

THE COMMERCIAL

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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much
larger circulation among the business community
of the vast region lying between Lake Superior
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facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 11, 1899.

DEVELOPING SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The development of the great Kootenay region in British Columbia will be given a great boost onward by the construction of the Crow's Nest railway. Railway work, however, is not to cease with the completion of the Crow's Nest road. A more important railway work almost than the Crow's Nest road, so far as the making accessible of rich mining camps is concerned, is to be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. This is the Columbia and Western railway, a portion of which is now under contract. The region through which this railway will pass will be the scene of great activity this year. The employment of a small army of men in building the railway, the active development of the mineral wealth of the country, and the building up of the new towns which have been located throughout the region, will all combine to make this year one of unusual activity in this part of British Columbia. The Columbia and Western railway will really form a westerly extension of the Crow's Nest road, with which it will ultimately be connected. It starts from Robson, on the Columbia river, and will be built through the already famous Boundary Creek country.

The Canadian Pacific Railway company, who are building the Columbia and Western, have located several town sites along the road. One of the most important of these points will undoubtedly be the town of Cascade City, situated at the crossing of the Kettle river, near the southern end of the beautiful Christina Lake. Cascade City will be the first important town on the line of the Columbia and

Western railway after it leaves Robson, from which point the distance by rail is about fifty miles. From the west the Kettle river approaches the townsite through the broad and fertile lands of "The Grand Prairie" until it reaches the western border of the townsite, where it rushes through a narrow rocky canyon in a series of cascades, making a descent of 125 feet, thus creating a stupendous power, estimated at 20,000 horse power. The valuable rights connected with this water power have recently been purchased by a corporation which is under contract to develop the same without delay for the purpose of generating electricity for operating tramways to mines, street car lines, lighting and mining purposes, and for manufacturing into lumber the timber growing on the banks of the Kettle river and its tributaries. Powers

West Kootenay by investing millions of dollars in developing claims, equipping mines, erecting smelters, etc. Twenty miles to the east of Cascade City lie the rich and favorably known mines of Rossland which three or four years ago were almost unknown "prospects," these are to-day well developed mines, paying thousands of dollars monthly in dividends and having millions of dollars worth of ore in sight. Thirty miles to the west are the extensive and numerous copper-gold properties of Boundary Creek and southwest the recently discovered and marvellously rich Republic mine. On the north, in close proximity, are the Christina Lake and Burnt Basin districts with such surface showings as to attract large amounts of capital. In addition to gold, silver, copper, lead and iron mines, in the Burnt Basin district, a rich and



HEAD OF THE FALLS AT CASCADE CITY, B.C.

similar in character to that by which Cascade City is endowed have made Great Falls and Spokane Falls, the principal cities of Montana and Washington and there is no apparent reason why the same factor should not operate towards placing Cascade City in a similar position with regard to the great mineral territory of which it is the centre.

West Kootenay district, of which Cascade City is destined to be one of the principal mining towns, is remarkable for its great mineral wealth. Marvellously rich deposits have been discovered in different sections and new finds are almost daily made. It is a country of illimitable possibilities, but is only passing the early stages of development, when the vast area of hidden wealth is considered, capitalists and practical miners have shown their unbounded confidence in

extensive body of bauxite or clay carrying a very high percentage of aluminum, has been discovered. Upon the townsite or near by is found clay suitable for brick or tiles, lime for smelting or plaster, sand, and a variety of good building stone. Notwithstanding the large bodies of ore that are known to exist, the surrounding country is yet only partially explored.

The illustrations given herewith convey only a faint idea of the landscape surrounding the townsite of Cascade City. The waters of the Kettle River after their passage through the canyon leap through a gateway of precipitous rocks, which is spanned by a suspension bridge over which the main road passes to the west. The river then sweeps by in horseshoe form almost encircling the park-like plateau on which the townsite has been laid