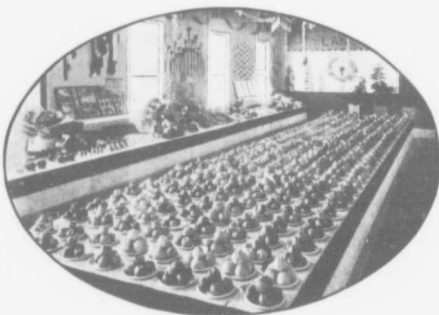


much so that they began to seriously consider the planting of commercial orchards.

But the people of Kaslo were only discovering what the rest of the inhabitants of West Kootenay were finding out, viz., that the soil and climate rendered the available ground peculiarly adaptable for fruit culture. Dating from the year 1895, land settlement throughout the country went on apace and on all sides the fringe of the forest was steadily pushed back until today we find a considerable acreage under cultivation in and around Kaslo, at Mirror Lake, Twin Bay, Shuttly Bench, Riondel, Ainsworth, Howser, Argenta, Fry Creek, Crawford Bay and Queen's Bay and at other scattered places along the main Kootenay Lake. Many of the first orchards set out as a commercial venture are now coming into bearing and the work of clearing and bringing more land under cultivation is going on on all sides.

### MUCH ROOM FOR HORTICULTURISTS

But after all it is only a start. There are about five thousand acres within a radius of five miles of Kaslo as yet untouched by the settler, and at other points there are considerable areas of horticultural land awaiting settlement. This land can be purchased in its raw state at from \$20 to \$100 per acre, according to location, etc. Improved land may be purchased at from \$200 up. Ten



An Apple Display at the Kootenay Lake Fruit Fair, Kaslo

acres is considered more than ample for the support of a family and where farming is intensively practised, half of that amount is sufficient. During the years that it takes the trees to come into bearing strawberries are generally successfully and profitably raised between the rows, while potatoes and other vegetables are a convenient source of aid to the settler whose trees have not yet reached the bearing stage.

### QUALITY THE KEYNOTE

Reference has been made previously to climatic and soil conditions which makes West Kootenay a fruit growing region par excellence. In this respect Kaslo is favored to a superlative degree. It appears to enjoy a peculiar combination of climate and soil which results in a very superior grade of certain varieties of apples and cherries. Experts who have visited the city during the cherry harvest have invariably remarked that they had never, for color, flavor or size, seen the equal of the cherries