

it not for the value lent them by the extreme ruggedness of the country and by the large mining population to be supplied with fruit and vegetables. From Haleyon Hot Springs, a favorite resort of Kootenay people, we steam ahead to Nakusp, where the steamers required for the Columbia River and Arrow Lake service are built. These are fine boats of three decks, luxuriously furnished.

Nakusp is the terminal of a railway that taps the chief silver-lead district in Kootenay, namely the Slocan, situated on the eastern side of Slocan Lake, with Sandon as its centre.

It is in the slate which comprises the country rock over an area of about one hundred square miles that the principal bodies of galena, or sulphide of lead, occur. South of the slate formation is the

Slocan Minerals. "dry ore" belt, *i.e.*, a granite formation containing quartz veins high in silver. Actual mining began in the Slocan in 1891. After ten years of advancement there came a falling off in production owing to depression of the lead market and the low price offered for silver. Under the stimulus of a bounty granted by the Dominion Government, for five years, on every ton of lead mined and smelted in Canada, mines that have been shut down are being re-opened. The Slocan is exceedingly mountainous. Because near the tops of mountains, rocks are more exposed than at lower levels, outcrops of ore have usually been discovered at high altitudes. This has not been a disadvantage; for ore so situated can be mined by running tunnels, a method cheaper than that of sinking a shaft, inasmuch as expensive machinery is not required.

In addition to the railway from Nakusp to Sandon, there is a narrow-gauge line between Sandon and Kaslo. An outlet to the south is provided by a steamer that runs on Slocan Lake, connecting at Slocan City with a railway to Slocan Junction, half way between Nelson and Robson.