

Similkameen Valley, B. C.

J. D. Harkness

The Keremeos irrigation canal, which has been under construction for two years, is now completed, and water was let in for the first time about the middle of April. The canal, which is more than eight miles long, is an interesting piece of engineering. The water of the Ashnola river is led from its bed and flows by its own gravity across the Similkameen river through a 40 inch pipe which is carried on a bridge 400 feet long. Its course down the north side of the valley is partly through open ditch and partly through continuous stave piping, built up on the spot. Of the piping, many thousands of feet were required (diam. 40, 38 and 36 in.) not only as inverted siphons for crossing deep gullies, but along the steep mountain sides where ditching would be difficult and where an open cutting would be liable to interruption from land slides. The total fall to the Keremeos bench is about 26 feet, and it is estimated that the water will take about six hours to travel the whole distance when carrying the designed capacity. This slow flow will temper the water from its cold state in the Ashnola and bring it to the orchards at a suitable temperature for irrigation. The canal carries 1000 miner's inches and will serve at present, 2,000 acres, but will probably be extended later.

The lands served by the canal—all rich level bench land, clear except for a little sage bush—are being rapidly taken up by settlers, mostly in 10-acre plots. That seems to be generally considered the proper size for a fruit farm, and people more often undertake less than more. The settlers are mostly from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba—many of them grain farmers who seek a milder climate and less

stronuous employment. Next to apples, peaches—which reach great size and perfection here—are most planted; the early time of ripening—fully as early as in the fruit districts of Washington state—making them a valuable crop.

A good deal of dissatisfaction is felt with the provincial governments inspection service for imported nursery stock. At present every lot imported has to pass through the office at Victoria, often causing serious loss through delay and injury in transit, as well as extra expense. Even then it is claimed that the volume of business at the office is so large that its work of inspection and fumigation is not always done thoroughly. Sub-offices at convenient points are urgently needed.

Montreal

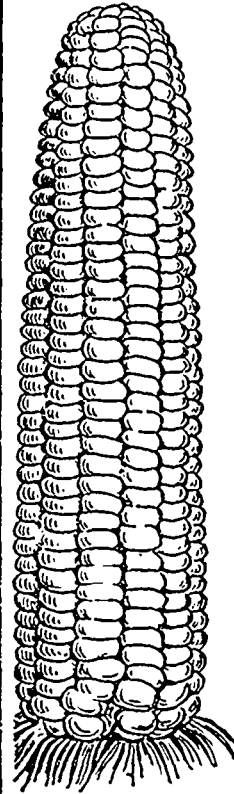
E. H. Wartman, Dominion Fruit Inspector

This is the earliest opening of navigation to the ocean in my eight years' stay in Montreal. Soon we shall see our ocean liners plowing their way to our port. One of the first to arrive as usual will be from the Mediterranean with a full cargo of oranges and lemons. When we see 75,000 cases of fruit piled 10 to 12 tiers high in our sheds, we will be led to say that the volcanoes haven't swallowed them all. Grape fruit is selling lower than for years and is gaining its ground in common family use. A friend of mine said he used 20 cases of this fruit in his family last winter. This fruit is very nutritious and it should be generally used, for health's sake, before meals.

As apples are very high, trade is slow, bananas and oranges taking their place. Maple syrup at this time of the year fills a place in family diet. It is made in very large quantities on the Island of Montreal

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