

CLIMATE AND FARM PRODUCTS

great valley, each having its own small valley with peculiar characteristics. The largest fruit-producing district at the present time is the Okanagan valley. Other districts where the fruit production is rapidly increasing are the Similkameen valley, the Kettle river valley, sometimes known as the "Boundary Country," owing to its nearness to the United States frontier, and the West Kootenay district, which includes the country surrounding the Arrow lakes, Kootenay lake and the South Columbia river. The East Kootenay district, having a higher elevation, is not as favourable to fruit, but the hardier varieties of apples do well.

Exploration parties sent out by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company have reported very favourably on the soil and climate conditions in the districts drained by the upper Fraser river, the Nechako river, Endako river, Ootsa lake and François lake, comparing these

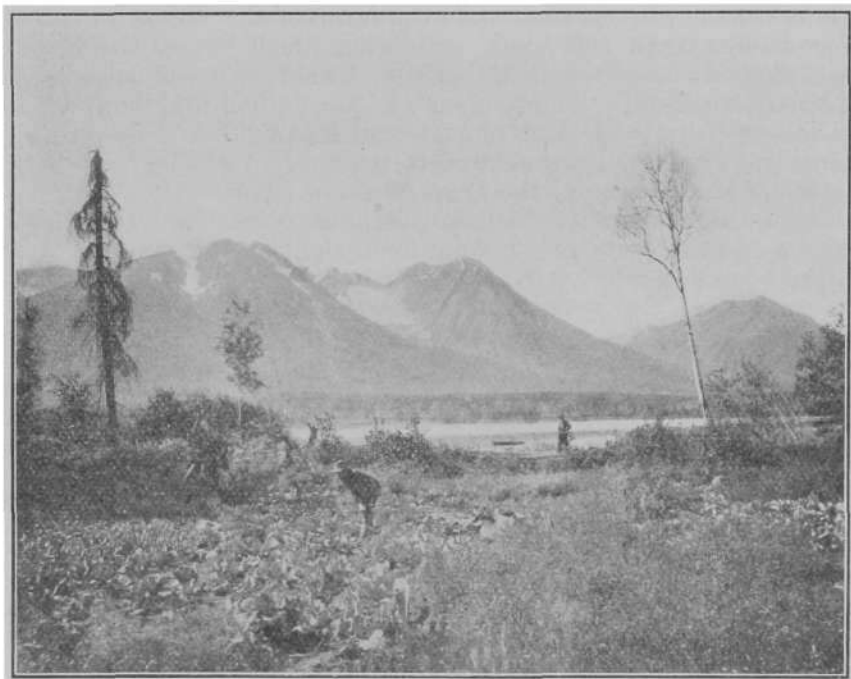


FIG. 7 STARTING A FARM ON LAKE KATHLYN, NORTHERN B.C.

districts to southern Michigan, southern Ontario and western New York in climate, and describing them as possessing large areas of fertile soil. It is stated that the few settlers already in the valleys of the Kitsumgallum, Lakelse and Copper rivers have had great success in growing apples, pears and plums. Of the valley of the Bulkley river, a tributary of the Skeena flowing north between about 54° and 55° N. latitude, it is stated in the Grand Trunk Pacific report: "The climatic conditions are approximately the same as those of northern New York or eastern Ontario. The country is generally open, or nearly so, and there is a continuous belt of extremely fertile land some fifteen to twenty miles wide extending from Burns lake to Moricetown, a distance of