

The assessed value of real and personal property within the city limits is now \$1,500,000. The city has issued debentures to the amount of \$100,000, \$65,000 bearing 5½ per cent interest and the remainder 5 per cent interest, both lots running 2 years. The debentures bearing 5½ per cent interest were sold at par and the others at 97.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW BUILDINGS.

The city authorities are now engaged in opening up some new streets at a cost of \$20,000 and several thousand dollars more are to be expended in perfecting the equipment of the fire department. The purchase of the plants of the Rossland Water and Light Company for \$85,000 is also under consideration.

The Provincial Government is expending \$20,000 in repairing the roads near town and is constructing a new wagon road round Red Mountain. It is also erecting a court house to cost \$8,000, of which the community is very much in need.

Among the notable buildings in course of erection are the new \$50,000 Bank of Montreal block, the \$15,000 boarding home for the War Eagle mine, the new home of the Rossland Club to cost \$10,000, the new C. P. R. depot and a group of three office buildings for the British American Corporation. In all, including residences, it is estimated that \$150,000 worth of buildings are under construction or contracted for.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

The educational and religious interests of the citizens of Rossland are well provided for. Besides the Salvation Army, which is in evidence on the streets and holds meetings in its hall nightly, there are five religious denominations represented in Rossland. All possess valuable property in the shape of building sites, and two, the Presbyterians and the Baptists, have new churches with some pretensions to architecture. The Roman Catholic church has probably the most adherents. The St. George's Parish (Anglican) is about to erect, in addition to its present chapel, which will then be used as a mission, a handsome stone building costing several thousand dollars. The Methodist church building is large though not ornate and is located almost in the business centre.

Rossland now possesses two good school buildings, the larger of which contains eight rooms, while the smaller is to be enlarged at once from two to four rooms. The teaching staff provided by the Provincial Government has been somewhat handicapped in the past by reason of the excessive number of pupils in each class, but this is to be remedied by the appointment of more teachers, and it is expected the staff this winter will number at least ten, with an enrollment of between four and five hundred pupils. For the information of non-residents it may be as well to add that education is free and attendance at some school compulsory.

RAILWAY FACILITIES.

Rossland is connected with the outer world by two railroads; the Columbia and Western, a portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway system and the Red Mountain, recently purchased by the Great Northern Railway. The passenger travel over this line is enormous. Four passenger trains a day are run over the Red Mountain Railway to Northport Wash., where connections are made with the main lines of Spokane and Northern and Nelson and Fort Sheppard railways running between Nelson, B.C., and Spokane, Wash. At this latter point connection is made with three of the American transcontinental railways. Four passenger trains a day are also run over the Columbia and Western to the snifter town of Trail, distant thirteen miles by rail, though only five in an air line. Two of these trains run through to Robson where connection is made with the Canadian Pacific Railway branch lines to Nelson and all Sloean and Kootenay lake points, and by steamer with the main line at Revelstoke via Arrowhead.

The inward freight tonnage over these two lines aggregates over 600 tons a month, about equally divided in origin between eastern Canadian and eastern United States points. The outward freight tonnage, including ore, averages nearly 4,000 tons a week, and is rapidly on the increase.

Before winter Rossland will have direct connection via Robson with the East over the Crow's Nest Pass line now approaching completion, and within another year with the Boundary country to the west, over the extension of the Columbia and Western, now in course of construction.

THREE CHARTERED BANKS.

For a town only three years old Rossland is well supplied with banks. The first to open a branch here was the Bank of British North America. This is an English institution and occupies a handsome building of its own on Columbia avenue, on the lot next to that on which its great rival, the Bank of Montreal, is now erecting a three-storey brick building. This latter bank was only one day behind the English bank in opening a Rossland branch. A year later the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, N. S., which at that time had no branches further west than Montreal, astonished the banking world by making a jump of 3,000 miles to this point and signified its advent by purchasing the first two corner lots in the city. The combined capital of these three banks exceeds \$27,000,000.

GENERAL REMARKS.

All lines of retail business are well represented in Rossland and the stocks carried by the principal stores are such as can usually be found only in cities of 20,000 population. A start has hardly yet been made in the jobbing trade, but already the city boasts three wholesale houses. The forty hotels provide ample accommodation for the travelling public at rates ranging from \$1 to \$3 per day. There are four breweries in the city, which sell their products all over Kootenay, the largest of which, the Lion, is illustrated on another page. The two leading machinery houses of Canada, the James Cooper Manufacturing Company of Montreal, and the Canadian Rand Drill Company of Sherbrooke, have warehouses here in which are kept large stocks of mining machinery, and they make Rossland their headquarters for Kootenay and indeed the whole Province of British Columbia. There are two daily and three weekly papers published in the city.

For a western town only three years old, and more especially a mining camp, Rossland is unique as a city of homes. The class of residences erected in the past year and at present building would do credit to any eastern community.

CLIMATE AND SPORTS.

The climate of Rossland is an exceedingly healthy one. Situated high up in the mountains as it is the air and water are both of the purest. There is consequently very little sickness of any kind and the death rate is exceedingly low. During the months of July and August the thermometer occasionally mounts up to 90 or 100 in the shade, but the nights are cool and one always needs a blanket to sleep in comfort. The snow lies usually from the end of November till April and sometimes attains a depth of from five to six feet. There are only a few days in the whole winter when the weather is as low as zero.

During the winter outdoor sports are freely indulged in, snow shoeing, ski running, hockey, curling and skating being the favorites, and a carnival, lasting two or three days, is held annually in January. At other seasons baseball, tennis, cricket, lacrosse and football have their votaries. The Rossland gun club gets up many matches and tournaments during their season and fishing and trout parties find the best of sport at dozens of points within a radius of a few miles of town, the favorite spot being on the Kootenay river near Sloean Crossing, about forty miles from town by the C. P. R.