

their farming operations with that sense of variety which is the spice of life and produces both interest and contentment in the home of their choice.

FRUIT GROWING FINANCIALLY SUCCESSFUL

If the cattleman seeks the rich bottom lands, the fruit-grower turns to the hills. The higher benches of glacial drift that have carried fir and cedar, maple, birch and alder need no coaxing to produce apples and pears of good size and flavor. These fruits do not attain, in the Fraser Valley at all times, that high coloring peculiar to the Okanagan and Kootenay Valleys, but they concede nothing in taste and aroma, in fact those who know them prefer the fruits of the Lower Mainland. Fruit that is well-packed and graded, from orchards that have been well-cared for, are in no difficulties on the market as their price is not burdened with the heavy freightage of those from the valleys further inland. Should the orchardist prefer selling the culls and windfalls to making his own cider, the jam factory across the River Fraser will give from twelve to twenty dollars a ton for them.

Plums and prunes thrive as freely as the native trees; apricots and peaches, luscious and delectable, do very well on any sheltered slope of southerly aspect, but beyond all other fruits the bush lands are the natural ground of berries and small fruits.

NATURE'S HELP TO PRESERVE CUPBOARD

The wild thimbleberry—"red cap" or Scotch cap"—grows everywhere and wherever a yard of open space gives the room, the ruby "black cap" throws out its graceful vines, and when such land is planted with canes of higher commercial value the response is all that can be desired.

The grower of small fruits, particularly raspberry and blackberry, has but two difficulties—keeping back the too vigorous growth of vines, and getting sufficient help in berry-picking time.

There has been, as yet, no hint that the Northwest Territories—to which the commercial harvest is shipped—are likely to be overstocked with these berries. The call seems greater as the supply increases, and the war increased the demand beyond sight of fulfillment. With improved transportation through the Rockies this field will widen and encourage the berry-men to greater planting.

GOOD MARKETS FOR BERRIES

Only perfect berries of the exact stage of ripeness are crated. Over-ripe or damp fruit, of course, would fail in shipment. This is the opportunity of the jam and canning factories.

One of these, the King-Beach Manufacturing Company, is just over the river from Matsqui, others are in Vancouver. The prices paid by these firms are usually such that if the whole crop were sent to the factory, and no fancy fruit crated, the fruit could still be grown profitably.