

PROGRESS REPORT for AUGUST  
Cut-off Penticton Reserve No.1

The south boundary of the cut-off commences at the west bank of the Okanagan River and runs through swampy land for about fourteen chains to the foot of the slope on which the Kettle River Valley Railway is built. West of the railway the land rises in a series of benches for over a mile and a half to a height of nearly 700 feet above Okanagan Lake where they terminate at the foot of the steep slope of the mountain to the west. These benches extend north to Trout Creek and comprise an area of about 3500 acres of arable land. Towards Trout Creek the benches are much cut into by ravines caused by the action of water. The soil is silt of a sandy-clay nature and appears to have been at one time lake bottom. Were it possible to irrigate these benches by gravitation I believe they would be very productive. All available water from Trout Creek is used by the Summerland Irrigation system; and Canyon Creek, which was at one time considered in connection with the irrigation of these benches, has now been taken into the Summerland system so there is now no gravitation water available for the benches. The only alternative to gravity is pumping from Okanagan Lake which would not be economically practicable. The benches are, therefore, suitable only for early range for which purpose the Indians now use them. Early in August the grass had been grazed off leaving only sagebush and cactus. Except for the small area of meadow land, fenced in by the Indians, and penetrating into the cut-off at Shingle Creek, the balance of the Cut-off is mountain covered with fir and pine and from want of water can hardly be classed as good range.

The Indians showed themselves to be very hostile to the surveying, but not till I reached Shingle Creek was I actively interfered with