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## MERRITT, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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### Railways

The C. P. R. run a daily passenger train from Spence's Bridge to Merritt and return, the railway terminating some seven miles east at the town of Nicola. In addition there is a daily freight train. The Kettle Valley Railway have already thirty miles of steel laid and in two years this line will be completed, which will bring the Nicola Valley in close touch with the boundary district. The Kettle Valley Railway will rush the work of construction over the Hope Mountains to Hope, and as soon as this line is completed it will only be a matter of five hours to Vancouver. The Great Northern Railway will also rush their construction over the Hope Mountains, and it is reasonable to say that they will come to Merritt in the near future, which will give us good transportation facilities.

### Mineral Wealth

The coal at the present time is the only mining which has been gone into extensively. At Merritt there are four operating mines, employing some 600 men, with a monthly payroll of some \$40,000.00. There is a daily tonnage of 1,000 tons, and with the present development which is being carried out this tonnage will soon be increased. This will also mean increasing the number of men employed. Besides coal there is a gypsum mine within half a mile of Merritt, which will shortly be on a shipping basis. With the railways now being built this will open up vast mineral deposits in the Aspen Grove and Tulameen districts, there being copper, iron, platinum and gypsum, all awaiting development and capital. With the coming of the railways to these places a great activity in mining will result.

Merritt, the principal town on the C. P. R., Nicola Valley branch, with a population of some 1,000 people, is beautifully situated between the forks of the Coldwater and Nicola Rivers. In two years the young city has built itself up, and by the following businesses already represented shows the progressive nature of the business people:

One jeweller, six general stores, two newspapers, three liveries, one harness shop, two restaurants, two dry goods