

tude southward to the international boundary, and from Columbia and Windermere Lakes northward by the Upper Columbia River, to the Big Bend. In the southern portion of this district there are immense stretches of thinly-wooded lands suitable for fruit-growing purposes, and the valley of the Upper Columbia has many choice locations for the enterprising fruit-grower. The lack of transportation facilities is a great hindrance to the development of the fruit lands of the Upper Columbia.

District No. 9 comprises the vast coast region including the Queen Charlotte Islands, and the northern half of Vancouver Island, from Jervis Inlet to Portland Canal. There is little known of its capabilities as yet, but undoubtedly it has a few surprises in store for the future. Though in small quantities as yet, apples, peaches and grapes have been successfully grown on the Skeena River. The first apple trees were planted at Hazelton in the spring of 1901 and fruited in the fall of 1904.

For a considerable distance inland from the west coast, there are numerous valleys and plateaus, which are well adapted to growing many of the hardier varieties, though fewer in number than those suitable for the first-named district.

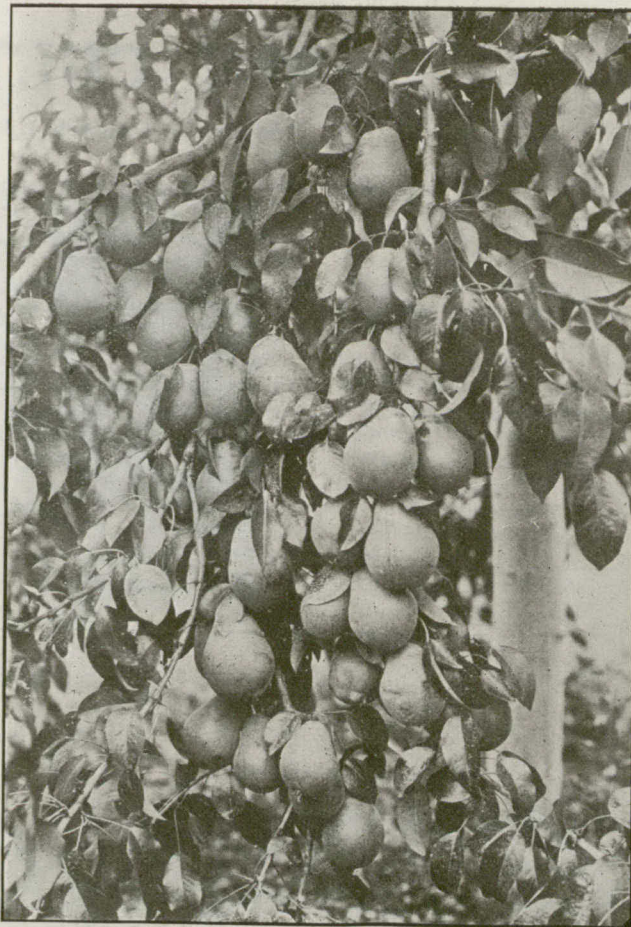
Notwithstanding the conditions and adaptabilities which may be in a general way characteristic of the large districts above mentioned, there are always peculiarities of soil and climate, soil moisture, atmospheric currents, etc., which must be taken into consideration, and intelligently utilized by the individual settler when choosing varieties to plant or deciding on methods of cultivation.

That the supply of water from mountain streams for irrigation purposes is limited, should always be borne in mind and in those portions of the province where irrigation is necessary, the prospective settler or investor should be exceedingly careful that a proper supply of water is obtainable, and that he secures a legal right to use it, when pur-

chasing fruit lands. There are many of the co-called dry districts where the soil moisture, with proper cultivation, is quite sufficient to produce a full crop in an ordinary year, but there comes periodically, the extraordinary year when, without an artificial supply of water at the critical time, the whole crop may be lost. In the arid districts, it should be seen to that the right to a sufficient supply of irrigation water is obtained, whether it is needed every year or not.

There are immense fertile tablelands along the Thompson, Columbia, Kootenay and Similkameen Rivers and the Kamloops, Okanagan, Upper and Lower Arrow and Kootenay Lakes, which can not be irrigated from the available mountain streams, but it may safely be predicted that some day in the not distant future, a genius will arise who will invent a comparatively cheap method of pumping the water from these large reservoirs up to the higher levels, and who then will venture to estimate the quantity of rare and luscious fruit which this province may be capable of producing, or the gratitude that future generations will lavish on the memory of the man who shall make the cultivation of these beautiful plateaus possible? Then will the glittering Okanagan Lake become a magnificent water highway, through the midst of densely populated stretches of orchard lands. On either shore will be one continuous line of superb villa homes, and all up and down those scenic galleries of luxurious gardens will dwell the kings and queens of husbandry in the happy performance of the first duties allotted to mankind.

By establishing high standards and the practice of high ideals, both in the quality of their products and business methods the fruit-growers of British Columbia should have a large share in building up the commercial character of the province which, like the golden beams of the summer twilight, shall shed its benign influence eastward over the great Dominion of Canada.



PEARS IN T. W. STIRLING'S ORCHARD,
KELOWNA, B. C.



APPLES GROWING NEAR NELSON, B. C.