

# THE COMMERCIAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A Representative Visits the Famous Boundary Creek District.

The Boundary Creek district forms the southern part of the Yale district and comprises four mineral basins, being those of Christiana Lake, North Fork of Kettle River, the main Kettle River and Boundary Creek, with their tributary streams, covering an area of about 400 square miles.

This first became known as a mineral region in the early 60's, when a party of prospectors travelling along Boundary Creek on their way to the Cariboo diggings discovered gold. A large amount was recovered from this stream, but when this played out the miners moved away and the district dropped back into obscurity and little was known of it until 1886 when

a large amount of ore will be shipped. Previous to the construction of the Columbia and Western branch, living was very expensive here as the goods had to be brought in by wagons or pack horses, but the railway has improved matters a great deal in this respect and since the commencement of construction work this portion of British Columbia has made wonderful advancement, towns having sprung up with a rapidity equalling almost the work of a magician, prospects are being developed into shipping mines and "progress" seems to be the motto of the whole country.

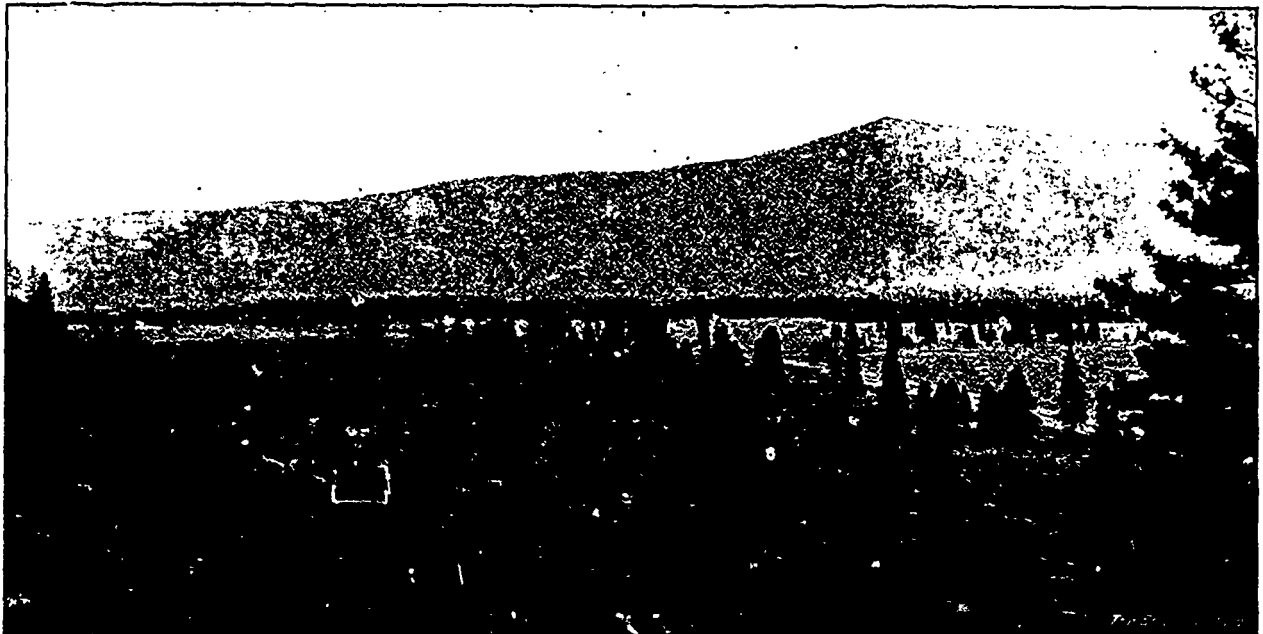
This section would appear to be particularly favored both as a place of business and residence, as it has a very

southern and eastern slopes, are covered with bunch grass, making good cattle ranges.

On the first of March last the C. P. R. took over this line and a daily train is now run, leaving Rossland at 9 a.m. and connecting at Robson with the train from Nelson.

## CASCADE CITY.

The first town reached is Cascade City, 53 miles from West Robson. It is situated near Christiana Lake in the valley of Kettle River, and only a short distance from the international boundary. The name it bears was given it on account of being situated near a cascade on the Kettle River, which, it is estimated, will furnish 20,000 horse power. It is the intention to use this falls for the generation of power to work and light the mines and other industries in the district. Near this town is Burnt Bush camp, where some rich mining properties have been discovered. The government has constructed a wide trail from Sutherland Creek siding to the head of the creek and one from Gladstone to Burnt



View of Valley at Columbia, B.C., with Town in the Distance.

quartz was discovered. It was not, however, for four or five years after this that prospectors began to come into the country in any numbers. Development has been greatly retarded on account of the lack of proper facilities for handling the ore, and until the last few years the work done on the claims was almost entirely confined to the assessment work necessary, according to law, to retain possession of the properties. This region is famous for the width of its copper-gold ore veins, which are said to be the widest in the world, one claim in particular having a vein over 400 feet wide a large percentage of the ores are, however, low grade and smelters and railway facilities were necessary before the claims could be profitably worked. The C. P. R. has now built a branch road from Robson to Midway and a smelter has been erected at Grand Forks, and two others, it is understood, will be erected this year, one at Greenwood and another at Grand Forks, so that work on the mines is now practicable and this year

fine climate and in addition to the mines the wide valleys give opportunities for mixed farming to be profitably carried on. Grain and vegetables of all kinds can be raised, as well as small fruits and even apples, pears, prunes, etc., do very well, so well in fact that the Dominion government is sending an exhibit of these to the Paris fair. It is estimated that 30,000 bushels of grain were threshed within the immediate vicinity of Grand Forks last fall.

These valleys are quite extensive and do not agree at all with the prevailing idea of what a mountainous country should be. From Cascade City, which is near the outlet of Christiana Lake, to its present terminus the railroad runs through valleys which in some places attain to a width of twenty miles, but the average is of course very much less than that. The hills are mostly wooded and small streams flow down their valleys and gullies, thus giving a supply of good timber and water for mining and other purposes. Many of the hills, especially on their

Bush camp. Many properties are now being worked here, including the Mother Lode, Tammany, Hoodoo, Solid Gold, Unexpected, Mountain View, Snowdrift and John Bull.

## GRAND FORKS.

From here the track follows the valley of Kettle River to the City of Grand Forks, situated at the junction of North Fork and main Kettle River. Its situation is a most charming one, being in a wide open valley many miles in length and surrounded by mountains in which are located numerous valuable mineral properties. The valley here is capable of supporting a large farming population. Four or five years ago there was almost no settlement at all here and to-day we find a city containing nearly 2,800 inhabitants with numerous fine buildings and excellent stores, and furnished with electric gas, water, and telephone. There are also a fire brigade, and police force, and it is reported that an electric trolley system will be established this summer. The building operations for last year are estimated to have reached