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*Windermere*  
*District*

*of British Columbia*

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*Where It Is*  
*What It Looks Like*  
*What It Produces*  
*How to Get There*

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1919<sup>1</sup>

## *The Windermere District*

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### **Its Advantages as a Suitable Settlement for Soldiers**

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**T**HE WINDERMERE DISTRICT, situated in the Columbia Valley, in the Southern portion of British Columbia, has been settled now for thirty years. During that time the District has been thoroughly proved as a splendid mixed farming and cattle raising country. In 1915 the Canadian Pacific Railway Company completed their Kootenay central branch, connecting the District with the C. P. R. main line in the North, and the Crow's Nest Pass Highway to the South, thus removing many of the difficulties of settlement and simplifying the problem of markets for the products of the District, which are cattle, potatoes, small fruits, etc.

and her. With the completion of the road, markets which had hitherto been difficult to approach owing to lack of transportation, came into being, the markets of Fernie with its collieries are reached the same day of shipment, while Calgary, under the present conditions, is but twelve hours distant. There is also a limited local market in the mines operating in the vicinity and in the lumber camps to the South, all of which at present import most of their supplies from the prairie.

The possibilities of the District with regard to mixed farming and dairying have been fully demonstrated by the thriving farms and the work of the Dominion Government Experimental Station, Invermere. The farmers generally have proved the general adaptability of the valley for the growing of Alfalfa, clover, potatoes and peas, all of which have been demonstrated and have established records. In this connection we

quote from the Station report: "Alfalfa alone produced 4 tons, 820 lbs.; with grasses, 5 tons, 320 lbs. per acre. Clover alone, 5 tons, 1880 lbs.; with grasses, 6 tons, 1260 lbs. per acre. Potatoes, Wee Macgregor variety, 19.6 tons per acre. Peas, 48 bushels per acre. Carrots, 27.7 tons per acre." The District is comparatively well settled. There is an extensive range for cattle and horses, most of which is available for settlement.

The valley is well watered by the following rivers: Horse Thief, Toby, Dutch and Findlay Creeks. Ample water has been obtained from these and other creeks for two large, and numerous other smaller irrigation systems, on which much land is still available for settlement.

The valley is also fortunate in possessing two large lakes, Windermere and Columbia, which afford a means of transportation. The railway borders these lakes for a distance o

thirty miles. There are five stations in this distance.

There are four small towns, namely: Wilmer, Athalmer, Invermere and Windermere, with churches, schools, hotels, stores and other conveniences. There is a good telephone system between Golden and Windermere, and most of the farms are on the line.

On account of its natural beauty the District is already favorably known to tourists, which will be further materially developed in the near future by the completion of the Banff-Windermere Motor Road. A trunk road runs right through the Windermere District between Golden and Cranbrook; from this there are many lateral roads already built extending up the various rivers and creeks already mentioned. All are good motor roads.

The warm waters of Lake Windermere are peculiarly attractive for bathing and boating. There is ex-

cellent hunting and good fishing and there is a nine hole golf course at Invermere.

Annual shows are held by the local Agricultural Society and Farm Institute, and there is also a branch of the B. C. Stockbreeders Association.

As will be seen from the foregoing, settlers coming to the Columbia Valley, have from the beginning all such modern conveniences as railway, telegraph, telephone, hospital, post offices, stores, bank, wagon roads and motor roads and an existing social life.

Land can still be obtained at moderate prices as compared with the settled portions of Southern British Columbia, and even with portions of the prairie.

WINDERMERE DISTRICT BOARD  
OF TRADE

Office of the Secretary  
Invermere, B. C.

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