

## Golden.

The little town of Golden, B. C., is situated on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at a point where the railway suddenly emerges from the narrow gorge of the Kicking Horse pass and enters the broader Columbia river valley. Golden is 1006 miles west of Winnipeg and 2,429 miles west of Montreal. The run from the summit of the Rocky Mountains down to the Columbia valley at Golden, is one of the most interesting sections of the road. It is one continuous succession of wonderful scenes. This portion of the road passes through what is familiarly known by the uncouth name of the Kicking Horse pass. The lower portion of the pass is through a narrow gorge, with towering masses of rock overhead and the seething waters of the Kicking Horse river beneath, as they rush onward to join the Columbia. The railway suddenly emerges from this narrow gorge, by a short turn to the right, and enters the valley of the Columbia, which is about two miles wide. At this point the Kicking Horse river is merged in the Columbia, which here flows in a northerly direction. From Golden the railway follows on down the Columbia valley.

The town occupies a beautiful site in this valley. On every side snow-capped peaks of the mountains are visible in the distance, the Selkirk range extending along on the western side and the Rockies on the eastern side of the valley.

About Golden there are some farms in the valley. A portion of the valley is flooded during high water, and this grows a great crop of hay, which furnishes good feed for stock. There is also some good grazing land on the foot hills, along the valley, which lead back to the mountains. About 50 miles up the river (south) from Golden, the valley widens to four to six miles, and beyond the valley is a rolling hilly or bench country extending back to the mountains. Some ranches are located up the valley. The bench lands are rather dry, and would require irrigating for agricultural purposes. Windermere is a point about 100 miles up the river from Golden, where F. J. Broady has a store. The Columbia river is navigable up from Golden for a distance of over 100 miles, to the head of the Lower Columbia lake. The steamer *Duchess* runs on this route during the summer season, making trips once or twice a week. There is considerable traffic to the ranches and mining camps up the river. A mail is also carried. Capt. F. H. Armstrong is the main man connected with the steamer, and principal owner. Mining claims are located along the valley up from Golden. The trip up the river is a most delightful one to the lover of scenery. Down from Golden the river is not navigable, and after Donald is passed the mountains close in on the river and the valley is lost. A wagon road along the Columbia valley southward from Golden to Cranbrook, a distance of 187 miles, has been constructed by the Provincial Government. This road is now about completed.

There are two general stores in the town conducted by M. B. Lang and Durrick & Warren. A very large and varied stock is carried by these stores, and the trade is almost of a jobbing nature. The trade of the town is largely in furnishing supplies to miners, ranchers and others, in the up river country, and their orders are generally for considerable

quantities at a time. There may be scarcely anything doing for a while, and then there is a great rush of business for a brief period. Large stocks consequently have to be carried, comprising a great variety of goods. Miners' tools and supplies, powder, provisions, etc., are carried in great variety. There are two hotels. The Kootenay is kept by Harry Conacher, who took possession last spring and is building an addition. The Queen's hotel is kept by J. G. Green. W. Chandler has charge of the butcher shop which is conducted as a branch of the business of Hull Bros., of Calgary. These are about all the business houses of Golden, in the mercantile line. Up the river about twelve miles there is a water power saw mill, owned by H. J. Cannon & Co. This mill was completed last fall, and planing machinery was added this spring. In the country reached by the route up the river from Golden there are several scattered posts. Jas. Baker has a store at Cranbrook, 200 miles distant; F. J. Broady has a store at Windermere, 100 miles distant. There is also a hotel at this place. John T. Galbraith & Bro. have a store at Fort Steel, 200 miles distant, and E. Kelley carries on business at St. Eugene Mission, near Cranbrook. N. Hansen has a store, hotel and saw mill at Wasa, a point about 200 miles distant.

This vast territory reached from Golden is known as Eastern Kootenay, and it is certain to become famous as a mining country. Hundreds of mining claims have been located throughout the region. Silver, gold, coal, petroleum, etc., are among the discoveries made, and the country is yet very imperfectly explored.

Considerable attention has been drawn to Golden this season by the location of a smelter. Golden was selected by a company known as the Golden Mining and Smelting Company as a desirable point for a smelter. The promoters of this company are Senator J. A. Lougheed, P. McCarthy, Q.C., and J. C. F. Bowen, all of Calgary. R. H. Alexander is the manager. The works are being established under the direction of a Mr. Fraser, an expert mining engineer and metallurgist from the United States. At the time of our visit a force of men were at work erecting three buildings, one 40 by 40 feet, one 50 by 53 feet, and one 80 by 90 feet in size. Several smaller buildings were also being erected. The machinery was expected daily for a smelter of 40 tons' capacity daily. In addition to the 40 ton blast furnace, two calcine or roasting furnaces for treating sulphurous ores were being provided for, also sampling works, etc. It was expected to have the smelter ready for work some time the coming fall. The company get a grant of 320 acres of land at Golden from the Dominion Government as a bonus in aid of the enterprise. This land is located just across the Kicking Horse river from the town, and a bridge has been built across the river to make the land readily available for building. The company has mining claims at Field, Illecillewaet, Jubilee Mountain and other points in the district, and will also buy ores from any other mines. Golden was selected as a good point for a smelter on account of the navigation to the rich mineral country up the river, and also to the facilities afforded for shipment by the railway. A. B. H. Cochrane & Co., mining agents and brokers, Golden, have contracts in connection with the smelter. This firm has a lime

quarry near Golden, which they claim is the finest quality of lime in the province.

There are very valuable deposits of a fine quality of slate a few miles east of Golden, near the main line of the railway, which have been worked to some extent.

## We Want No Boom.

Under the above heading the *Winnipeg Tribune* recently made the following sensible and moderate remarks:--

"The *Tribune* has previously sounded a warning note about the great general injury to the city that would result from another boom. Winnipeg is only now recovering from a seven year's prostration; the result of the crazy inflation of 1881-82; and it would be madness indeed if we allowed ourselves to be drawn into the vortex again. There can be no doubt that land values in the city have been very low, and our natural growth, and other circumstances warrant a substantial increase in the same; but nothing has occurred to justify a boom or any great inflation. It would seem, however, that some interested people are bent on working up another land craze no matter what the consequences may be. There is a class of speculators in the city whose chief desire seems to be to secure as much property as they can possibly get, while they make the very smallest cash payment thereon that they can get off with. The object of this policy is obvious. Their scheme is to work up a little excitement and unload at an advance. They have not the slightest intention of making any improvements, their only desire being to dispose of the properties upon which they have secured options. Should the scale turn in the reverse direction, they cannot loose much, as they will allow the property to revert to the original owner. The best means of checking this practice is for the owners to insist upon a substantial proportion of the purchase money being paid in cash when the transfer is made. This policy would insure the protection of the interests of original holders of land. If a rise is going to occur why should not the present owners who have held it so long secure the advantage instead of allowing the outside shark who will put up no more than a mere margin to seize the plum? We do not advocate that our people should raise the price of their realty to any unwarrantable extent, as it is always well to sell when a good chance offers; but, as before pointed out, let them insist upon the payment at transfer of a substantial proportion of the purchase money. This will put an effectual veto upon the speculator who does not desire legitimate business, and it will serve as a protection to the citizens. Under no circumstances should valuable properties be locked up for a lengthy period without a valuable cash consideration being paid over."

## The State of Trade.

The different branches of trade generally present indications for a good average turnover this fall, and the general impression is that the outlook is good. In dry goods, iron, leather and lines of groceries the preparations are for a good business, and it seems likely at the moment that expectations will be fulfilled. During the week the regular fall millinery opening has created considerable activity in dry goods, while in iron, although buyers are not taking hold as freely as they might, it is not because the material is not wanted, but is due