

WINDERMERE DISTRICT

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

The Windermere District

THE 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 Lake Windermere branch, connecting the District with the C. P. R. main line in the North, and the Crow's Nest Pass Railway 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, ore

and lumber. With the completion of the railway, distant markets came within reach such as Fernie with its coal mines, while Calgary is but 12 hours distant. There is also a 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.

AGRICULTURE

The possibilities of the District with regard to mixed farming and dairying have been fully illustrated by the thriving farms and the work of the Dominion Government Experimental Station at Invermere. The farmers generally have proved the special 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 Dominion Government Experimental 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: Columbia, Horse Thief, Toby, Dutch, Findlay and Kootenay. 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.

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

BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

The valley is also fortunate in possession two large lakes, Windermere and Columbia, which afford a means of transportation. The railway skirts these lakes for a distance of 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 the Windermere district, and most of the farms are on the line.

The completion of the railway in 1915 enabled the partially developed mines such as the Paradise, Lead Queen, Ptarmigan, Black Diamond to commence shipping to the smelter at Trail, B.C.; the first named having now shipped about 300 cars. The ores generally in the district are high grade silver-lead.

Since 1915 a large number of logging outfits and several saw mills have been established to the south along the Lake Windermere branch and these mills are gradually extending their operations northward.

ATTRACTIONS

On account of its natural beauty the District is already favorably known to tourists, and its attractions 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 excellent hunting and fishing, and there is a nine hole golf course at Invermere.

The C. P. R. have a summer camp on the shore of Lake Windermere which forms an admirable and additional attraction to the District.

As will be seen from the foregoing, settlers coming to the Columbia Valley, have from the beginning all such modern conveniences as railways, 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 longer 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.

Circular 2b-1000-7-20

BIG GAME

The upper reaches of the Kootenay River north of the Banff-Windermere road are filled with big game such as moose, goat, deer and bear, and good fishing, while south of the Banff Windermere road are to be found moose, elk, mountain sheep (Big Horn) goat, mule white-tail deer, grizzly and black bear. The resorts where these animals may be found can be reached in from two to four days from Invermere, the journey being an easy one with pack and saddle horses.

I have been guiding and outfitting in this district for the past twenty years and carry a large range of pack horses and equipment and am prepared to take out parties of hunters or tourists.

Reference—Manager Imperial Bank of Canada, or secretary of Rod and Gun Club, Invermere, B. C.

W. J. NIXON

Guide & Outfitter, Invermere, B.C.