

FALLEN FIR RANCH, PROCTOR, B.C.

4th Nov., 1911.

Dear Mr. Ford.—I have received your letter containing some questions on fruit growing in the Kootenay, and will endeavour to reply as well as I can.

1. *I started on my ranch with no previous experience of agriculture, but was fortunate in having a neighbor who had had experience in both general farming and fruit growing, and frequently went to him for advice which was of great value; all new-comers should take advantage of the advice and experience of the pioneers who know the district.*

2. *From five to ten acres is sufficient for one man, much better results are obtained from tilling thoroughly a small piece of land than to half work a larger acreage.*

3. *A single man can get along if he has sufficient money to buy his land, build a small house and buy tools, as he can always find work at good wages.*

A married man would require sufficient means to keep him for two years, after buying his land, house, tools, plants and animals, but that man is better equipped who is endowed with energy and shrewdness than one with an abundance of capital.

4. *Good land, cleared, in such a situation as you mention, is worth \$300 per acre.*

5. *It is usual to sow clover when the land is cleared, to put the raw soil in good shape before planting crops.*

The second year potatoes should yield eight tons per acre which fetch an average price of \$25 per ton; berries would be planted this year, producing the next year 300 crates or more per acre, which sell for \$2 per crate; returns will also be obtained from vegetables, poultry, bees, and a cow.

6. *Given active and intelligent development of the ranch, it should increase in value at least \$30 per acre per annum, basing this on the fact that the apple trees are worth 50cts. more every year. . . .*

7. *Other branches of agriculture which blend with fruit farming are dairying, pigs, poultry and bees; these are each substantial money-makers when handled properly.*

8. *The demand for produce cannot be satisfied, and the demand is increasing with consequent good prices, due to the development of the country by railways, mines, and lumbering.*

I suppose you have heard that British Columbia has obtained the Stillwell Trophy at New York [the highest award obtainable], for the best exhibit of potatoes [open to the continent of North America]. . . .

I hope that this letter outlining my opinion of the various questions a new-comer wishes information upon maybe of some use to people you are interesting in this country.—I am, Yours sincerely,

The originals of these letters can be inspected on request.

D. A. BOYD,