

Fruit growing in Thompson Valley.

The great fertility of the soil in the valleys of the British Columbia Dry Belt has long been known and the fact that it is peculiarly adapted for the production of all kinds of small fruits that can be grown in the Temperate zone has been practically demonstrated in many places and nowhere with greater success than in the Thompson River Valley. This district possesses an unrivalled climate and soil that produces fruit of superior flavor and appearance and phenomenal quality.

The first work toward the development on a large scale of lands in this valley is now being done by the British Columbia Horticultural Estates Ltd. at a point 13 miles east of Ashcroft, where they have purchased the Penny Ranch and a large tract of adjoining land comprising 5000 acres of the choicest valley bench lands in the Province.

All of this land will be placed under irrigation. Several large reservoirs are being constructed in which will be stored the Spring flushed waters in quantity sufficient to guarantee an amply supply of water in the driest seasons. Three lines of ditches, flumes and pipes will convey the water to the property and deliver it at each ten acre plot.

A complete system of reservoirs and ditches has been completed for supplying water to 500 acres. On one half of this acreage the company are this season setting out 16,000 apple trees of the choicest varieties, and are offering for sale, plots of ten acres of growing orchard.

The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs through the entire length of the property of the Company with a station exactly in the centre.

At this point a townsite of 50 acres has been laid out where water will be delivered under pressure for domestic purposes.

Although this land has not yet been advertised nearly one half of the acreage ready for planting has already been sold. Sales are made by the Company on easy terms and it is their expectation that the land will be sold as rapidly as it can be made ready.

The situation of the land on the main line of the Railway gives the settlers a great advantage over those of any other district in the Province suitable for fruitlands, being one day nearer to the markets, East and West.

The Canadian Northern Ry proposes to extend its line to the Pacific Coast by way of the Thompson River and when this is completed two transcontinental lines will pass through the Valley.

The great value to the Settler of these facilities is self evident.