

tural distributing point for East and West Kootenay and the Boundary Creek country, and we find that a large number of both eastern and western wholesale houses have established branches here which transact a large business. To show the shipping facilities enjoyed by Nelson it is only necessary to say that it is the terminus of the Shewan River, Columbia and Kootenay and Crow's Nest Pass systems controlled by the C. P. R. and the British Columbia terminus of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway operated in connection with the Great Northern Railway, and it is also the principal port for a number of steamers trafficking on the Kootenay lake.

As a business point we find that in addition to its wholesale houses it is well supplied with retail stores, carrying first class stocks of goods, and has four banking places, namely, the Bank of Montreal, the Merchants Bank of Halifax, the Imperial Bank of Canada and Bank of British Columbia. It has electric street cars, gas, electric light, telephone and waterworks systems, sawmills, smelter, opera house, schools, good churches, and two daily newspapers. It is understood that some of the principal streets are to be paved in the near future.

As has been said, Nelson is not dependent entirely for its support upon the mines, still the business received from these represents a large proportion of that transacted here.

The largest and probably the most important mine in the immediate vicinity of Nelson is the Silver King, which is situated on Tead Mountain some four and a half miles from the city and is the property of the Hall Mines, Ltd. It was located some ten years ago almost by accident. The ore was extraordinarily rich right from the surface and the first shipment of twenty tons is said to have netted over \$8,000. The mine soon passed into the hands of English capitalists and the company formed which are now operating it. An immense amount of development work has been done and the mine equipped with the most complete and modern machinery necessary for carrying on work on a large scale. This company has also a very complete smelter at Nelson, the ore being brought from the mine by means of an aerial tramway. The smelter consists of a blast copper furnace which has a daily capacity of 180 tons, a blast silver-lead furnace with a capacity of 100 tons daily, two large calcining furnaces and two reverberatory furnaces. Nearly a hundred men are employed at the smelter as ores from other mines are treated as well. The ore from the Hall mines is largely a copper-silver ore, although extensive bodies have been found of silver ore carrying no copper.

On the Dandy a large amount of work has been done. The ore is silver carrying little or no copper and it is thought to be the same vein as that of the Hall mines.

The Last Chance is a copper proposition and is being thoroughly developed, several hundred feet of tunnelling having been done, and trial shipments of the ore have turned out very satisfactorily.

The California is a free-milling proposition and a considerable amount of development work has been done and some rich shipments made. A rich vein of gold-bearing quartz has been found.

The Venus is another free-milling property, located near the California. Development has exposed a vein of

free-milling quartz half a foot in width.

On Morning mountain are located the Athabasca and Exchequer properties. The Athabasca is looked upon as one of the good properties here and systematic development work is being carried on and a large amount of ore has been blocked out. A 10-stamp mill has been erected and is working with satisfactory results.

The Exchequer lies between the California and Athabasca. Development work has demonstrated that there is four feet of high grade ore which retains its size and values with depth and great things are expected of this property.

A few miles down Kootenay river are located the Granite and Royal Canadian mines, owned by the Duncan Mines, Limited, an English company. The first year after these mines were bonded development work was done to the extent of some \$50,000. The Granite is being developed by means of two shafts and the Royal Canadian by tunnelling. The Poorman mine is located near the Granite and Royal Canadian, and, like them, is free milling. A great deal of work has been done on this property and a 10 stamp mill erected. The owners have been well repaid by the work expended on this property.

The Fern mine is another free milling proposition a short distance from Nelson, and near the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway. This property has already proved itself a dividend payer and is equipped with a 10-stamp mill and a chlorination plant.

We have only made mention of some of the more important mines in the immediate vicinity of Nelson and there are probably hundreds of promising claims now being developed which will some day be good shipping mines.

### Seeding.

The following crop report for the week ending Sunday, has been issued from the office of the general agent of the Northern Pacific lines in Manitoba:

Portage la Prairie—Seeding three weeks earlier than last year; about 28,000 acres to be sown; plowing all done; 12 per cent. acreage in oats; 9 per cent. barley; 5 per cent. vegetables, wheat and oats all sown, weather favorable, warm and dry; moisture in ground considerably deeper last year, account little snow during winter.

Oakland—Wheat all in; oats about 60 per cent. sown; growing grain about half inch high; no vegetables in; hay meadows burned over; general condition and outlook good; seeding about three weeks earlier than last year; plowing all done; growth appreciable, and general prospects as good as last year; weather dry, but not detrimental; very little depth of moisture, owing to open winter.

Beaver—Wheat seeding finished, and farmers preparing to sow oats; season opened about two weeks earlier than last year, and favorable weather has enabled farmers to get through fully three weeks sooner; weather warm, and grain is coming up nicely; heavy shower night of 27th, and noticeable improvement today, 28th, in hay and grass; acreage sown in wheat about same as last year.

Morris—Season almost two weeks earlier than last year; all wheat is sown, and very little plowing to be done; increase in acreage expected of about 25 per cent.; weather has been

most favorable; as soon as all grain is sown, a few good showers would be beneficial, as ground is dry, there being so little snow last winter that only moisture in ground now is the frost, which went to depth of five or six feet.

St. Jean—Weather very favorable; wheat all sown, some of it up; have had light showers last few days, which has helped grain greatly, there will be about 35,000 acres sown tributary to St. Jean, an increase of about 20 per cent.; nearly all plowing to be done yet for oats and barley; seeding about two weeks earlier than last year; ground in fine shape.

LaSalle—Seeding progressing rapidly; wheat and oats practically all in; no barley yet sown; farmers claim seeding of all grains will be finished three weeks in advance of last year; owing to favorable weather, work progressing in first class shape; very heavy rain fell during night of 24th; present growth appearance and general prospect were never more promising; an increase in acreage of 20 per cent.

Emerson—Wheat seeding practically finished and bulk of wheat is up; crop has never been in better shape and fully a month ahead of last year; acreage of wheat about 10 per cent. larger and about same increase in coarse grains; weather all that could be desired and plowing for coarse grains well under way.

Roland—Wheat seeding practically finished; coarse grains will all be in in course of next week; soil in excellent condition and weather most favorable, little if any plowing remaining to be done and season two weeks earlier than last year; about 25,000 acres wheat sown, weather dry; new crop in need of rains.

Rosbank—Seeding in this vicinity finished and quite a lot of crop up which is doing well; season much earlier than last year; weather favorable.

Miami—Wheat seeding finished, fields turning green and grain coming on finely fully 75 per cent. oats and barley sown; weather dry and a shower would do good but nothing suffering for want of rain; season fully a month ahead of last year.

Altamont—Weather fine and warm, with one or two small showers which did a lot of good, wheat seeding finished two weeks earlier than last year, increase in wheat acreage of about 25 per cent. and some wheat is above ground and growing very fast few farmers have any oats or barley yet sown as it is little early for them.

Somerset—About 75 per cent. wheat seeding done; season about a month ahead of last year; very little rain but some of the wheat is above ground and prospects for fine weather are good.

Wan Lake—Wheat seeding three weeks earlier than last year; condition first class; acreage about 15,000 including 3,000 new broken; prospects very favorable, rain not needed as yet; very little moisture in soil owing to open winter; wheat about all in and some up, of which the appearance is splendid, weather clear; light showers 26th and 27th.

Ward—Weather favorable; wheat seeding practically over; during past week have had several showers which have been very beneficial to grain just coming up, many fields now looking quite green and coarser grains now being sown.

Belmont—Wheat about all in and weather conditions most favorable; about 15 per cent. more wheat will be sown; soil is in excellent condition;