of apples, both table and crab, annually. At McKay's ranch, near Windermere, Mrs. McKay has obtained over 3,000 pounds of fine strawberries from an acre of ground. At the Roman Catholic mission near Cranbrook, fruits of all kinds are successfully and abundantly grown.

The bottom lands require no irrigation, receiving their supply of water by seepage from the river. Wherever irrigation is required it can be provided from some of the mountain streams which abound in the district.

The country is in places far more thinly wooded than the West Kootenay district, and affords great facilities for fishing and hunting; big game, trout and salmon abounding.

The southern and central parts of East Kootenay are more readily reached from the East by the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, which branches off the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Medicine Hat in the Canadian North-West, and runs through the great ranching district of Southern Alberta, the mining and agricultural districts of East Kootenay, and forms a link in the short line to the entire mining regions of southern British Columbia. They can also be reached from Calgary by branch line of the Canadian Pacific to Macleod, in Alberta, on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. From the west the best route is via Revelstoke, the Arrow and Kootenay Lakes and Crow's Nest Pass Railway. The extreme northern portion of the district is reached by the