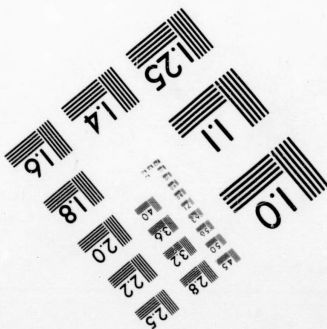
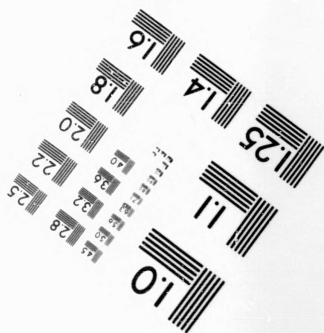
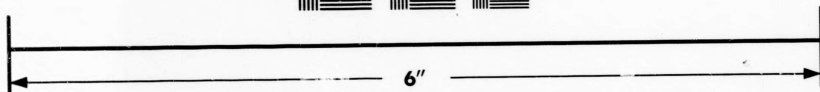
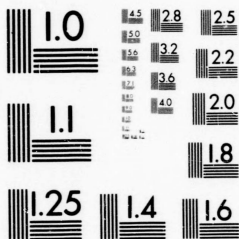


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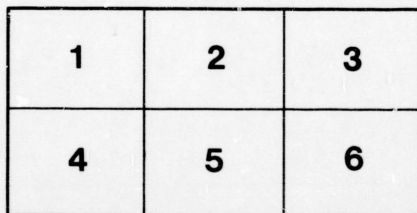
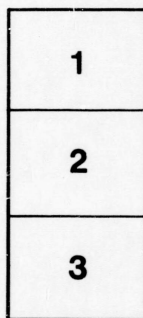
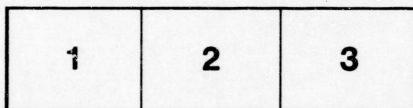
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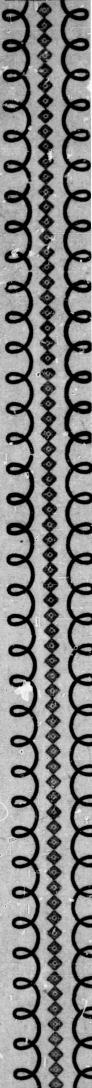
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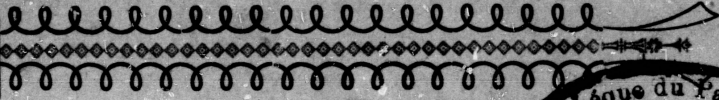


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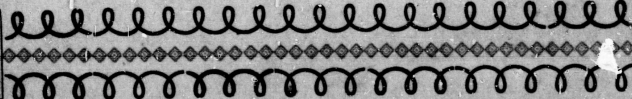
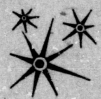
*Surroundings,*

—IN THE—

*Province of British Columbia  
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—BY THE—


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of  
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KELOWNA, B.C.



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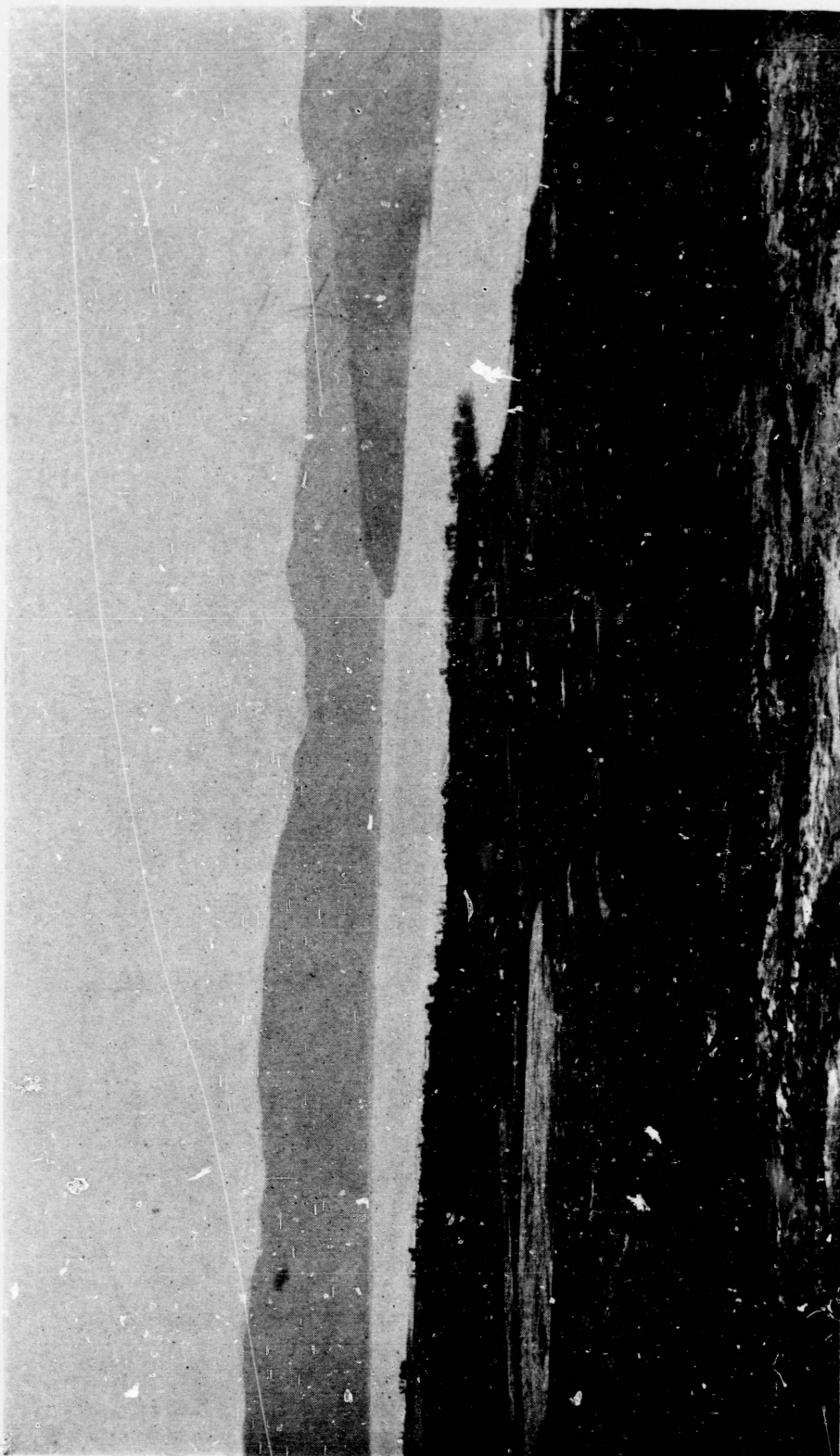
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KELOWNA AND OKANAGAN LAKE.

## MISSION VALLEY.



THE TOURIST who elects to travel from Vernon to Kelowna by road will scarcely notice the fatigue of the journey of thirty-five miles amid the varied beauty of the scenery along the way. About eighteen miles from Vernon the Mission valley begins. The first ranch to be noticed is that of Mr. T. Woods, which bears evidence of skilful management. Some distance on is the Wm. Postill farm, which has recently been sold to Mr. Swallwell, who owns a fine stretch of land further south. Soon after passing this place we come in view of Duck Lake, which is, as its name indicates, an attractive locality for the sportsman. It is about two and a-half miles long by one broad; the surrounding hills slope down to the water's edge, which is fringed with cotton-wood. Close by is the ranch of the late Mr. A. Postill. When the writer passed this way in July, the hay crop, which was being gathered, was certainly very abundant. Wheat, too, gave promise of large yield. The same may be said of Mr. Swallwell's home farm. Probably the largest ranch in this part of the valley is Mr. Whelan's. It consists of about 700 acres fit for cultivation, with an additional 2,000 acres of range. There is no more successful farmer in the valley than Mr. Whelan. On all sides were abundant signs that the owner is up-to-date in his methods of farming. Though Mr. Whelan does not go in extensively for fruit growing, yet he has a fine orchard of about 600 apple, pear, prune and peach trees. On the opposite side of



the road is the residence and farm of Mr. J. Christien, another "old-timer" who has many interesting stories of the early settlement days. Shortly after leaving here the road leads up a steep incline, where we get our first view of the Okanagan Lake, about eight miles away. From this point the valley widens considerably towards the lake on the south and west. The scene presented is one of rare beauty, peace and plenty. Rich abundance is written large over grain and root crops. Passing Mr. Conroy's upper ranch the road soon turns sharply to the right, bringing into view, on one side, an immense hay crop, and on the other, about 350 acres of magnificent wheat just ripe. This is the property of our worthy M.P.P., Mr. Price Ellison. Houses now become more numerous, and comfortable homesteads are seen on either hand. Nearing Benvoulin may be noticed the residence of Mr. J. T. Davies. Here is to be seen a fine flock of sheep, probably the largest in this part of the Province. On the left is his fine, healthy prune orchard, demonstrating the suitability of the soil for this description of fruit. Crossing Dry Creek, we pass the holdings of Messrs. La Belle, Dell, and Watson. Mr. B. E. Crichton's pretty house and well-kept garden next attract the eye, and these are followed by the well-cultivated farm of Mr. W. D. Hobson, our highly respected Justice, who was one of the first to try his fortune as a fruit rancher in this district.

Skirting the road on either hand are the Mackay Meadows, the unsold portions of the properties purchased some years ago by the late Mr. G. G. Mackay, with the object of dividing them into lots suitable for orchards, hop yards, or market gardens. Few men had a keener appreciation of the possibilities of the then unknown Mission Valley, or did more to develop its resources.

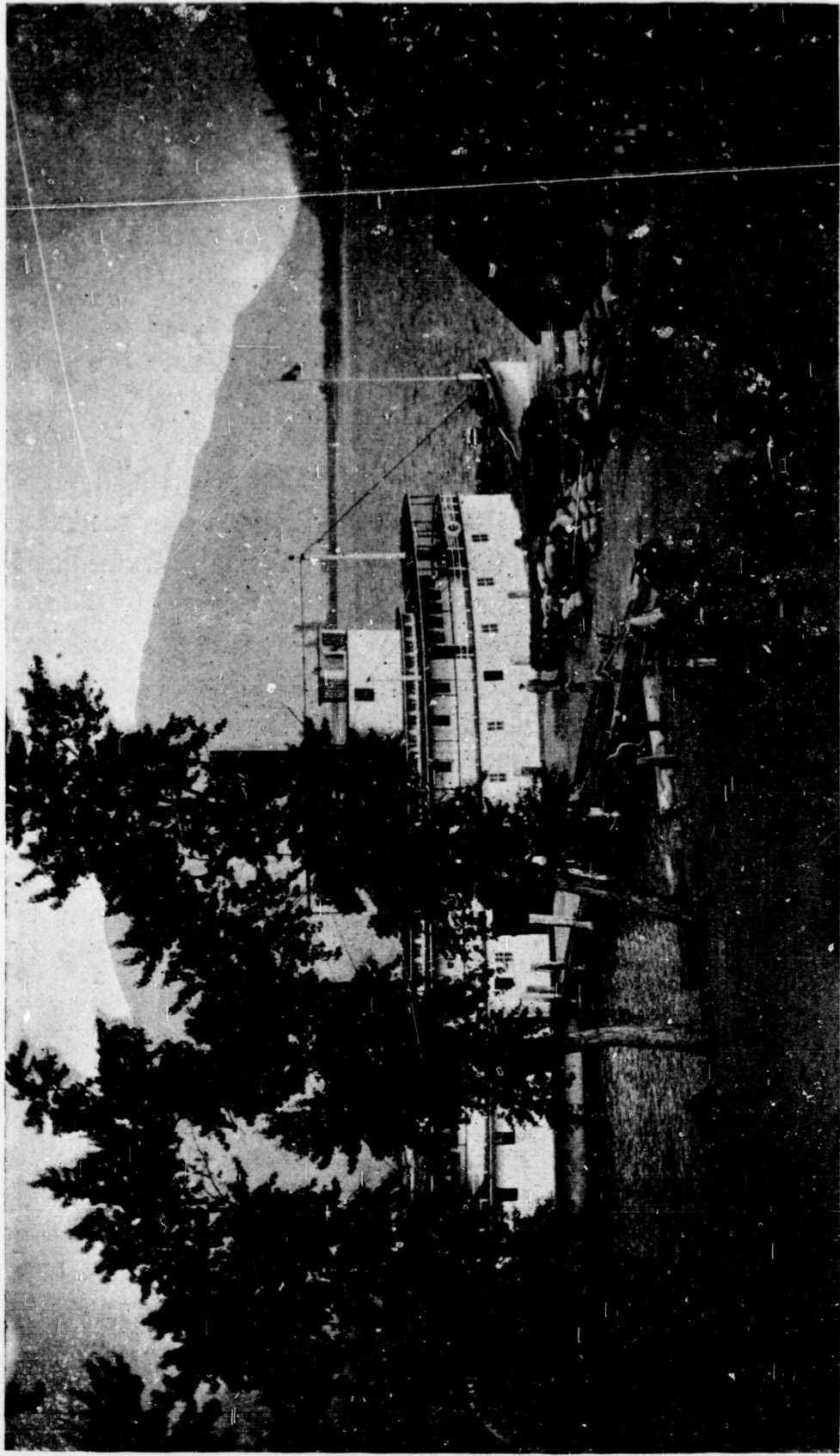
A succession of small holdings are now passed, and the splendid Lequime ranch is reached; on the right stretches the largest and probably the finest meadow in the Mission District, having at its south-eastern corner the family residence and farm buildings. On the left are the tobacco fields of Messrs. Collins & Holman.

Of all the families residing in the district, the Lequimes are most entitled to honourable mention.

Mr. Eli Lequime, the father of the shrewd and popular owner of the saw mill and townsite of Kelowna, with his wife and child, first made their way into the Okanagan country, over the Hope trail, in the year 1860. Commencing life here as a rancher and storekeeper, he lived to retire, some six years ago, to San Francisco, there to enjoy in comfort a well-earned rest, after a busy and useful life. His name is a household word, and many are the settlers indebted to him for their start in life.

His son, Mr. Bernard Lequime, now has charge of the property, and no one is better fitted to look after their joint interests, for to Mr. B. Lequime's sound judgment, good management, and shrewd perception of the future possibilities of Kelowna and the surrounding country, is in great measure due the present prosperous state of the district.

A short distance from Mr. Lequime's is the Indian Mission, founded by the Roman Catholic Church about forty years ago, at a time when the "Noble Red Man" inhabited what was then the wild Okanagan country. Passing this, the tourist crosses the bridge spanning the Mission River, now flowing peacefully, but which in the



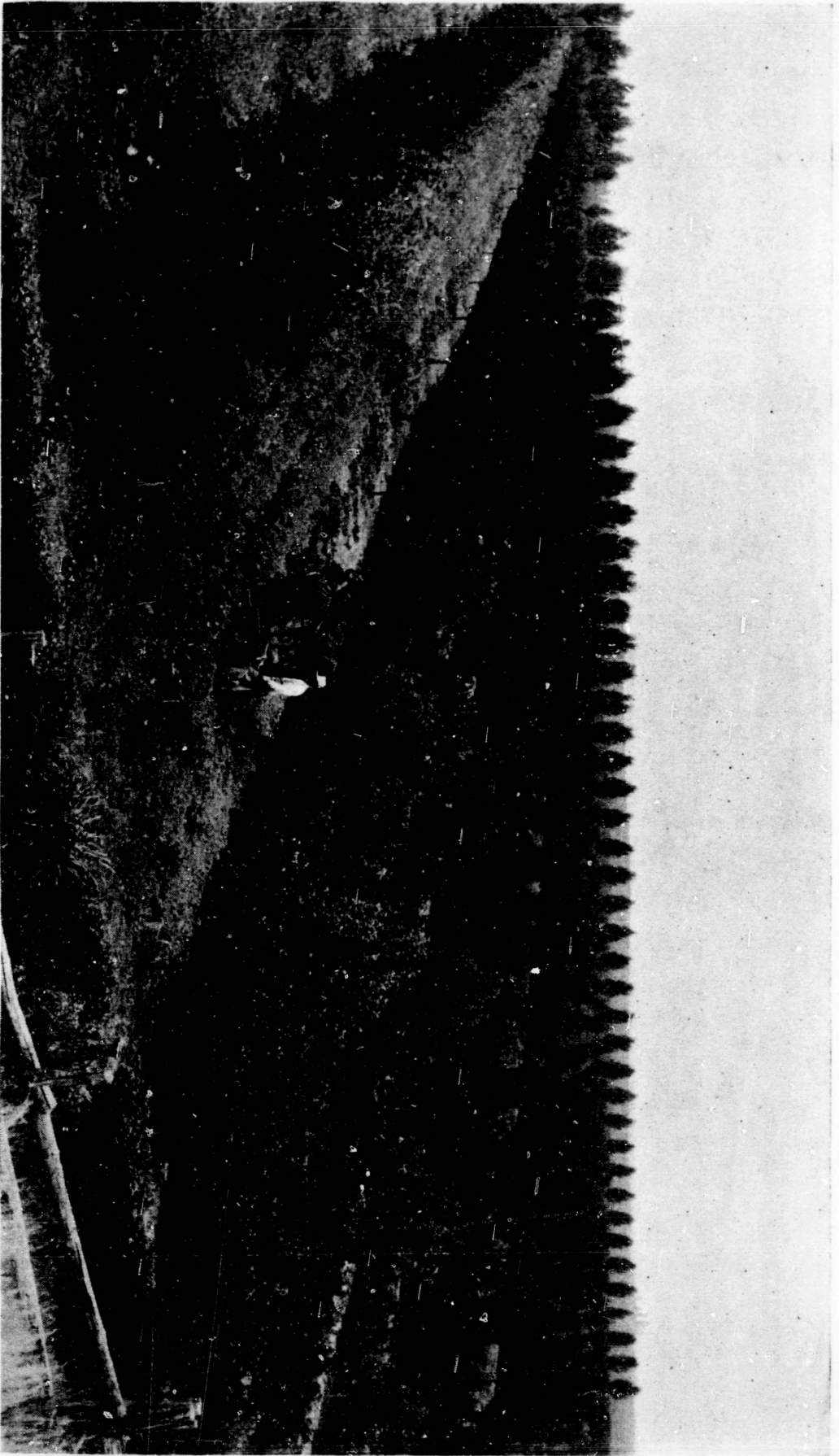
THE WHARF, KELOWNA.

early days of May is a foaming torrent, rushing madly on to the lake. Close by is the trim ranch of Mr. J. Corsorso, taken up by him about thirteen years ago, under the Pre-emption Act. What was then a tangled mass of underbrush and cottonwood, has been by hard work and perseverance converted into one of the finest market gardens in the neighbourhood. The soil is very rich, and specially suitable for the cultivation of onions, cabbage, &c. Here, better than in any other part of the valley, is presented a very interesting sight, *i.e.* the development of a bush ranch from the primeval wild to the highly cultivated fields. On the left is seen the virgin forest; in close proximity the "clearing;" on the right the grain-sown fields, with, at intervals, blackened stumps, conquered, yet defiant, peeping above the waving crop; but one step more and the last vestige of the forest has disappeared, and in its stead may be seen a magnificent growth of every variety of vegetable.

A steep ascent of a quarter of a mile brings us to the crest of the hill leading to the bench ranches. At this point a panoramic view of the valley and lake bursts on our vision, compelling us to linger a moment and feast our eyes on the glorious scene. Proceeding in a southerly direction, we pass pre-emption after pre-emption, until finally we arrive at Mr. Fitzgerald Healey's. This gentleman, with his neighbour, Mr. Tidmarsh, occupy the two most southerly ranches. Here the road suddenly stops and the Penticton trail begins. Of all the bench ranches Mr. Healey's is undoubtedly in the most forward state of cultivation. His neat house, trim orchard, and pretty garden, show the energy and taste of the owner. After a turn through the orchard, under the guidance of our host, we are ready for our return journey, passing over the same ground, until we



reach the Benvoulin Hotel. Turning sharply to the left we pass *en route* Lord Aberdeen's fine property, the Gusichan Ranch, one of the best dairy farms in the country. Further on to the right is Mr. Alan Crichton's, and next in order comes Mr. Crozier's, another "old-timer," who takes a deep interest in the welfare of our valley, and was one of the originators of the "Shipper's Union." We now pass on the left Mr. Ray's splendidly worked farm, with its fruit trees and every kind of vegetable. As we turn to the right our attention is attracted by the extensive and well-stocked orchard of Mr. J. L. Pridham, J. P. It occupies about thirty-five acres, and was planted in 1892, being the first fruit farm of any considerable size in the vicinity. Mr. Pridham is famed for his cherries and plums; the trees planted six years ago are now in as forward a bearing condition as trees planted in Ontario twice that period. This will give some idea of our remarkably favourable climate. Crossing Mr. Dundas' well cultivated fields, we come to Mr. T. W. Stirling's orchard, numbering 2,000 trees, which does credit to the energy and skill of the owner. Though planted as recently as 1895, the trees already exhibit signs of great productiveness. We were shown some peaches which for flavour and size could not be excelled. Mr. Stirling has also taken up dairying to some extent. Believing that it pays to handle only the best stock, he imported from Ontario a number of thoroughbred pedigree Ayrshire cattle. At present from ten cows he makes sixty pounds of butter a week. This would be a highly remunerative industry if carried on on an extensive scale. It might be well to mention here that the broom industry is one which would pay if taken in hand by a really practical man; samples of broom corn raised here are in quality and texture equal to eastern growths. Leaving Mr. Stirling's, the road leads straight to Kelowna,



MR. T. W. STIRLING'S ORCHARD.



passing through the Knox ranch. Mr. Knox, like many others, was fortunate in being among the first to take up land around Kelowna. No better hay and grain lands are to be had, and Mr. Knox as a thoroughly skilled farmer, works it to the best advantage. He has also one of the finest orchards and kitchen gardens in the district. There is, attached, an extensive mountain range, where his large herds of cattle and horses graze during the summer months.



## KELOWNA.

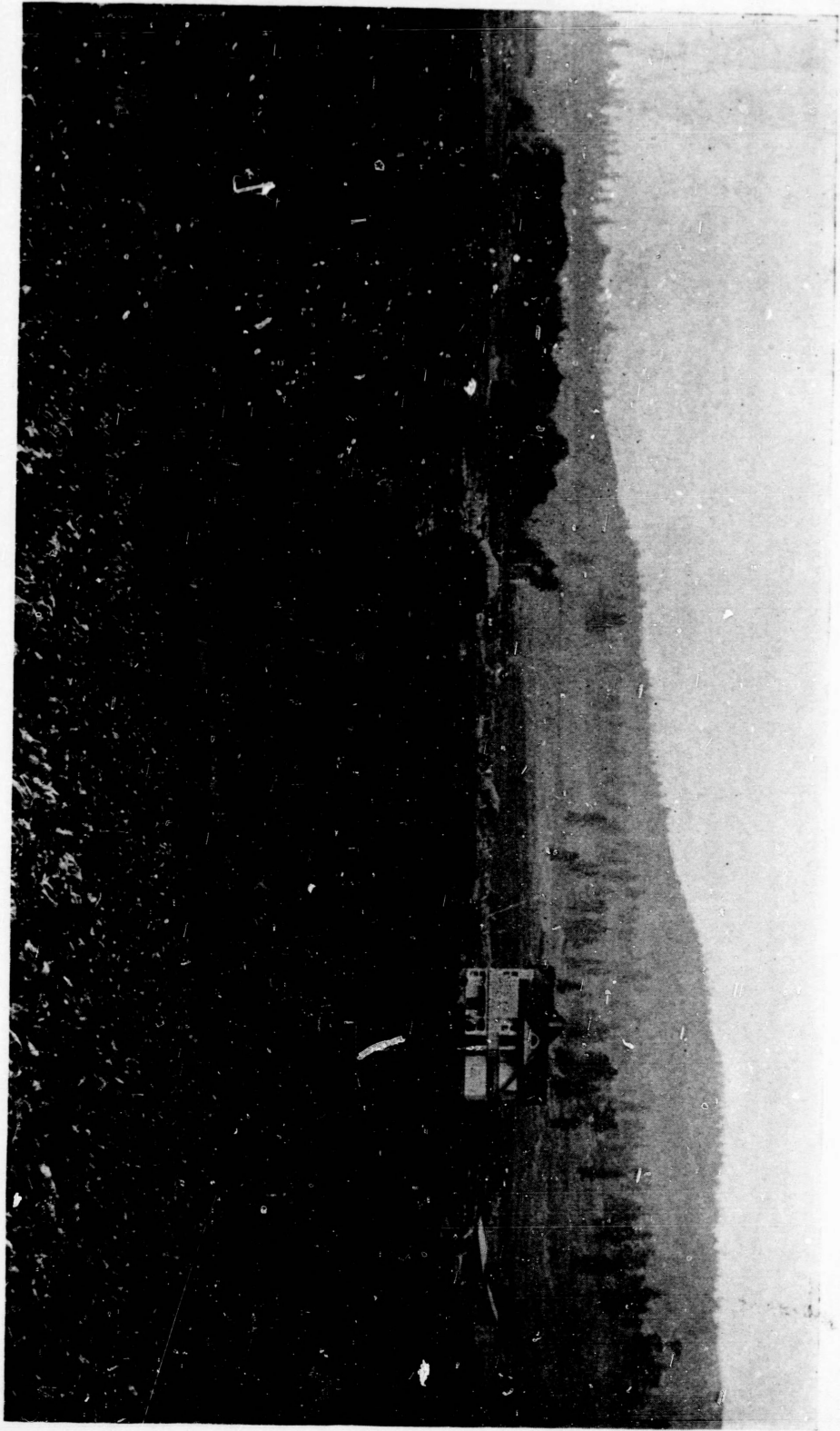
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**F**IVE years ago, if a traveller arriving in Vancouver had asked "the man in the street" "Where is Kelowna?" he would probably have received the reply, "It is somewhere in Central Africa, I believe." But to-day Kelowna is almost as well known at the Coast as any place in the Interior, and this has been accomplished, not by mining or land booms, but by the energy and enterprise of the principal settlers in the neighbourhood.

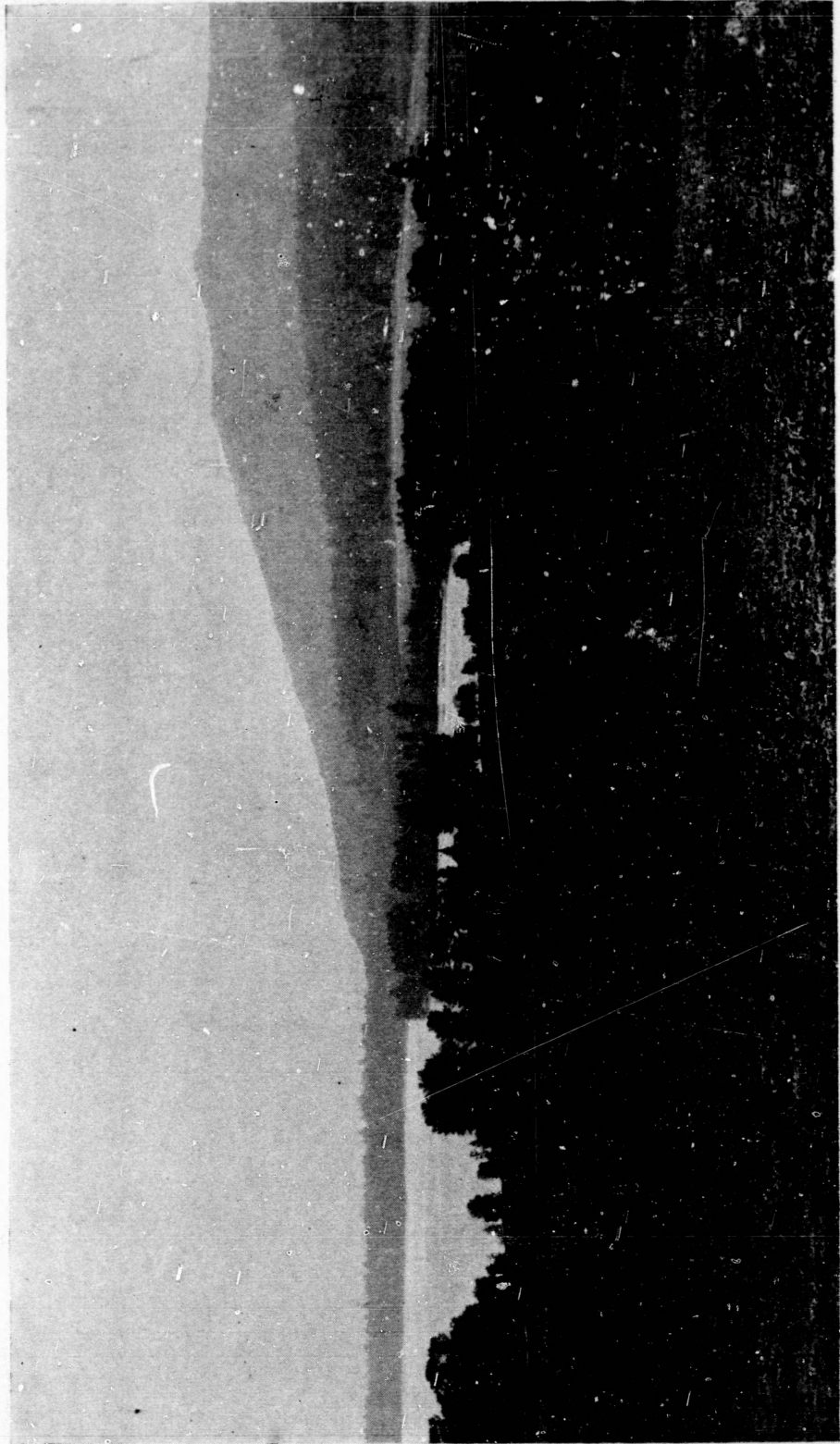
The town is beautifully situated on the eastern shore of Okanagan Lake, about 40 miles south of Vernon, and is the shipping point for the Mission Valley, one of the finest farming districts in British Columbia. Looking from the lake, the tourist sees the little town with its surrounding fertile and well-wooded lands, whilst away to the East and South rises the range of pine-clad hills which separate the Okanagan from the Kettle River and Kootenay. No more charming bits of scenery are to be found in the Province, and travellers say the exquisite and ever varying tints remind them of Loch Lomond or the Swiss lakes. But to return to things practical—on the water front is to be found, of course, the C. P. R. wharf, where the splendidly appointed S.S. "Aberdeen" calls daily on her trips up and down the lake. Close to the wharf is the well-built and commodious storehouse of the Kelowna

Shippers' Union Co., Ltd. Adjoining is the Company's cigar factory, of which we shall have something to say later on. A large boom of logs next directs our attention to the sawing and planing mills of Lequime and Lloyd-Jones, which give employment to a large number of hands, and have a capacity of 28,000 ft. of lumber per day. The rough and finished products find a ready market in the vicinity, and as far south as Camp McKinney and Fairview. This firm also keeps on hand a large stock of every kind of farming implement and machinery. Opposite the C. P. R. shed is Lequime and Weddell's general store, where not only household supplies, but mining and hunting outfits, can be had on the shortest notice. The business is under the personal superintendence of Mr. Weddell. The Lakeview hotel occupies a charming position close to the lake. Here the wearied traveller or pleasure seeker will receive every attention, a good table, comfortable, clean, airy sitting-rooms and bed-rooms, and moderate charges. A more popular and highly respected host than the proprietor, Mr. McDonald, is not to be found in the whole Upper Country. His house is a home away from home, as many can testify with pleasure. The town possesses at present but one church, which belongs to the Church of England, but the Presbyterians intend building at no distant date. There is a good public school under an able and efficient master. We have two clergymen and one physician resident in the town. Our genial post-master, Mr. Bailey, is also librarian of the Kelowna Lending Library, which has on its shelves a good supply of works of history, biography, and fiction. Within the last four years a number of very pretty private residences have been built, which add materially to the general appearance of the town. The climate is dry and bracing. There are few places in the Province possessing more

MR. G. WHELAN'S ORCHARD AND HOUSE.







DUCK LAKE.

attractions for the holiday maker or health seeker, such as boating, bathing, fishing, good roads for driving or bicycling; and for the more adventurous, deer, cariboo, mountain sheep and bear in the neighboring mountains.

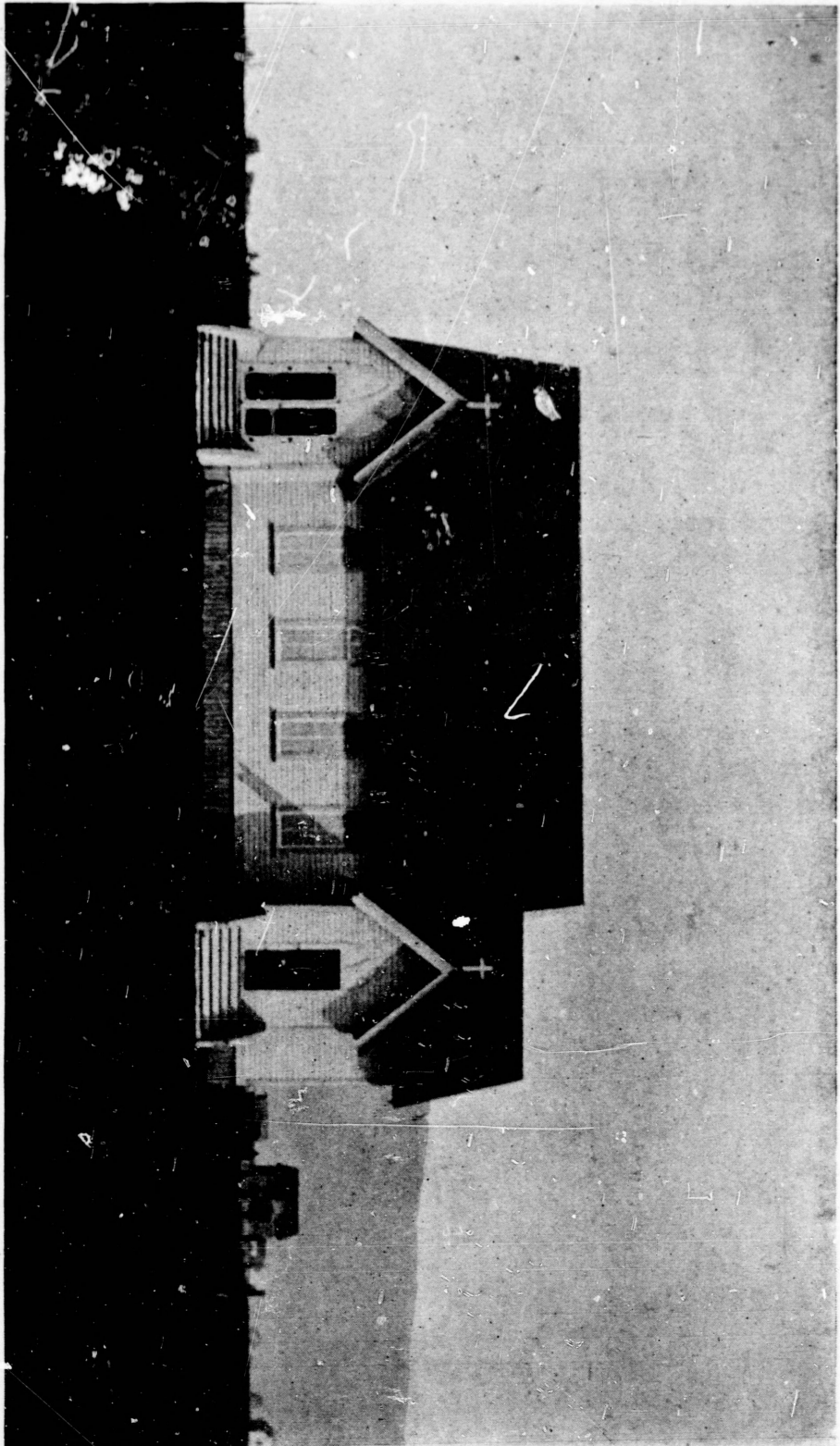
The K.S.U., which has been mentioned before in the course of this notice, deserves more than a passing word, for to it is due a great part of the present prosperity of the valley. This Association is to a certain extent the offspring of an older Association, working on co-operative plans, founded in 1895, for the purpose of handling all kinds of farm and garden produce, under the guidance of Messrs. Stirling and Crozier. After a time it was found desirable, in order to gain more favourable shipping terms, and to meet the rising demand in the Kootenay for farm produce, to reorganise, and work on a somewhat different system—the result was the incorporation of the K.S.U. in 1896. The present capital is \$8,000. The directors and shareholders are all men deeply interested in the prosperity of the district, since they are either property-holders, farmers or merchants. The managing director, Mr. C. S. Smith, and the secretary, Mr. C. A. S. Atwood, are thorough up-to-date business men, whose whole time and attention are given to the business of the Company. The following statement was kindly supplied by Mr. Smith :

“The largely increased volume of trade during the six months ending March, 1898, when \$20,000 were actually paid out in the purchase of produce, in wages, and for the erection of warehouses, etc., proves that the object for which the company was formed has been carried out, and the circulation of this money is bound to advantageously affect the district; and the establishment of such industries as pork-packing and cigar-making must add to the prosperity of the valley.”



The latter business has just been taken in hand by the company, under the superintendence of a highly skilled manager. Tobacco-growing was first undertaken by Mr. Collins in 1894. In this year he entered into an arrangement with Mr. Holman, who thoroughly understands the cultivation of the plant. The quality of the leaf was so good that Mr. Holman advised Mr. Collins to plant more extensively the following year. The result was better than anticipated, so he continued expending more capital; and though no market presented itself, they did not lose hope of ultimate success, which is now, we trust, about to be realised. Samples of leaf and cigars were submitted to experts, who one and all have given highly favourable reports. Messrs. Collins and Holman deserve the thanks of the community for introducing an industry which is bound to add considerably to the monetary welfare of the valley.





THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, KELOWNA.

## **The Agricultural and Trades Association of Okanagan Mission.**

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This Association was "formed in 1894 to encourage and foster the agricultural and trading interests of the Okanagan and Mission Valley." In the above-mentioned year Messrs. Bailey, George Rose, Atwood, Raymer and Crozier, recognising the valuable aid such a Society would be in bringing the farming and trading interests into closer relationship, summoned meetings, which were held at regular intervals. At these reunions papers bearing upon subjects of vital importance to the community were read and discussions carried on ; thus by degrees the Association grew and prospered. In the following year Mr. Stirling suggested the formation of the first Shippers' Union for marketing farm and garden produce ; this in its turn was superseded by the present prosperous K.S.U., of which mention has been just made. It will thus be seen that to the A. & T. A. is due in a marked degree the origin and development of our present satisfactory condition. Messrs. Raymer, President ; Stirling, Vice-President ; and Watson, Secretary, are thoroughly practical men, under whose guidance the Society is bound to go ahead. Their latest venture is the purchase of land for the erection of exhibition buildings, etc., which will be ready for the Fall Show. This annual exhibition of the resources of the district is under the direct control of the A. & T. A., which from the first has been responsible for this highly creditable show.

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