

Nelson, the Centre of a Rich Mineral District.

Although Nelson is essentially a commercial city, yet the mines of the surrounding country play no unimportant part in increasing its wealth and magnitude. As we have before stated, Nelson is the central point of the Kootenay mineral district. This is easily proved by consulting the map, when it will be seen that the several mineral districts of Slocan, Ainsworth, East Kootenay (Fort Steele and Windermere), Ymir and Trail Creek form a complete auriferous circle round the city. The Slocan is reached from Nelson by two routes, namely: by the Slocan River Railway and by steamer by Kaslo. Rossland, the mining city of the Trail Creek District, is reached from Nelson also by two routes, viz: the one by the Columbia & Kootenay Railway via Robson, the other by the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway via Northport. By either route, Rossland can be reached within four and a half hours, though the Robson route is some fifteen minutes quicker. The town of Ymir is on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard line, about an hour's journey from Nelson.

East Kootenay is now tapped by the new Crow's Nest Pass Railway, so that from Nelson any point in that district can now be easily reached. Nelson is also the starting point for the Bourlary Country. The Canadian Pacific Railway has just commenced to construct a new branch from Nelson, by steamer to the head of Kootenay Lake, thence through the Lardeau District to Arrowhead. There are many rich and valuable mineral properties in the Lardeau District, the development of which has been hitherto retarded owing to its inaccessibility. The new line will thus open up an entirely new mineral country.

Some of the largest and best known mining companies have their head offices for the Province at Nelson; as for instance, the Hall Mines Company, the London & British Columbia Goldfields Company, the Whitewater Mines Company, the Ymir Mining Company, the Fern Gold Mining Company, the Exchequer Gold Mining Company, the Athabasca Gold Mining Company, the Poorman Gold Mining Company, the Dominion Mining, Development & Agency Company and the Duncan Syndicate. The management of these large and influential companies have been wise in recognizing the fact that Nelson is at once the most central railway point; the best town for supplies and the most desirable place of residence for companies' officers in the Province.