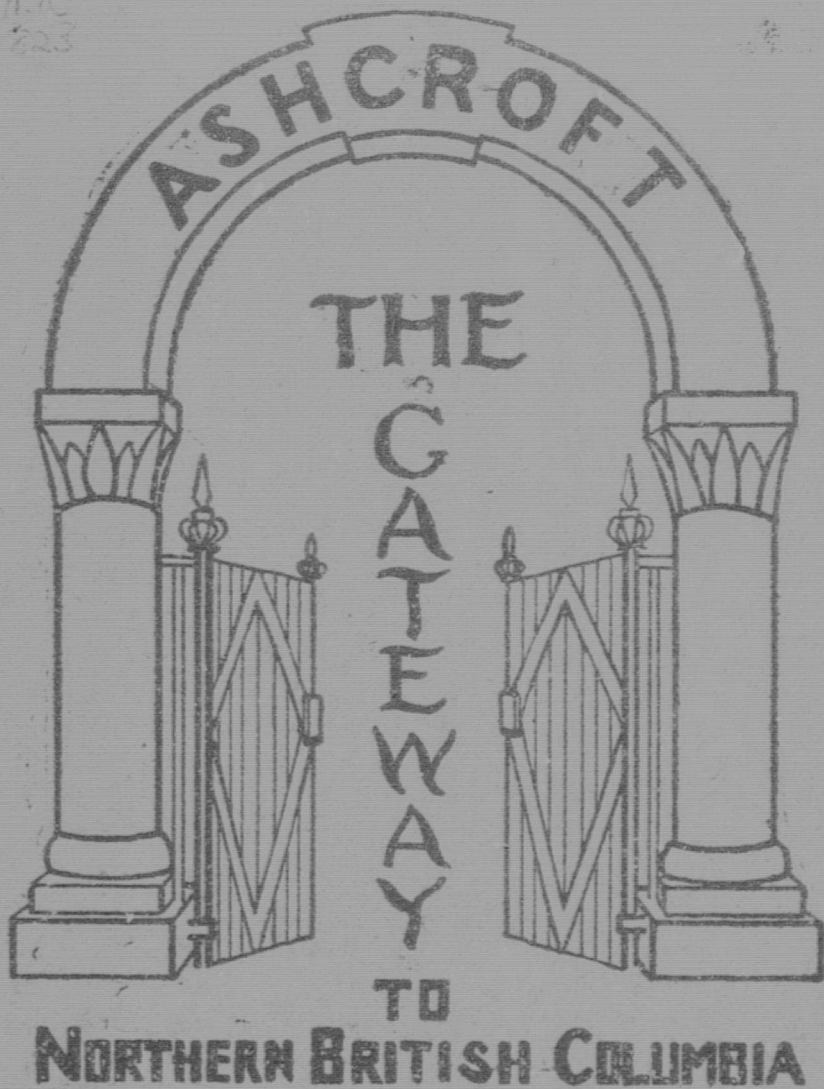


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INTRODUCTORY

In preparing this pamphlet we have not essayed a literary effort but have merely endeavored to supply a long felt want, viz: information and data as to the resources of Ashcroft and New Northern British Columbia: with the easiest and cheapest way of travelling there, table of distances, map etc.

Should this pamphlet prove successful in attracting the attention of would-be settlers, and others, desiring information upon this section of British Columbia, its main object will have been achieved, the rest we leave to Fate.

THE ASHCROFT JOURNAL

Ashcroft, B. C.

March 1909.

THE Ashcroft Hotel

Recently renovated and refurnished.

First class table and bar.

Favorite resort of mining men and
home seekers en-route into the rich
Northern districts of British Col-
umbia.

Opposite C. P. R. Station.

McGillivray & Veasey
Proprietors

1836

THE BANK OF

1909

British North America

CAPITAL, £1,000,000. RESERVED, £480,000.

Oldest bank established in British Columbia.

Deposit and Savings Bank accounts kept.
A General Banking business done.
Drafts granted on all parts of the world.

J. Cran, Manager, Ashcroft, B. C.

Fruit Lands

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HORTICULTURAL
ESTATES, LIMITED.

This Company is now developing the most fertile bench lands on the Thompson River, and will shortly place on the market a portion of their Estate in plots to suit purchasers with a guarantee of ample water for irrigation purposes.

For particulars apply to the Commercial Agents

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA DEVELOPMENT ASSCN.

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE BUILDING.

VICTORIA, B. C.

OR TO THE RESIDENT MANAGER

C. E. BARNES

WALHACHIN, (NEAR ASHCROFT,) - - B. C.

S. A. ROGERS

General Outfitting Establishment
Miners and Hunters Supplies.

Hotel, Blacksmith and Butcher Shop in Connection.
One of the oldest and most reliable
firms in Cariboo.

S. A. ROGERS

Barkerville, = = = B. C.

LILLOOET

THE SPORTSMANS PARADISE

C. A. PHAIR, THE OUTFITTER.

Our guides are the most competent and well equipped in B.C. guaranteeing success. We and our guides can give references in nearly every large city in America and England.

For GRIZZLY BEAR, SHEEP and GOATS you cannot beat Lillooet. For CARIBOU we would recommend a two months trip, for all other game from three to six weeks.

Look at our record from 1903.

1903 to 1906 57 parties, 341 head of big game.

1907 19 sportsmen, 63

1908 35 134

Let us lay out your limit for this Fall. Write early, for prices and full particulars and secure the best guides, to

C. A. PHAIR

GENERAL MERCHANT, FURDEALER AND OUTFITTER
LILLOOET, B. C.

== THE ==
GRAND CENTRAL
HOTEL
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Headquarters for Mining
and Commercial men, and
travellers into the Necha-
co, Bulkley and all points
in Northern British Col-
umbia.

50 Comfortable Rooms

Hot and Cold Baths,
Finest Liquors and Cigars

CUISINE UNEXCELLED

George Ward, Proprietor.



Ashcroft from across the Thompson River.

ASHCROFT, nestling in the famous Thompson Valley and embraced by the surrounding hills, with the silvery Thompson River flowing rapidly past, and clothed in golden sunshine, presents a most picturesque sight to the Tourist, Traveller and intending Settler.

ASHCROFT, on the main line of the C. P. R. Co., is known the world over as the distributing portal for the celebrated Cariboo Gold Fields which for years past, in fact since 1859, have turned out millions of dollars worth of gold, and that the many mining properties are still very rich a reference to the B. C. Mining Report for 1908-9 will prove, this report stating that "The three divisions of the Cariboo District are each credited with an increased output, their mineral production being entirely placer gold."

ASHCROFT, the gateway to CARIBOO and the NECHACO and BULKLEY VALLEYS including the FRANCOIS and OOTSA LAKE sections, lies Eastward some 200 miles of Vancouver. The Cariboo Wagon Road, a national highway constructed in the early sixties runs for 282 Miles North of Ashcroft and the traveller has at his convenience a well equipped stage line operated by the British Columbia Express Company who have rolling stock, horses and equipment to the value of \$100,000.00 used for conveying the Royal Mails and handling the passenger, express and fast freight traffic.

The stage line has the reputation of being the best equipped, best managed and longest stage line on the whole continent of North America.

✻ District of Cariboo. ✻

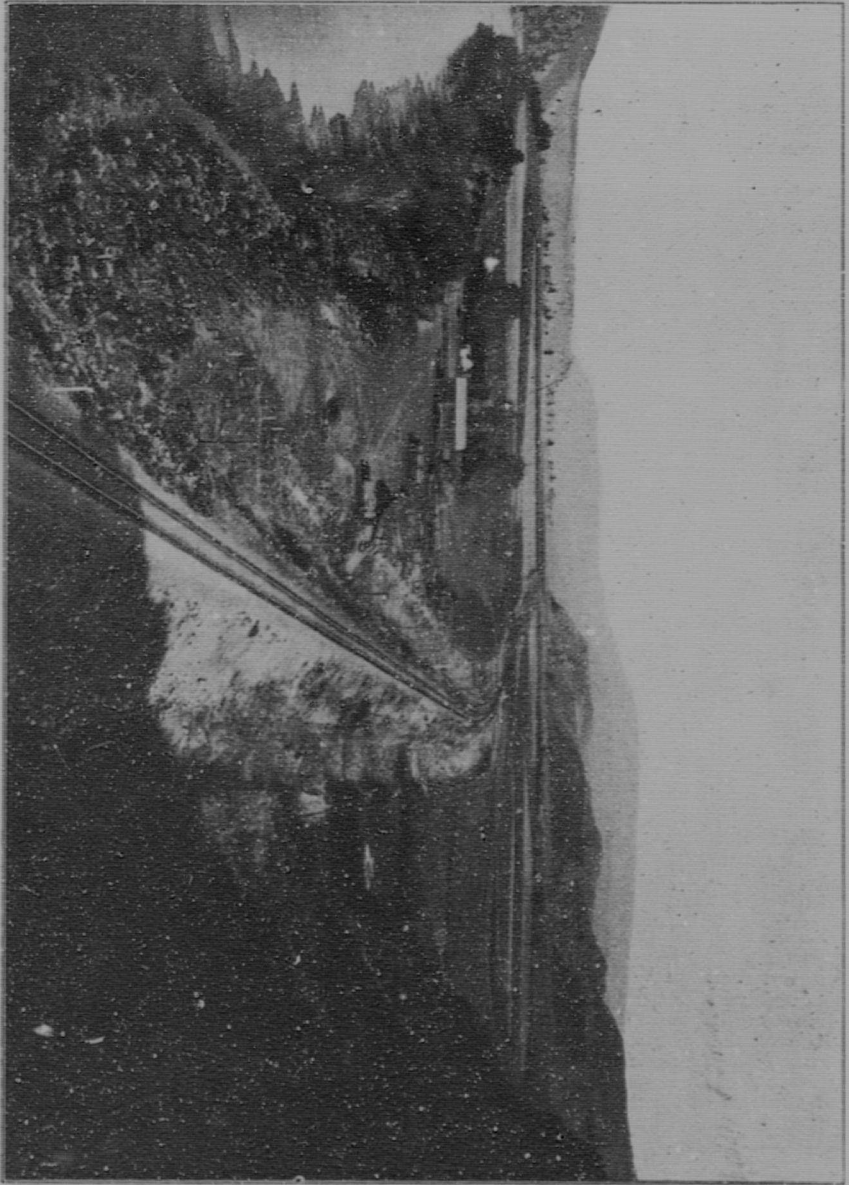
At this time in the history of the Province, in writing of Cariboo one scarcely requires to go into the details of its romantic and picturesque past. Cariboo has for nearly fifty years been a household word not only in British Columbia, but throughout the greater part of the Continent. In Great Britain, and as far off as Australia, in the early sixties the name was quite familiar. In some respects it was better known than British Columbia itself, of which it forms a portion. It was a name that spelled gold. It followed the discoveries and rushes of Australia and California than which since the days of Spanish treasure-finding in Mexico and Peru nothing has so excited the lust of wealth among adventurers. It followed after the excitement in Australia and California had subsided, and the now seasoned miner and prospector were seeking for new worlds to conquer. Within the limits of its auriferous areas it had proved to be even richer than these countries. As British Columbia was known even then to be a "Sea of Mountains," and was vast in extent there seemed to be opened a vista of possibilities never before realized, nor yet dreamed of.

The story has been told so many times that it need not be repeated here, even in outline,—how the gold-seekers toiled and struggled up the Fraser river in canoes, toiled along its precipitous banks, endured all kinds of hardships, packed their grub to sustain them in the nameless wilderness, how they made their first discoveries, and how the news of the rich finds brought the rush of '61—'62. The most memorable event in the history of British Columbia and one that had the most lasting effects in determining its future. The first rush of 1858 to the Fraser River was more or less ephemeral in character, because, of the 15,000 to 20,000 persons who embarked from San Francisco to join it, the greater proportion returned the same season. It may be stated as a fact, that of those who went to Cariboo in the second rush at least ninety per cent remained in the Province to father the present generation of British Columbians, and to found homes and fortunes in this Province.

For a long time Cariboo remained at very much of a standstill, if anything receding, with occasional flutters of anticipation on account of some new mining enterprise. The one thing, however, required to galvanize it into life is railway communication. In anticipation of the building of the G. T. P., business on the Cariboo waggon road last year increased considerably by the going into the interior by that, the natural, route of miners, prospectors, timber cruisers, etc. Incident to that a large number of timber limits was staked, and during the past year or two many new land holdings have been taken up either by pre-emption or purchase from the government.

It is not generally known that in the district of Cariboo here still remains considerable areas of crown lands still unalienated. This is true to a less degree than it was, but there are still opportunities. The late Government agent in Cariboo, Mr. John Bowron, used to say that there was a million acres of good land to be pre-empted.

Now that it has been definitely decided that the Canadian Northern, which enters the province through the Yellowhead Pass, will take the line of the old C. P. R. survey through Cariboo district to Vancouver via the Thompson river, the activity of last year will be increased by fourfold. In other words, all appearances indicate that the hour of Cariboo has struck once more—nevermore so joyously, so merrily, so abundantly rich in streaks as of yore, but with a note clearer and one that denotes larger and more permanent development and prosperity.



Thompson Valley Fruit Lands.

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Mining.

The gold in the early days was extracted mainly by the ordinary placer mining methods, and deep drifting, by which only the richest pay dirt was obtained, but it was obvious, however, that for a country with its conformation, Cariboo has still stores of placer gold not amenable to ordinary methods, and of late years attention has been directed to hydraulicing, which on a large scale has been in progress. Many large hydraulicing plants have been installed, some successful, and others the future of which has yet to be determined. It is very difficult to make an estimate of the gold that has been taken from Cariboo since the outset, and estimates have varied from \$35,000,000 to \$55,000,000.

It is confidently predicted that by the new process of hydraulicing that the district is only on the eve of its production, and that in the years to come more will have been taken from the old river and creek bottoms and benches than were yielded in the past.

At one time it was thought that dredging for gold would prove highly profitable but the dredges used proved unsuitable for the work to be done owing to the great number of boulders in the streams and rivers, so this method has been abandoned for the present.

So far no extensive quartz ledges have been discovered, but both gold-bearing and copper ores have been found. Prospecting for vein mines has not been extensively followed for the reason that in the absence of railway transportation it would not be practicable to put such discoveries to profitable use. With the incoming of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway a new impetus will be given to this class of prospecting. The theory is that with the extensive placer deposits there must be somewhere in the mountains of Cariboo quartz lodes from which they were eroded. On account of the heavy covering of moss the mountains of Cariboo are particularly difficult to prospect, but with the exploration, incident to railway building, it is natural to conclude that important discoveries will be made.

Placer mining in Cariboo has not been active for some years, but at the present time a number of properties are being placed in a position to yield.

Generally speaking there is considerable activity throughout the district, and the prospects for the future are brighter than they have been for many days. Mining development however, depends for its greatest success on railway transportation.

Agriculture.

Mining is what we usually have in mind in thinking of Cariboo, but eventually the greatest resource of that district will be agriculture in its various branches, stock-raising, dairying, grain-growing, vegetable and fruit-growing. There are very extensive areas of good agricultural land in addition to grazing lands, and some of the finest farms in the Province will yet be found in the Cariboo district. Outside of stock raising the market for farm produce is limited to purely local demand, so that farming operations have necessarily been limited to supply that demand. Roller mills operate at the mouth of Quesnel, and turn out the finest of flour from the finest of wheat. Cariboo wheat, raised on Mr. Wm. Adam's farm, took the gold medal at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876. Of course, cattle ranching on a large scale has been carried on for years with very considerable success, stock being driven to Ashcroft and shipped by the C. P. R. to the Coast, but when railway facilities shall be supplied and the country opened up, the ranches which are owned in large holdings, or many of them suitable for the purpose, will following the example of other parts in the Province, be divided up into lesser holdings, and will enjoy the luxury, heretofore denied, of a large population of small farmers and orchardists. The future for Cariboo in respect to mixed farming is very bright.



Cattle Ranch Scene



Haymaking in the Foothills

Bear Lake Country.

BEAR LAKE COUNTRY which lies some 22 miles Nor-Westerly of Barkerville should receive the attention of all settlers, prospectors and big game hunters.

The Valley is about 18 miles long, is practically clear of timber, has a fertile soil, good climate and situation very favourable for stock raising, grain and vegetables.

There are numerous meadows 10 to 300 acres in extent ready for the plow, and grasses waist high. A little beyond Bear Lake district and from 18 Mile Creek down stream, Bear River Valley is densely forested and that portion as well as 27 square miles around the lakes near the head of the river, has been located for timber limits. When the Grand Trunk Pacific is completed and this timber begins to be logged off and turned into lumber, Bear River ranchers will have a good market at their doors for all they can raise. In the meantime the Barkerville mines affords a good market at most attractive prices.

Independent of the immense agricultural possibilities this great Valley region is the Sportsman's Hunting Ground as moose, goat, deer and bear are quite numerous and last Summer's hunting parties returned with first class bags of game. There is also an abundance of fish in the streams and wild berries are thick in Summer months.

Fort George.

There is an area of two or three thousand acres surrounding Fort George that is suitable for agricultural purposes. Dr. Dawson states that such crops as have been tried succeed well, and the elevation is only about thirty feet above the Fraser. Wheat and grain of all sorts can be grown successfully, as well as large potatoes of a fine quality. He notes that potato stalks, with the exception of the lower leaves, were destroyed by frost on October 10th.

The lower part of the Valley of Chilaco (Mud) River that flows into the Fraser at Fort George, is wide and flat-bottomed, averaging about a mile in width. It forms a deep depression in the generally level surface. There are a good many stretches of open grassy land, heavily covered with tall grass, but generally the valley is heavily timbered. These flats appear as if occasionally flooded, but the soil is very fertile. Among the timber found were many large trees. Douglas fir and Englemann's spruce sometimes reached a diameter of three feet, while cottonwood was found with a girth of five.

Timber and Furs.

One of the resources of the Cariboo country is its timber. Hitherto practically inaccessible and unmarketable it will come to the front now as the most desirable in the province on account of its nearness to the Middle West market. All along the water stretches which are so numerous and extensive in the northern interior there are extensive tracts of timber. A great deal of it was staked before the reserve was placed on timber by the Government, and will now prove a bonanza to those who were fortunate enough to secure limits.

Cariboo and the Northern districts are noted for their many valuable fur-bearing animals and every Winter sees the hardy trapper preparing his traps, snares and baits for the Martin, Beaver, Silver Fox and Skunk which inhabit these parts.



Irrigation Reservoir



Harvesting at Ashcroft Manor.

Cariboo is an indefinite term so far as extent and exact limitations are concerned. As mapped, it is different for different purposes—electoral, judicial, etc.

For Provincial electoral purposes there are three constituencies carved out of what might properly be included within its limits—Cariboo, Quesnel and Clinton.

Physically, all three have the same characteristics. In other words Cariboo proper extends as far north as Fort George and Giscome Portage, as far east as Yellow-head Pass, nearly as far south as Clinton and as far west as Tatla Lake. It may almost be said to include Nechaco Valley, but as we leave the bunch grass here, objections may be taken to it being outside a natural classification. It does include, however Blackwater Valley and Chilcoten country.

Chilcoten Country.

The Chilcoten has long been known as a ranching country. Here are located the extensive ranches of the Western Canadian Cattle Company, the Cotton, and numerous other ranches. Travelling westward from 150 Mile House into Chilcoten the country broadens into a wide plateau of park-like aspect. Belts of timber alternate with open prairie covered with luxuriant grass. The flora is very similar to that of the fertile eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. There is a rapid descent to the lower bench of the old Risky farm. Although at an altitude of 2,400 feet, fine crops are produced by irrigation, and the lower terraces appear both warmer and drier than the plateau above.

From Risky Creek in a south-westerly direction there is a large stretch of open prairie, covered with bunch grass and forming a fine stock-raising country. The highest part of the plateau is about nine miles from Risky Creek, and there is then a gradual slope towards the valley of the Chilcoten River. Beyond this valley, and rising gently as it recedes, the same plain stretches for many miles, diversified prairie and woodland.

After following along the plateau parallel with the valley for some seven miles the trail descends to the valley bottom. From this place to Alexis Creek, fifteen miles, the valley is wide, with much level land on terraces a short distance above the river. It is estimated there are about 7,000 acres of cultivatable land in this part of the country alone.

In the valleys and river benches where most of the ordinary crops are grown, fruit and garden crops succeed in favourable locations. The elevated plateaus are, however, only used for stock-raising.

Blackwater Valley.

That part of the Blackwater Valley lying to the north of Kluskus Lake contains abundance of good grazing ground. The slope is generally lightly tree-clad, the undergrowth consisting of bunch-grass, vetch and strawberry, while the south bank is much more heavily timbered with scrub pine and poplar and occasional groves of black spruce. From Kluskus Lake to its junction with the Nasco, the Blackwater flows through a series of lakes, along which are found large stretches of land. The surface slopes gently to the water and is dotted with groves of aspen and spruce, and covered with luxuriant grass.

After its junction with the Nasco, the Valley of the Blackwater is wide and flat-bottomed for a distance of ten miles. The country is generally well-timbered, but there are occasionally grassy meadows. The river then runs westward through a range of hills which are not known to be of any value. On descending to the plain, the growth of timber greatly improves and groves of large Douglas fir occur frequently. The surface is undulating, with large alders growing in the moist hollows. As it is 300 feet below the general level of the country and of great size, it may be of agricultural value, but there is a heavy growth of timber that will require clearing. Another range of hills is met with after this plain has continued some miles and from that point to the junction with the Fraser, the valley is contracted into a canyon with rocky sides, apparently of no use agriculturally.

Game and Fish.

Cariboo within the wide limits assigned to it in this article is still, and will, in all probability for some time to come, remain a rich field for the sportsman, both hunter and fisherman. In regard to the big game one cannot do better than quote from the beautiful new edition of Official Bulletin No.17., "Game of British Columbia."

"These are the favorite hunting grounds, (Lillooet, Bridge River country and Chilcooten,) as the country is suitable for horses, the climate splendid, and the mountains not too thickly timbered. The game consists of Ovs Montana or big-horn goat, grizzly and black bear, mule deer, and in parts of Chilco'tn, caribou are plentiful.

"From Quesnel up to Fort George on the Fraser River, game is not very plentiful, though close to the river a few bear and deer may be found, and in some places a few miles away there are caribou. However, some 70 miles up the river from Fort George the "Grand Canyon" is passed, and then a magnificent moose country is reached and extends as far as the Little Smoky River. From reliable reports received, it is probable that there are more moose to the square mile than in any other part of the Continent, and every year their numbers seem to increase. So far the country has never been hunted except by a few prospectors. Whether the horns attain the large size of the Cassiar moose has yet to be determined, but some very fine heads have been seen. In this district caribou are very plentiful on the higher plateaus, and in places both grizzly and black bear are numerous.

"At the present time travelling would be done by canoe and a great deal of the moose hunting in a like manner. The lower levels are heavily timbered and hard to hunt in, but on the higher plateaus there are big stretches of meadow and sparsely timbered country.

Ducks and geese are very plentiful in Cariboo; the lakes all along the Cariboo road being their breeding places. Prairie chicken, Ruffed and Richardson grouse are abundant, particularly the first-named. Higher up the Franklin grouse, and on the summits the Ptarmigan find their habitat.

Salmon and trout are common to the entire water-shed of the Fraser, all the five species of the Pacific Coast salmon being represented. In addition to the salmon, which afford both good food and sport, there are several varieties of trout found in all the waters.

❖ The Journey Northwards. ❖

The CARIBOO ROAD on which year after year thousands of dollars have been spent in grading, ditching and gravelling, now furnishes, with the exception of a few spots, easy travel either for pack-train, wagon or stage.

Along the road, at different points, good accommodation can be secured for man and beast in first class comfortable stopping houses, and hay and grain can also be purchased at reasonable rates. The whole length of the Cariboo Road the traveller is kept in communication with the outside world by means of the numerous Telegraph and Post Offices which a paternal government has located in the most convenient and useful places.

The Provincial government has likewise established agencies at the most important points such as Clinton, 150 Mile House, Quesnel and Barkerville and here the records are kept, land and water applications received, mining licenses issued and all legal matters attended to by courteous officials who attend to the wants of the newcomer most praiseworthy.

After leaving Ashcroft the road passes through the Cache Creek and Bonaparte Valley and enables the traveller to see much rich agricultural country as the many ranches, which have been established for years, amply justify.

Clinton.

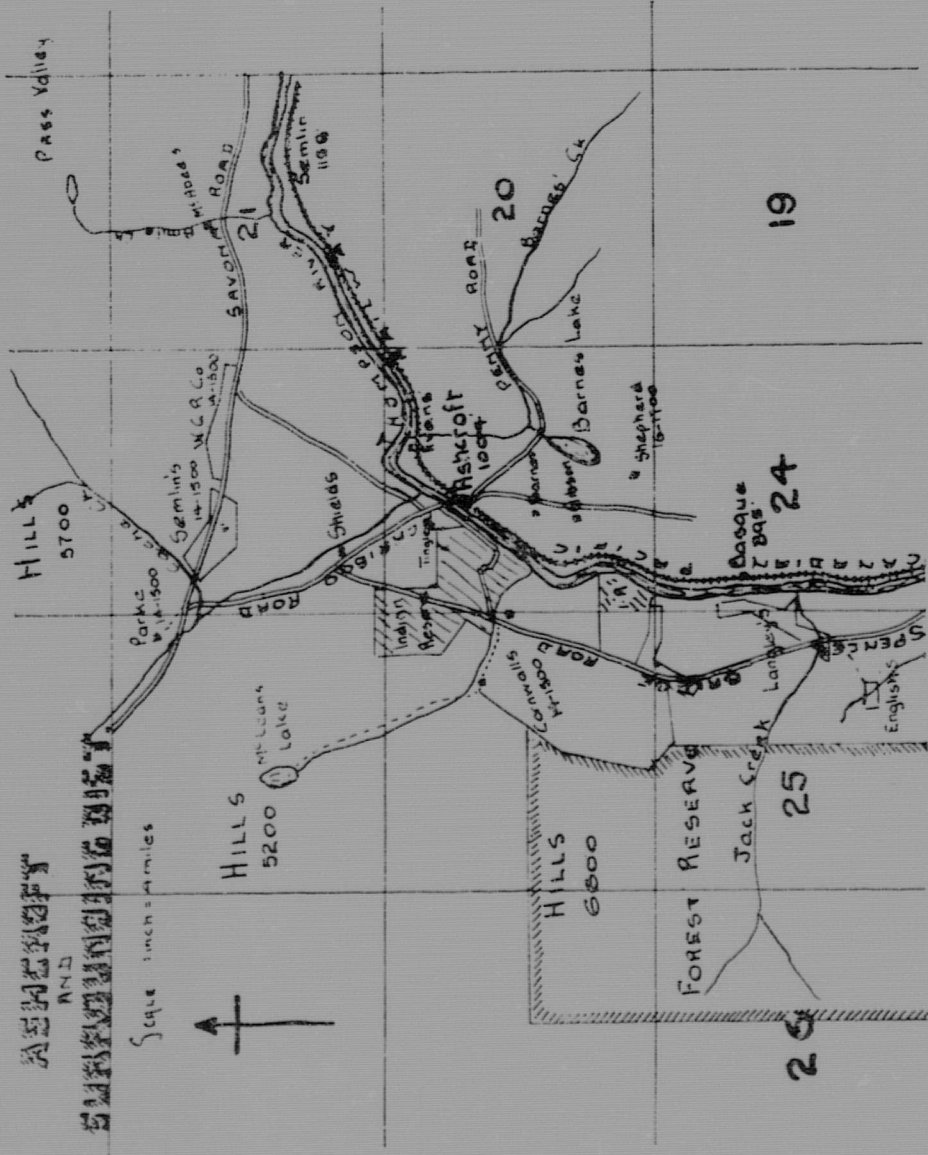
Many pretty hamlets are passed, the first out of Ashcroft being the old established village of Clinton where twice a year the Assize Court meets for the preservation of law and order in the County of Cariboo. Between Clinton and the Lac La Hache Valley are passed the 70 Mile House and the 83 Mile House this latter point being the abiding place for the stage at the end of the first day's travel from Ashcroft. Then in turn Bridge Creek and Highland Ranches are passed and the traveller emerges into the Lac La Hache Valley. This valley contains good agricultural possibilities and already there are several nice ranches where grain growing, dairying and cattle and horse raising are practised with profit to the owners. The valley terminates about the 141 Mile House, known as the Enterprise Ranch, which furnishes a ranching landscape which any country should feel proud to possess.

ASHCROFT

AND

SURROUNDING DISTRICT

Scale 1 inch = 1 mile



Sketch Map of the District around Ashcroft.

150 Mile House.

Then in turn the traveller reaches the 150 Mile House from which hamlet, branch roads run to the Chilcote, Horsefly and Quesnel Forks districts, all these branch lines are equipped with good stages carrying the mails, passengers and express into the remotest corners of these districts. The 150 Mile House, which with the Williams Lake and Chimney Creek country is situated in a good agricultural section of country, is owned and operated by the Cariboo Trading Company and their general store is the central supply point for the Chilcote, Horsefly and Quesnel Forks districts. A full line of general merchandise suitable for the miner, rancher, hunter, trapper is always kept on hand.

The Horsefly and Quesnel Forks sections are principally mining and these camps have experienced all the vagaries of mining life, to-day doing well and everything flourishing, tomorrow neglected and deserted for new pastures.

Soda Creek.

Continuing on the main Cariboo Road from the 150 Mile House the route is still northward for some 28 miles, when for the first time the road touches the Fraser River at Soda Creek. Soda Creek is a pretty hamlet nestling on the banks of the Fraser and is noted for its grain and fruit growing propensities. At this point the traveller may vary the road travel by taking a commodious river steamer for an eight hour run up the Fraser connecting again with the Cariboo road at Quesnel. A second steamer is now under construction which it is proposed to run between Soda Creek and Fort George. This latter point occupies an important geographical situation and is destined to become one of the main stations on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway which is now under construction.

Should the traveller prefer keeping the highway from Soda Creek he will see much good agricultural land, mostly hay and grain, and many nice ranches such as Moffat's, Australian, Bohanon's and Kersley are passed before arriving at Quesnel.

Quesnel.

Quesnel is beautifully situated at the junction of the Quesnel River with the Fraser and was founded some forty years ago by the late Senator Reid. The town has two hotels, several good stores, flour and saw mill and is the centre of a rich agricultural country which supplies most of the Cariboo mines with produce, beef, dairying, etc. A mild climate, crops can be grown without irrigation, and high prices can be obtained for all farm products.

Barkerville.

From Quesnel the stage enters upon its last lap of sixty two miles passing enroute the mining camps of Stanley, Van Winkle, La Fontaine and Windam and finally entering the old historic town of Barkerville known in the olden days as Richfield. This quaint old time town which was the Mecca of the gold seekers in 1859, built in the channel of a creek-bed and with most of the buildings erected on stilts, has had a glorious if somewhat brief career.

Several gold propositions which are still being worked around Barkerville may yet prove rich enough to attract another rush into this country and while not likely to assume such proportions as the 1859, will this time be more permanent.

Barkerville has good hotels and general stores and although the town is a few miles from the railroad yet within a short time a connection will doubtless be made with the G. T. P. Ry. some eighty miles of intervening country with easy grades being the only obstacle in the way of this desirable connection.

Northern British Columbia Stage Lines
of
British Columbia Express Co.

Carrying Passengers, Royal mail, Express and
Fast freight.

Operating from

Ashcroft on the Canadian Pacific Ry.

INTO

Cariboo and Lillooet Districts

And along the route leading to

Nechaco Valley, Fort George,
Bulkley Valley, Ootsa Lake,
Chilcoten, Findlay River.

and other points.

Head Office, . . . Ashcroft, B. C.

Special conveyances furnished.

Send for folder.



B. C. K. Stage on Cariboo Road.

Junction for the Nechaco-Bulkley.

QUESNEL is the point at which prospectors, hunters, settlers and tourists leave the Cariboo Road for the Nechaco and Bulkley Valleys and for the Francois and Ootsa Lakes.

The road into these sections of country swings North West from Quesnel. A good wagon road has just been completed by the Provincial Government as far as Bobtail Lake, a distance of 85 miles from Quesnel. This wagon road crosses the Blackwater River about 45 miles from Quesnel and a trail at this point branches off North East to Fort George, where the G. T. P. Ry will undoubtedly establish one of their divisional points.

From Blackwater, at which point a Telegraph Office is established, the wagon road which will be completed this Spring, continues for some ninety miles into Nechaco Valley.

The Nechaco Valley.

The NECHACO VALLEY through which the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway have surveyed a line has vast agricultural possibilities. The Valley is approximately 75 miles long and varies in width from 5 to 45 miles. While often spoken of as level it is really a gently rolling country with here and there small hills. Large meadows, with luxuriant growth of grass are quite common and numerous picturesque lakes and streams abound, which form a scene that sets an intending settler's pulse beating a quick measure as he thinks that a small amount of energy will even add to the beauty of this Eden-like park.

The timber is a small growth of poplar, easily cleared, and soil a very rich black loam in some parts and white silt in others. The silt is forty feet at the maximum and at least thirty feet deep on the average. A good deal of land has already been taken up and the farms testify to the productive fertility of the magnificent soil and climate.

First class crops of wheat, which will run 60lbs to a bushel, barley, rye, oats and clover have all been sown and grew luxuriantly. Potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, onions, and cabbage have proved a great success. Pea vine and Vetches flourish like weeds.

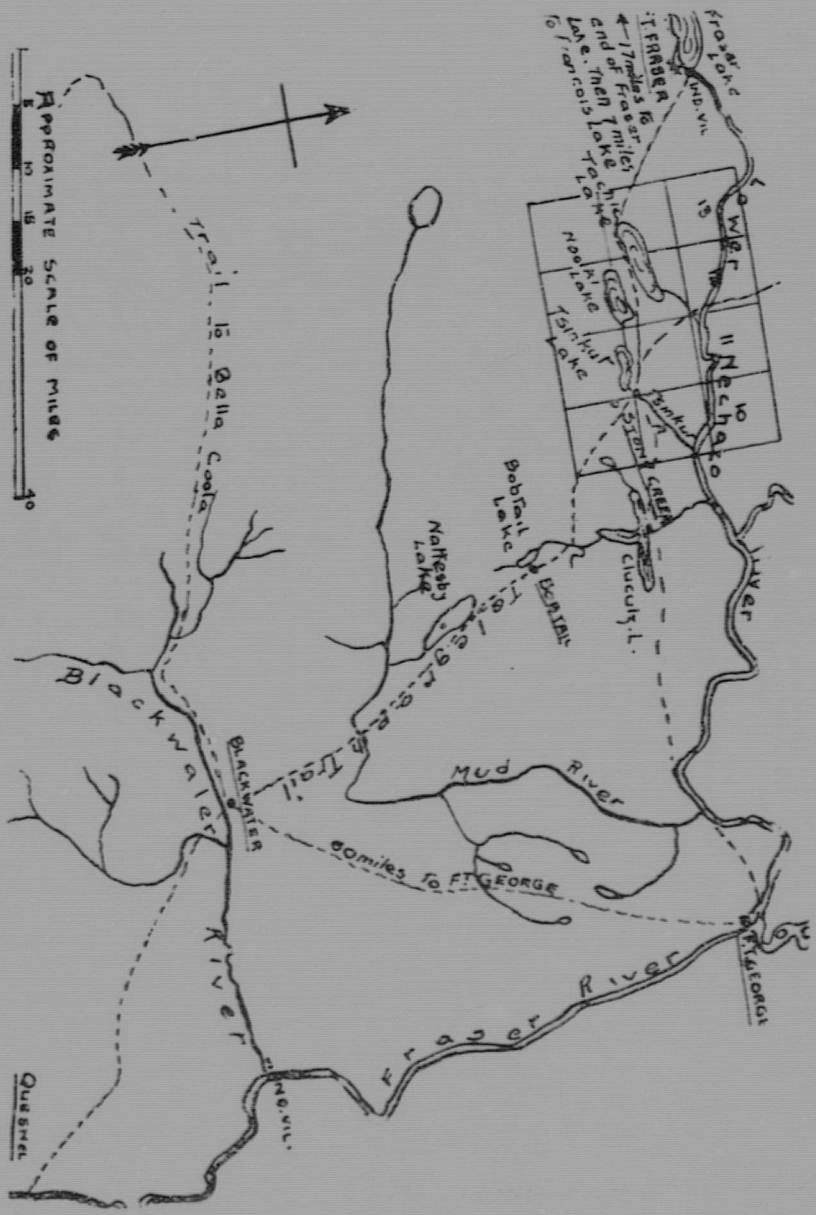
Small fruits do exceedingly well and the hardier kind of apple will amply repay the planting of an orchard and the rainfall being sufficient the heavy drain of irrigation expense is thereby saved.

It is generally thought that some day the Nechaco Valley will be a rival to Alberta as a wheat growing section. Several sections of the Nechaco are particularly adapted for stock raising, there being an abundance of fodder grasses of various kinds, cattle only need to be fed occasionally and for no longer than a couple of months in winter.

The climate is comparatively mild owing to the fact that it is protected on the East and North by mountains from cold winds, and is only 125 miles or so from salt water, thus receiving the beneficial influence of the Japan current. The fall of snow in the Nechaco Valley is not more than twelve to sixteen inches on the average and the glass rarely reaches 10 degrees below zero. Much small game is found in the Nechaco Valley and in the Fall when the annual immigration to the South begins the waterways are alive with wild duck, geese and swan. Fishing in most of the lakes is excellent at certain periods of the year.

Some of the lakes are of fairly good dimensions, Tsinkut Lake being two and a half miles in length, Noveki Lake four miles and Lake Tachic almost ten miles long by two wide. The shores of these lakes are mostly wooded. Settlers can be sure of a plentiful supply of water for in addition to the many lakes, springs and streams, water is easily secured by wells at a depth of from 10 to 20 feet. The well water is pure, contains no alkali and is free from any objectionable taste.

The transportation facilities which have heretofore kept this Valley from settlement and made the land of little value, are now solved. The Grand Trunk Pacific within a couple of years will run right through the Nechaco. Constuction work alone on this great transcontinental will furnish a market for more than Nechaco Valley can supply. In addition to the G. T. P. the Canadian Pacific who are building from Winnipeg to Wetaskawin will continue the line through the Yellowhead pass to the Pacific Coast. With such lines of railways, Northern British Columbia will indeed be in position to compete easily in any market.



Sketch Map of Pecharo Valley.

Francois and Ootsa Lake Country.

From the Nechaco Valley a good trail swings Nor-Westerly thirty miles to FORT FRASER. At this point there is a Telegraph Office and the Hudson's Bay Company have a supply and trading store. Continuing in a Westerly direction we pass Fraser Lake, seventeen miles in length, and seven miles further brings us to the FRANCOIS and OOTSA LAKE country.

This important and most promising section of the province is settling up steadily and at the present time has a population of over a hundred, while there is ample room for hundreds more settlers.

Francois Lake exceeds 70 miles in length while Ootsa Lake is about 45 miles long, paralleling each other and extending from East to West. Both these bodies of water ultimately find their outlet in the Fraser River and form its northwestern source.

This whole country is fairly well covered with a growth of black pine and red and black spruce and is interspersed with hills and some level land of excellent quality for agricultural purposes, while the best of it has a light growth of poplar of both the smooth and rough bark varieties. This poplar, at present valueless, is useful for the manufacture of pulp wood, and is quite easily cleared.

Bulkley Valley.

Still continuing Nor-Westerly and after travelling the trail for some hundred miles we reach the famous BULKLEY VALLEY. The Bulkley is destined to become one of the richest mineral sections of British Columbia. Splendid coal and copper claims have been staked and with the advent of the G. T. P. Ry the vast resources of this fertile valley will be properly exploited. A large extent of these coal lands is held by several Companies and the coal which is used locally for blacksmithing appears to be of an excellent quality, however so far the veins have not been uncovered to any great depth.

Most of the minerals which have so far been discovered in the Bulkley Valley are in the neighbourhood of Copper River and of the Babine and Bear River mountains. But as yet no very considerable amount of work has been done upon the claims owing to the lack of transportation facilities and the practical impossibility of getting in machinery. A small trial shipment has already been made from Hudson Bay mountain to a smelter in the South and the returns for copper, gold and silver proved to be very satisfactory indeed. The ore was taken out on horseback. In four of these districts it is highly probable that successful mining camps will be established. Yellow copper pyrites are found in these localities and practically all big copper mines yield this ore. These mining locations lie between 20 to 30 miles from the G. T. P.

Table of Distances.

With the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway the NECHACO VALLEY, FRANCOIS and OOTSA LAKE and the BULKLEY VALLEY will become known as the "Garden Spots" of British Columbia and will reward the incoming enterprising Settler who doubtless at first has to conquer a few minor difficulties.

Following is a table of distances from Ashcroft, "The Gateway", to above districts.

ASHCROFT	to	QUESNEL	.....	2 2 0	miles
QUESNEL	to	BLACKWATER	.....	4 5	..
BLACKWATER	to	BORTAIL LAKE	.....	4 5	..
BORTAIL LAKE	to	NECHACO	.....	4 5	..
NECHACO	to	FORT FRASER	.....	3 0	..
FORT FRASER	to	FRANCOIS & OOTSA LAKE	.....	2 7	..
OOTSA LAKE	to	BULKLEY VALLEY	.....	1 1 0	..

Fruit Growing.

Fruit growing is one of the infant industries of British Columbia, but it is growing rapidly and is quite certain ere many years to rival mining, lumbering, or fishing.

The southern portion of this province is now acknowledged to be the finest fruit country in Canada, the fruit being equal in quality to any grown in America.

A trial shipment of apples was sent to Great Britain in 1903 and aroused much interest amongst fruit dealers and consumers. Every year since then large collections have been sent and shown at all the leading exhibitions and horticultural shows, and in all cases the exhibits have been carrying off high honors.

In a letter accompanying his report Thomas Cunningham, provincial inspector of fruit pests, says: "The present value of the orchards of British Columbia has reached the enormous sum of fifteen million dollars, and they are increasing in value at the rate of not less than 25 per cent. annually. It is quite safe to estimate the value of these orchards five years hence at thirty million dollars."

The setting out of an orchard.

The setting out and care of an orchard until it becomes a source of profit requires considerable outlay of cash and personal exertion, but the results after a few years furnish ample compensation. Root crops and small fruits planted between the trees for the first year or two, and red clover up to the fifth year should more than pay for the trees; but many fruit growers deprecate this practice, preferring to devote the whole strength of the soil to the young trees. The fourth year trees should produce some fruit.

The cost.

The cost of setting out 20 acres of apple trees in British Columbia is about as follows: 20 acres (irrigated), at \$250 per acre \$5,000 00 Fencing \$200 00 Preparing land \$150 00 Trees (968), at 25 cents each \$242 00 Freight, etc. \$30 56 Setting out trees, at 8 cents each \$77 44 Total \$5,700 00. The cost of maintenance for five years, with the original cost and interest, would amount to \$10,000 00, less the value of fruit produced. In the 6th year the orchard should produce \$2,000 00 worth of fruit, in the 7th \$3,200 00, and in the 9th \$5,800 00, after which it should pay a net annual profit of \$125 to \$150 per acre—an assured income of \$2,500 to \$3,000 a year.

Actual results.

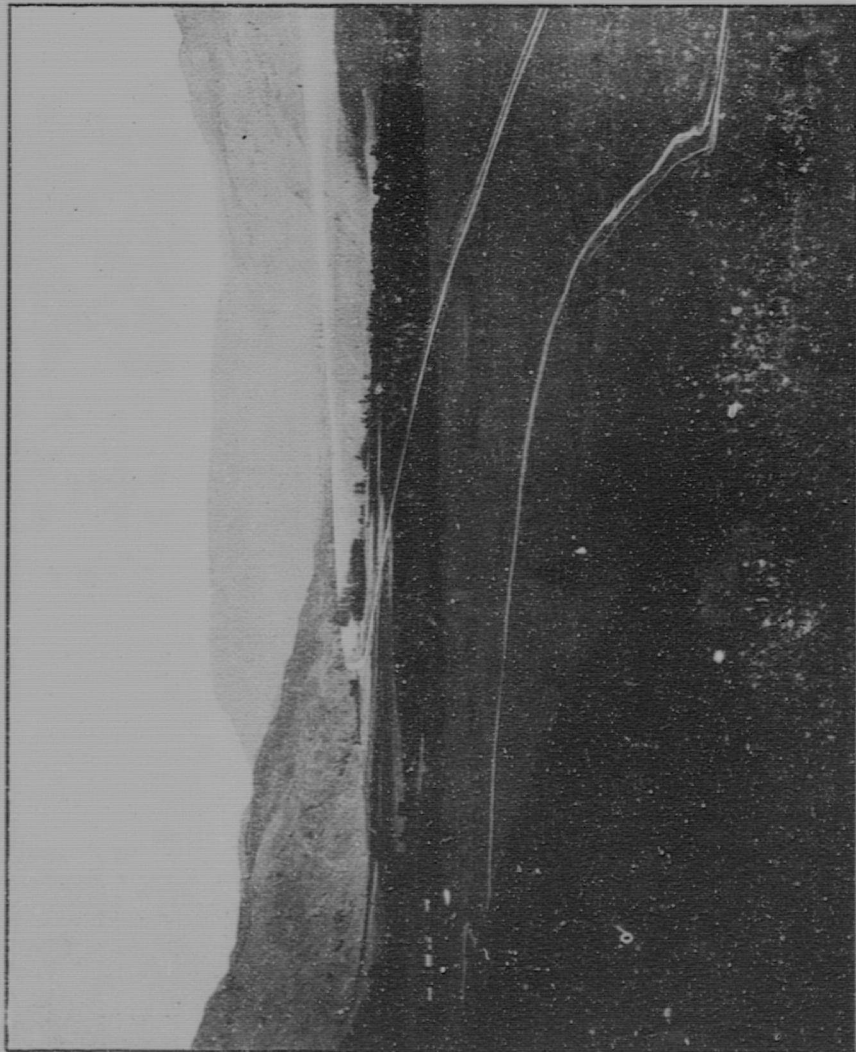
As to actual results, here are the figures furnished by a grower whose bearing orchard of 17 acres was planted, 13 acres in 1895 and 4 acres in 1899. Fruit produced, sold at packing house unpacked, 1899 \$329 - 1900 \$560 - 1901 \$2,088 - 1902 \$1,702 - 1903 (140 tons) \$3,809 - 1904 (130 tons) \$3,915 - 1905 (174 tons) \$5,544 - 1906 (175 tons) \$5,375.

1.3 acres of d'Aunjon pears produced in 1905 - 17 tons of fruit, or 884 boxes. The selling price of this fruit packed f. o. b. was \$1,239 20 In 1906 these same trees produced 19 tons 955 lbs. of marketable fruit equal to 1,025 boxes, realizing \$1,435.

Two and half acres of Italian prunes, produced in 1905, 32 tons, equivalent to 2,909 boxes at 60 cents per box - \$1,705.40. Instances can be given where 20 acres have produced \$10,000 worth of Northern Spy Apples, and Tomatoes to the value of \$1,500 per acre.

The prolific yield of the soil is instanced by one cherry tree producing 800 pounds and another tree actually yielded 1000 pounds of luscious fruit.

The actual experience of most fruit growers has been very satisfactory and act as a lodestone to many to start up a like industry for themselves.



Section of the B. C. P. Estates, Ltd., Fruitlands.

Ashcroft "The Gateway".

ASHCROFT is easily one of the most important towns in the interior of British Columbia and few towns in the province are better known to the mining and commercial interests of not only Eastern Canada but also the United States and Great Britain. The town has a prosperous and industrious appearance with its many Ranchers shipping cattle and Farmers unloading wagons of produce consisting chiefly of the famous "Ashcroft Potatoes" (than which there are none better) and the equally famed luscious red apple. Yet another sign of industry is furnished by the many freight teams daily loading mining supplies for the Northern mines and merchandise for the many Chilcote and Cariboo ranches.

Some idea of the foreign goods imported and shipped North after being cleared at the Ashcroft Custom House can be formed when it is known that for years past the duties collected at this point have averaged over \$15,000.00 per year.

The town is well equipped with all modern conveniences, three Churches flourish, a public School, two good Hotels, numerous General Stores, including one of the largest in the province.

ASHCROFT has an excellent Electric Light and Water service, also a Volunteer Fire Brigade and Board of Fire Wardens.

A branch of the Bank of British North America is established here and the medical and legal professions are likewise ably represented by a resident Doctor, two legal firms, and a County Court Judge.

The C. P. R. agency and Telegraphs including the Southern terminus of Ashcroft-Dawson line, is located at this point and telegrams are distributed East and West all over the World.

The British Columbia Express Company whose head offices are at Ashcroft, operate stage lines over six hundred miles in length through the Cariboo, Chilcote and Lillooet districts carrying Mails, Passengers, Express and Fast Freight in most expeditious manner.

The Provincial Government Agency for West Yale is located here, the Agent also acting as Mining Recorder and Registrar of the County Court which is held about every two months.

The town also boasts of an up-to-date newspaper, "The Ashcroft Journal" which was established in 1895 gives reliable information of the Yale-Lillooet-Cariboo Districts and Northern British Columbia, and contains all the mining and agricultural news of these rich sections of British Columbia.

ASHCROFT is the shipping point for all the cattle raised in the Cariboo, Lillooet and Chilcote districts, and between four and five thousand head are annually shipped to the Coast markets.

Devotees of Sport can find many a branch in which to indulge their fancy as Tennis, Baseball, Bowling, Basketball, Curling and Rifle Clubs are in full swing, while disciples of Isaac Walton can enjoy most excellent Trout fishing in the Thompson River, the fish, mostly of the Silver and Rainbow species, running from 1 to 12 pounds.

The Climate is everything that can be desired, the winter being neither too cold or too snowy, and yet just cold enough to make ice for curling and skating.

Up to the present time Cattle ranching has been the chief industry in the immediate vicinity of Ashcroft which includes the Bonaparte and Cacic Creek Valleys, but a change is now taking place, the land having become too valuable to merely range cattle over. The soil of these ranges is of a light sandy loam and capable of growing fruit, unequalled in California and fully equal to any other section of British Columbia.

ASHCROFT has met the whole Province at the New Westminster Exhibition and captured the first prize for Apples and at the Chicago World's Fair, Ashcroft again captured first prize for Apples. Fruit from the bench-lands within the twenty five mile radius of Ashcroft has won the Gold Medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Exhibition in London England, and in other shows in Great Britain in competition with the British Empire. There are thousands of acres of these bench-lands which can be converted into first class fruit lands and capital is now being interested with a view of purchasing these properties and the installation of Irrigation Works, sub-division and placing the same upon the market.



An exhibit of traps by C. A. Phair, Lillooet.

Lillooet, the "Sportsman's Paradise"

The situation of this pretty hamlet, lying on the plateau along the banks of the turbulent but majestic Fraser River, and flanked by high mountains would take a lot of beating from a scenic standpoint and the famed Tyrol and Switzerland itself could not rival this picturesque village. The climate the year round is something, that with the completion of a railroad into Lillooet, will bring thousands of health seekers and holiday makers into this district. The winters are mild and but little snow falls on the average.

There is no section of British Columbia where finer fruit or more magnificent garden produce is grown and the fertility of the soil is marvellous. Seaton Lake, about two miles away, furnishes a lovely drive up the pretty Cayoose Creek and supplies Lillooet with the best of boating and fishing.

Lillooet is the supply town for a large mining section of country and these mines, principally gold quartz, are yet destined to play an important part in our province. Much gold has been taken from the Fraser River right at Lillooet and a Gold Dredge which has been operating for the past two years has paid splendid dividends when managed aright.

It is expected that in the near future many more dredges will be erected and successfully operated. The Bridge River district is the principal mining centre and many prospectors each successive year explore and bring to light its many hidden treasures and future resources. Bridge River is also noted for its game resources. Every year hunting parties come from all over the world to shoot Big-horn Sheep. Bears of every description, Sheep, Goats and Deer and very few go away disappointed. Hunting guides, horses, and supplies of all sorts can be furnished upon short notice.

Lillooet has good comfortable hotels, Provincial Government Agency, Post and Telegraph Offices, and many other conveniences, not the least being an ample and excellent water supply which is well managed by local residents.

Lillooet lies Westward of Ashcroft, a distance of 61 miles, the road running through the magnificent scenery of the Marble Canyon. The British Columbia Express Company operate passenger and express stages, leaving Ashcroft every Monday and Friday.

Fruit growing in Thompson Valley.

The great fertility of the soil in the valleys of the British Columbia Dry Belt has long been known and the fact that it is peculiarly adapted for the production of all kinds of small fruits that can be grown in the Temperate zone has been practically demonstrated in many places and nowhere with greater success than in the Thompson River Valley. This district possesses an unrivalled climate and soil that produces fruit of superior flavor and appearance and phenomenal quality.

The first work toward the development on a large scale of lands in this valley is now being done by the British Columbia Horticultural Estates Ltd. at a point 13 miles east of Ashcroft, where they have purchased the Penny Ranch and a large tract of adjoining land comprising 5000 acres of the choicest valley bench lands in the Province.

AP of this land will be placed under irrigation. Several large reservoirs are being constructed in which will be stored the Spring flushed waters in quantity sufficient to guarantee an amply supply of water in the driest seasons. Three lines of ditches, flumes and pipes will convey the water to the property and deliver it at each ten acre plot.

A complete system of reservoirs and ditches has been completed for supplying water to 500 acres. On one half of this acreage the company are this season setting out 16,000 apple trees of the choicest varieties, and are offering for sale, plots of ten acres of growing orchard.

The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs through the entire length of the property of the Company with a station exactly in the centre.

At this point a townsite of 50 acres has been laid out where water will be delivered under pressure for domestic purposes.

Although this land has not yet been advertised nearly one half of the acreage ready for planting has already been sold. Sales are made by the Company on easy terms and it is their expectation that the land will be sold as rapidly as it can be made ready.

The situation of the land on the main line of the Railway gives the settlers a great advantage over those of any other district in the Province suitable for fruitlands, being one day nearer to the markets, East and West.

The Canadian Northern Ry proposes to extend its line to the Pacific Coast by way of the Thompson River and when this is completed two transcontinental lines will pass through the Valley.

The great value to the Settler of these facilities is self evident.



Basque Ranch

BASQUE RANCH :— This magnificent property which belongs to Mr Walter Langley lies about twelve miles south-west of Ashcroft. Hitherto the place has been used for a cattle ranch but on account of the high advance in the price of arable acreage the land is now too valuable to merely range cattle over. Doubtless the immediate future will see the Ranch sold in its entirety or subdivided for fruit growing purposes.

This property contains 1500 acres of the choicest arable land with an abundant water supply and enjoying such a glorious climate, its altitude is only 1000 feet above sea level, it is probably the finest fruit orchard in embryo that the Province can show.

ASHCROFT MANOR :— This beautiful Estate, from which the town of Ashcroft takes its name, is situated three miles West of town and comprises some 4000 acres of valuable land. Situated in the very heart of the beautiful Thompson Valley this property was founded by Messrs Cornwall Bros over thirty years ago. Most of the acreage is adaptable for fruit growing and within a short time the many hundreds of cattle, at present in possession, will have disappeared and the estate will form an important link in a chain of properties being developed and cut up for orchardists and fruit growing.

TINGLEY RANCH :— Just after crossing the newly built bridge of the Cariboo Road at the North end of the town you pass this property which, comprising between four and five hundred acres in extent, is a particularly valuable one, the soil being very productive, with the market for garden stuffs and fruit close at hand. An orchard of a few acres, several years old, amply demonstrates the wealth of climate and soil, and the potatoes, beans and other vegetables grown on this place are not excelled anywhere in the Province.

The Thompson Valley.

The Situation of this famed Thompson Valley is one to be greatly envied— being the nearest point to the centre of the Northern Interior of this Province where great railway development is taking place and where there is agricultural land, available to supply tens of thousands of homeseekers.

Sections of the country such as Nechaco, Bulkley, Francois and Ootsa Lake will draw upon the Thompson Valley for their fruit for many a decade of years. The investor and homeseeker can make no mistake in coming to the Thompson Valley: now is the golden opportunity.

The British Columbia Government bulletin has this to say of the Thompson Valley which is included in District No. 2. "This includes the valleys of the Upper Fraser, the main Thompson and North Thompson, the Nicola and Bonaparte rivers. The question of water to irrigate the lands is one requiring serious consideration, as without an abundant supply of water in the dry belt it is impossible to be sure of a crop every year. The prospective fruit grower, however, does not have to contend with heavy forests along the Thompson river that have to be encountered on the coast. The fruits grown are all of the very highest quality and include many varieties.

The largest quantity of grapes shipped annually from any one point in the province is produced near the junction of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers."



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FRUITLANDS, AND TOWN
PROPERTY FOR SALE.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

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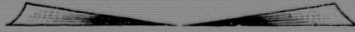
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A weekly newspaper giving the latest news of the Cariboo-
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mation on the resources of the Nechaco
and Bulkley valleys and all districts
of Northern British
Columbia.

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Ashcroft, B. C.

Opportunity.

Master of human destinies am I !
Fame, love and fortune on my footsteps wait
Cities and fields I walk: I penetrate
Deserts and seas remote. And passing by
Hovel and mart and palace, soon or late
I knock unbidden once at every gate!
If sleeping, wake; if feasting rise before
I turn away. It is the hour of fate,
And they who follow me reach every state
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe:
Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate
Condemned to failure, penury and woe
Seek me in vain and uselessly implore
I answer not, and I return no more!

Ino. F. Ingalls.

Indisputable Facts.

The population of the world is ever increasing
This means an increasing demand for the products of the land.
"The Safest And Best Investment On Earth
Is The Earth Itself."
And this applies with special force and truthfulness to
Rich virgin soil that can yet be bought at reasonable figures.
Here then is your opportunity.
What You Will Be!

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