

INTRODUCTION

IT is well to impress upon persons desiring to engage in fruit-growing that it is a profession, not a pastime. Money, time, and experience are imperatively necessary to success. Given the most favorable conditions of land, markets, and means of transportation, and there must be either thorough knowledge of the growing of fruit, or years of experience, in order to make a commercial profit.

It is also in point to call attention to the fact that there is no cheap cleared land, suitable for horticulture, obtainable near the railways or the cities and towns on Vancouver Island. Land adapted to growing fruit, cleared, and near the railways or commercial centres, ranges as a rule from \$250 an acre at the lowest to \$500, or even more, per acre, when the land is adjacent to the waterfront, or near to the largest towns or cities on the Island.

Occasional opportunities are afforded to buy good cleared fruit land at lower figures than these, but in the old-settled Districts first-class fruit land, fully cleared, or with a growing orchard, brings a substantial price. With the present railway and tramway extensions now taking place, more land will be available, and personal investigation will determine the price, as well as the adaptability of the land offered.

Mixed farming is recommended, as a rule, instead of specializing. Fruit-growing, poultry-raising, berry-growing, dairying, or truck-gardening may eventually be taken up exclusively; but for the beginner, with small capital and little experience, fruit-growing, outside of the berries raised on Vancouver Island, is something to be very gradually worked into, and not invested in with all of one's capital.