

# Raising Red Raspberries

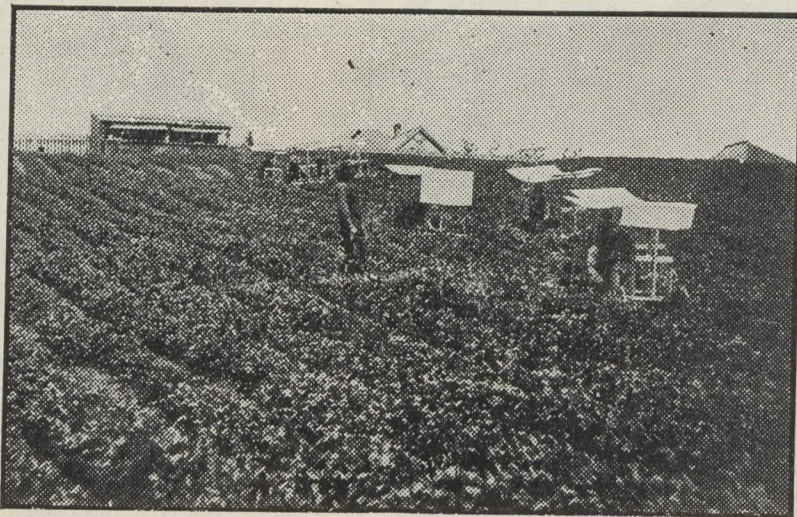
## The Story of Hatzic Island

Hatzic Island is composed of land created by the Fraser in somewhat tortuous course to the sea. The soil is alluvial in character, the result of years erosion of the hills, and the deposit of sediment by the restless waters of Father Fraser.

On to this island some eight years ago came a man in the person of Mr. F. M. Shook, who had a dream. He was a careful observer of conditions, studied soils, and above all was a worker. He found, by the results which he observed in his little garden, that the soil of Hatzic Island was adapted to the cultivation of raspberries, and he knew that there was a great demand for this fruit if carried to market.

rior the market. A delay of twenty-four hours is fatal to the quality of the fruit for shipping. This has always been the greatest problem for Raspberry growers.

Mr. Shook has mastered this problem in a very simple and effective way. He has provided living quarters which are placed at the disposal of the pickers who go to his farm. Here they are supplied with heat, water, and light, and are paid 35c per crate on an average for picking. The labor is pleasant, and to those who are not afraid of exposure to the sun, or having unusually red fingers, it is not at all distasteful, in fact this year Mr. Shook had quite a number of young Scotch office girls who



Strawberry Patch in Mission District

From this day he worked out his plans with the result that today out of 116 acres of land which he owns, nearly one quarter is planted out in Raspberries, and he has earned for himself a premier position as the first grower of this fruit in the province of British Columbia.

Of the twenty-three or four acres planted out in berries, only ten are in full bearing, but off these ten acres this year he has been marketing about one and one-half cars per day. Each car contains 800 crates, the contents worth \$1600.

It is Mr. Shook's expectations this year to market 2500 crates of Raspberries. To any one familiar to the raising of this fruit, the question arises of how he manages to pick his crop during the comparatively short season, for of all the fruits that grow, Raspberries are the most perishable, and must be picked as soon as ready

benefited by the open air and the opportunity of earning very substantial wages indeed.

The picking house stands in the centre of the ground, and to it the berries are carried in crates. Here they are inspected, so that any too ripe are not put into the cars. They are then placed on a large drying rack in which nearly 200 crates can be dried. Electric fans are turned upon these racks to assist in drying the fruit before it starts on its long journey. From here they find their way in the cars, and two or three mornings later appear on the breakfast tables at Calgary, Edmonton, or Regina.

It can be readily understood that the experience of Mr. Shook is of great assistance to those with the same soil, market, and climatic conditions.

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