

KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

In view of the great interest which the proposed opening up of this remote and little known portion of the Province by a company of American capitalists has created, it may be well to give at this time, a brief description of that country and its resources. This extensive district is situated in the extreme southeastern portion of the province, and its area and boundaries may be described as being those of a right angled triangle, or very nearly so, having 200 miles of the 49th parallel from the Rocky mountains westward as a base, a line extending northward from the western end of the base for 200 miles to the foot of Mount Brown in the Rocky Mountains, and thence southeasterly along the eastern boundary of the province to the international boundary line, the place of beginning; embracing a total area of 20,000 square miles or 12,800,000 acres. In other words, it is a triangular territory of which the international boundary is the base, the Gold Range, the perpendicular, and the Rocky Mountain chain, the hypotenuse. The Kootenay District covers a wide area of mineral lands, embracing gold, silver and galena, and in this respect alone, to say nothing of its timber and grazing and arable lands, possesses incalculable undeveloped wealth. The isolation of its position, the high price of provisions and difficulty in traveling over it, or of obtaining supplies for prospecting or mining, have hitherto retarded its development, and, in a great measure, rendered it an almost unknown waste. In the absence of any connecting line of transportation between the southern, and at the same time most important and extensive portion of this district and the C. P. R., it must long remain a sparsely settled and comparatively unproductive region. The portions best adapted for agricultural and pastoral purposes are the valley of the Kootenay River and that at the headwaters of the Columbia, known as the "Lake Country." In these two valleys there are many thousands of acres of land of the greatest fertility, and also a wide expanse of wild hay land, together with innumerable hill-sides and prairies, affording the choicest pasture for stock. In fact the few cattle that have roamed over its ample swards, have thriven in all seasons during the past twenty years. Still there are yet only a few small herds there, not even enough to supply the wants of its present population. Nothing but the gold quest will induce men to remain long in a country so isolated, however rich in natural resources. In this age of railways, steamboats, daily mails, newspapers and telegraphs, the average emigrant, who has doubtless been accustomed to live within reasonable reach of these advantages, can scarcely be expected to forego them all, and to settle permanently in a district affording no prospect of their speedy attainment. It is therefore apparent that every reasonable encouragement should be given to those proposing to construct lines of railway or other means of communication with such localities and thereby render them available

for settlement. We often hear a great deal said about enormous land grants to railway corporations, but it ought also to be borne in mind that from the time of Adam until the advent of the railway these lands never yielded a dollar to anyone, and farther, that for every acre so granted, at least a hundred, as worthless as the one granted had ever been, were made available for settlement, and from nothing thereby increased in value, not unfrequently to \$50 and \$100 per acre. We have no fear that any such enterprises will fail to receive merited support from the Legislature now in session. The experience of British Columbia in the lack of railway facilities, has been a sore and a life-long one, and she cannot now desire to perpetuate in the future what has been her bane in the past. While unwilling to needlessly alienate any portion of the public domain, yet every proper means will, we are confident, be employed to promote and foster such public enterprises as will enable the province to move on in harmony with the progressive spirit of the age.

THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR LIVE STOCK.

British Columbia's Opportunity.

So great is the demand for meat supplies in the neighboring states that even milch cows are being sold to the butchers at before unheard of prices and the Webfooters, especially, are threatened not only with a scarcity of beef, but they will also be compelled to be content with azure milk or water strait. This morning's *Standard* contains the following advisory and timely article on the subject of the meat supply of this coast:

But a few years ago it was considered throughout the entire length of the Pacific Coast that the stock-raising capacity of Oregon and Washington Territory was practically inexhaustible and that generations must elapse before beef cattle, especially, could be otherwise than a drug in the market in those vast and well-stocked regions. Events of recent occurrence have proved the fallacy of this belief and demonstrated the extremely unsubstantial nature of the grounds on which it rested. An article in the *Portland Oregonian* of a few days ago gives some significant facts, which shows in the most pointed manner the utter collapse of the stock raising interest in Oregon. It says that owing to the great immigration that has recently set into that country and the consequent accupation and fencing in of the land, stock-raising can no longer be conducted on a large scale, and urges that farmers taking up land should each raise a few head of stock to supply the needs of the country. To support this recommendation it says that from this time forward beef cannot possibly be so low in price as it is at present, and that on the contrary there is every prospect of a steady advance in price. To illustrate the dearth of beef in Oregon it states that cattle for the butcher have recently been imported into Portland from San