



Cooper Bros.' Farm near Grand Forks, B.C.

ways be an important factor in the valley no matter to what extent its production may be developed.

The great export market open to all British Columbia is, of course, the adjacent prairie, Alberta in particular, where development is naturally faster than in any other part of Canada at present—a development that precludes any possibility of the fruit growing ever being overdone. The Crow's Nest coal districts give an even nearer market for produce and fruit, and in these markets the Kettle Valley has a great advantage over other districts: it is from ten days to two weeks earlier than any other district that can compete for this market and thus can obtain the highest prices.

Fruit is not the only product of the valley, although owing to its greater production it seems to be the ultimate aim of nearly all land owners and settlers. The soil is a sandy loam, generally deep and rich, somewhat alluvial in character, and grows grains and vegetables to perfection. The field photographed has been cropped fourteen years and this is the third crop since it was summer-fallowed. The owner, W. A. Cooper,

uses no irrigation for any purpose in field or orchard: he carries on a system of cultivating the soil somewhat similar to the dry-farming advocated by Prof. Campbell. His home is seen in another picture which also illustrates the system by which the land is brought under orchard in the Kettle River Valley. Frequently, after clearing, the land is put into grain for a year or so, then the trees are planted and between them vegetables and small fruits are grown. Strawberries are a favourite crop often bringing \$200 to \$400 per acre. Other pictures show an irrigated orchard, owned by Martin Burrell, M.P.; the irrigation ditch, or rather plow mark, can be seen between the rows of trees. The level land aids in making irrigation easy by gravity systems, which are, of course, the cheapest form of irrigating.

A feature of the Kettle River fruit-growing illustrated by these photos is the rapid growth of the trees. Men experienced in fruit-growing in Ontario or elsewhere declare it almost unbelievable that trees can come to such size and into bearing at such an early age. Apple trees bearing at four years are no novelty