

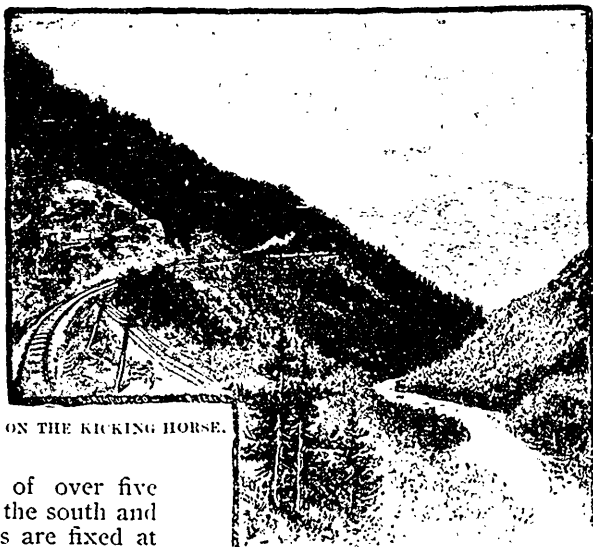
grate harshly on the finer sensibilities of the newcomer. But the splendid possibilities of the province soon fall into perspective, and the "spirit of the West" takes possession of him.

Want of roads to reach them and want of capital seem to have been the obstacles in the way of more generally working the gold mines in the past. These obstacles are, however, in the way of being overcome. Copper is found in abundance in British Columbia; and silver mines have been found in the Fraser Valley.

The province of British Columbia is divided into two parts—the Island of Vancouver and the main land, and comprises the entire seaboard lying to the west of the Dominion, and stretches from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, a distance of over five hundred miles. On the south and north the boundaries are fixed at the 49th and 60th parallels of latitude, with 750 miles lying between. Thus the area is over 380,000 square miles, or one-half larger than the province of Ontario. The population of this vast territory, according to the last census, was little more than one-half that of the city of Toronto. Of this number quite two-fifths are in the four chief cities of the province.

"A sea of mountains," the expression used or perhaps coined by an eminent statesman, is one which would most naturally rise to the lips after the intoxication of a

first journey through the colonnade of rugged hills which frown over every mile of the iron pathway. But it is far from being comprehensive and exact. Undoubtedly the first, perhaps the chief, feature of the country, is the magnificence and variety of its scenic splendours. The endless succession of stupendous heights, the sylvan lakes, the streams tobogganning down the slanting precipices, till lost in the cauldrons and canons far beneath the eye, the



ON THE KICKING HORSE.

proud cedars and more stately pines peopling the dense forests, the many tunnels through the barricades of rock, stand first and last in the memory when all else fades away. On the coast, one is no less impressed with the expanse of sheltered waterway, the Gulf of Georgia, studded with a multitude of isles, the jagged contour of the rocky coast, the many bays and inlets, the fleets of steamers ploughing the main, the fog-banks lowering in the narrow channels, the murmur of the surf,—a strange confusion, yet making harmony withal.