

Where Life's Worth Living.

It is in compliance with numerous requests that I write this article, respecting British Columbia fruit farms, and the reason why I have selected a fruit farm in the Kootenays in preference to any other district.

Perhaps the thing that first set me thinking about securing a fruit farm in B. C., was a remark made by a friend of mine at a small social gathering in Winnipeg. We had invited a dozen intimate friends to spend the evening, and when the time for separating came one of them remarked, "what a pity it is that friends must be separated. I suppose that within five years we will all be scattered and will never see each other again. I wish there was some place where we could all settle a few years from now and be together the rest of our lives." Instantly another asked, "what is the matter with a fruit farm for each of us in B. C.?"

That is how it began. When I resigned my church in Winnipeg in June, it was agreed that I should go West and find a suitable place in which we could each buy a small fruit farm.

I travelled through Idaho, Oregon and Washington States looking over some of the finest fruit sections of the United States. I saw some magnificent orchards, but the land must all be irrigated, an operation that costs an enormous amount of money and is never quite satisfactory; neither is the fruit grown upon irrigated land as good as that grown on non-irrigated land.

The Hood River strawberries are famous throughout the world, but they are in no respect superior to those which I have seen along Arrow Lake where land can be bought at one quarter of what it cost in the Hood River district.

I then came into Canada via Spokane, and in my tour of inspection, visited Trail, Nelson, East Kootenay, Oreston, Boundary District, and the Okanagan, after which I took the stream "Rossland" for a sail up the Arrow Lakes, which, with the exception of the Whatchan Lakes and the finest bodies of water I have ever seen. The grandeur and wild profusion of the scenery, the abundance and almost tropical luxuriance of the native vines and wild flowers, the smiling orchards which fringe each side of the Lakes, charm the eye, and deceive the traveller into believing that he has entered the enchanted gardens of Dreamland. One can easily appreciate the infatuation of Mr. W. R. Hearst when he said, "I have seen the most beautiful Lakes of Italy and Switzerland, but I have never seen anything finer than the Arrow Lakes."

Landing at the "Needles" I walked out a mile into the Whatchan Valley, and here I found what I had been looking for, and what I had been told could not be found in B. C., i. e. several thousand acres of first class fruit land practically as level as a floor and which having been recently swept by heavy fires could be cleared at very small cost. It was a case of "love at first sight." I had found a suitable place at last, where myself and as many friends as cared to do so, could live amid orchards and grapes and flowering vines.

Fruit growing in this district is still in its infancy but has long since passed the experimental stage. A number of intelligent and prosperous farmers are growing fruit here that is not only winning prizes at the local exhibitions but has won the highest awards in the great Fairs at Spokane and London. Mr. Fauquier sent 28 exhibits to the Nelson Fair and won 20 prizes. I saw these prizes three weeks ago in Mr. Fauquier's own home at Needles.

At the recent exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society in London, Eng., the silver Banksian Medal was awarded to Kootenay District for its exhibit.

The fruit of Kootenay has called forth unstinted praise from all who have visited her orchard during the fruiting season.

Richard Grigg, British Trade Commissioner, said, "I never saw such magnificent fruit, nor trees of a form so nearly perfect as in the Kootenay."

Dr. Fletcher, of Ottawa, said, "I have again visited a large number of your bearing orchards, some of which have been bearing for many years, and I have made a most careful inspection of trees and fruit, and my judgment is that you have here a combination of soil and climate which enables you to grow all kinds of fruit, which for quality and quantity cannot be excelled on this continent."

Professor Mills, of Guelph Agricultural College, said, "I have never seen anything finer than the fruit of the Kootenay District. You have a fruit country unsurpassed by anything in the Dominion."

A. McNeill, Chief of the Dominion Fruit Division at Ottawa, said, "The only Province of Canada that can produce apples of the fancy class is British Columbia, and I have come to the conclusion that the only districts, even in British Columbia, that can produce it is the Kootenay. The soil and climate are wonderful, unequalled anywhere in Canada."

Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, said, "What I have seen and learned of your fruit industry has inclined me to believe that, such as are the separate streams of wealth that flow from your minerals, your timbers

and your fisheries, their joint and mighty volume will be inferior to the streams of national wealth, of domestic contentment, which is one day destined to grow from out the orchards of British Columbia."

Since the above words were spoken Lord Howick, son of Earl Grey, has purchased a tract of land in the Kootenay District, and is bringing it under cultivation for fruit growing.

The profits of a Kootenay orchard almost surpass belief. I have a photograph of a five year old Northern Spy tree on Fauquier's ranch that this year produced eight boxes of apples which sold for \$3.00 per box. A Northern Spy tree in Ontario or Nova Scotia requires from ten to fifteen years to come into bearing.

He was offered \$25.00 per tree for the fruit on his Gravenstines before they were picked, but he refused the offer, picked the apples himself and netted \$0.00 from each tree. Each one of these trees will give as much profit as an acre of the finest wheat land on the prairie, and there are 130 of these trees to the acre, besides an equal number of pear, plum, prune, cherry and peach trees which are put in as "fillers"! Strawberries can be cultivated between the rows of trees and will net from \$500.00 to \$800.00 per acre. I picked strawberries at Needles June 17th that measured nine inches in circumference.

In conversation with Mr. Fauquier a month ago he told me that he had not sold a box of Northern Spy apples this year for less than \$3.00, and that the lowest price he had received for any apples whatever was \$1.75 per box of forty pounds. He took two and a half tons of tomatoes from a quarter of an acre and sold them for \$1.50 per crate. He sold 700.00 worth of celery this last summer. I visited Mr. Gibber's farm at Needles and he pointed out to me an acre of land from which he had taken ten tons of potatoes without using any fertilizer of any kind. He told me that some of his potatoes would weigh three pounds each.

I saw a ten acre apple orchard near Trail, situated on the steep side of a mountain, with soil very rocky and land very uneven for which the owner refused \$10,000.00. His reply to my question as to why he had refused \$10,000.00 for his small orchard was suggestive—"I take five thousand dollars a year from it. In two years I will get my \$10,000.00 and have my orchard besides. Why should I sell it for \$10,000.00?"

The market for B. C. fruit cannot be surpassed. The orchards cannot supply the local market. I paid ten cents per pound for apples at Nelson and they were very inferior apples at that having been imported from the U. S. I was told by the Nelson Board of Trade that 6000 tons of fruit were shipped to B. C. from the U. S. during the past year. Only 5% of B. C. land can be brought into cultivation and not more than 2% of it is suitable for fruit culture, and although hundreds of thousands of fruit trees will be set out this year, the supply of fruit cannot equal the demand made by the numerous mining towns that are springing up all over B. C., the gigantic lumbering camps and the thousands of settlers who are constantly pouring into the country.

Should the local market ever become overstocked, then just on the other side of the "Gates of the Rockies," begins that great wheat farm, 1500 miles long and 1200 miles wide, on whose fertile divisions a great host of industries and hopeful farmers are raising the golden wheat that is to feed the hungry mouths of three continents and fill Canada coffers with yellow gold. J. J. Hill, the Railroad wizard, says that in fifty years, Canada will have a population of fifty millions and he is running his railroad straight through the heart of Winnipeg, houses and churches, and factories, and shops, being removed or torn down, to make way for the great steam monsters, the heralds of another

great system that is to tie with long threads of steel, the Queen City of the Prairie, with Vancouver by the sea. J. J. Hill is a prophet. He has had his vision. He has seen Canada as she is to be; the home of teeming millions of happy, wealthy and industrious people, and he is spending liberally of his vast wealth to lay down the lines of travel and of traffic for these coming multitudes.

Two per cent of the land of B. C., must supply fruit for all these. The overstocking of the fruit market is a problem that will never confront the farmer of B. C.

One wrong ought to be righted. The transportation Companies will carry a man from Germany or Norway or any part of eastern Europe, into B. C. as cheaply if not cheaper than they will carry a man from the Maritime Provinces and as a result foreigners are flocking into Western Canada and getting the very cream of our country whilst Canada's own sons are on stoney and unproductive soil, and through a winter six months long, trying to eke out a scanty subsistence. I wish our railroads would give the people of these Eastern Provinces the opportunity to see, at a reasonable cost, the great legacy of fertile wheat and fruit lands which a beneficent Father has bequeathed to them.

I had two purposes in visiting B. C. this winter. One was to visit some of the best fruit sections of the county and the other to get my own farm of 16 acres which is situated in the fertile and beautiful Whatchan Valley, cleared of trees so that I can set out my orchard in the coming spring.

From being a colony of six Winnipeg friends the number has grown until now there are between thirty and forty families of us most of them being from the Maritime Province and the number is steadily growing until now it looks almost as if it would soon number up into the hundreds. There is room enough in the Whatchan Valley for almost four hundred families, and when the land is all in fruit and dotted with neat and comfortable homes, it will be the most beautiful spot on God's green earth.

F. ALLISON CURRIER.

Woodstock, N. B.

Was Mixed Often.

Some remarkable stories are being told about town and among the country people coming in of this simple home-made mixture curing Rheumatism and Kidney trouble. Here is the recipe and directions for taking: Mix by shaking well in a bottle one-half ounce Fluid Extract Dandelion, one ounce Compound Kargon, three ounces Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla. Take as a dose one teaspoonful after meals and at bedtime.

No change need be made in your usual diet, but drink plenty of good water.

This mixture has a peculiar tonic effect upon the kidneys; cleansing the clogged-up pores of the eliminative tissues, forcing the kidneys to sift and strain from the blood the uric acid and other poisonous waste matter, overcoming Rheumatism, Bladder and Urinary troubles in a short while.

A druggist here who has had hundreds of calls for these ingredients since the first announcement in the newspapers last October stated that the people who once try it "swear by it," especially those who have Urinary and Kidney trouble and suffer with Rheumatism. All the druggists in this neighborhood say they can supply the ingredients, which are easily mixed at home. There is said to be no better blood-cleansing agent or system tonic known, and certainly none more harmless or simple to use.

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Each Tender must be accompanied by the names of two good and sufficient sureties worth at least \$5,000 each to enter into the contract with the party whose tender is accepted.
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