

THE RIVERS.

Of the rivers of British Columbia the principal are the Fraser, the Columbia, the Thompson and the Peace. The Fraser is the great watercourse of the province. It rises in the northern part of the Rocky Mountains, runs for about 200 miles in two branches, in a westerly direction, and then in one stream runs due south for over 300 miles before turning to rush through the gorges of the coast range to the Straits of Georgia. On its way it receives the waters of the Thompson, the Chilicoten, the Lillooet, the Nicola, the Harrison, the Pitt, and numerous other streams.

The Columbia is a large river rising in the southern part of the province, in the neighbourhood of the Rocky Mountains, near the Kootenay Lake. This lake is now traversable by regular steamboat service.

The Columbia runs north beyond the 52nd degree of latitude, when it takes a sudden turn and runs due south into Washington State. It is this loop made by the abrupt turn of the river that is known as the "great bend of the Columbia." The Kootenay waters fall into the returning branch of this loop some distance south of the main line of the railway.

The Peace River rises some distance north of the north bend of the Fraser, and flows eastwardly through the Rocky Mountains, draining the plains on the other side. It more properly belongs to the district east of the mountains that bare its name. In the far north are the Skeena River and Stickeen flowing into the Pacific, the latter being in the country of valuable gold mining operations.

The Fraser River is navigable for river boats to Yale, a small town 110 miles from the mouth; and larger vessels, drawing 20 feet, can ascend to New Westminster, situated about 15 miles from the mouth.

The Thompson River has two branches, known as the North Thompson and the South Thompson, the former rising in small lakes in the Cariboo District and the other in the Shuswap Lakes in the Yale District. They join at Kamloops and flow east out of Kamloops Lake into the Fraser River at Lytton.

The Province of British Columbia is divided for local purposes into a number of districts, of which seven are on the mainland. The most westwardly of these seven is

NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT.

which extends from the international boundary line on the south to the 54° on the north. Its eastern boundary is the 124° longitude to the head of Jarvis Inlet, where it strikes due west to about the 123°, and from there drops south-eastwardly to the boundary. In the southern portion of this district there is a great deal of excellent farming land, particularly in the delta of the Fraser River. The soil there is rich and strong, the climate mild, resembling that of England with more marked seasons of rain and dry weather, and heavy yields are obtained without much labour. Very large returns of wheat have been got from land in this locality—as much as 62 bushels from a measured acre, 75 bushels of oats per acre, and hay that yielded 3½ tons to the acre. Good prices are realized for all farm produce. Experiments have of late years been made in fruit growing with the most satisfactory results. This part is fairly well settled, but there is still ample room for new comers. Those having a little money to use, and desirous of obtaining a ready-made farm, may find many to choose from. These settlements are not all on the Fraser; some are at a distance from it on other streams.

The northern portion of the district is at present most valuable

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