

## THE COMMERCIAL—PANORAMIC SUPPLEMENT.

Two hours by rail from the summit the Columbia River is reached, and the Rockies have been passed. The great rugged mass of rock, snow and ice known as the Selkirk range of mountains now comes in view, with a wide stretch of evergreen forest in the foreground leading up to the barren peaks. The railway follows the Columbia valley between the Rockies and Selkirk ranges to Donald, where the river is passed, and shortly after the ascent of the Selkirks is begun, following the Keover River valley. Donald is the end of a division on the railway, and was quite a lively place during the building of the road, but it has now lost much of its ancient glory.

Enter the Beaver Valley and commence the ascent of the Selkirks, for twenty miles we climb along the mountain sides, through dense forests until, near the summit, we find ourselves in the midst of a wonderful group of peaks of fantastic shapes and many colors. At the summit of the pass, four thousand five hundred feet above tide-water, is a natural resting place,—a broad level area surrounded by mountain monarchs, all of them in the deadly embrace of glaciers.

Descending westerly from the summit we reach in a few minutes the Glacier House, a delightful hotel situated almost in the face of the Great Glacier and at the foot of the grandest of all the peaks of the Selkirks—Sir Donald,—an acute pyramid of naked rock shooting up nearly eight thousand feet above us. In the dark valley far below we see the Illicilliwaet, river, glistening through the tree-tops, and everywhere the mountains rise in majesty. To reach the deep valley below, the engineers wound the railway in a series of great curves or leaps all about the mountain slopes, and as we move on, a marvellous scene is presented. After passing for hours through gorges, and wonderful scenes the Columbia river valley (which has made a detour around the Selkirk range since it was first crossed at Donald) is again reached. The Selkirks are left behind though still in view and the Gold range of mountains arises as another barrier in front. Here the railway again crosses the Columbia river and the town of Revelstoke is reached.

### REVELSTOKE.

This town on the banks of the famous Columbia is decidedly an important point, and but for the quarrelling of speculators over the location of the place would have been a fine business town and a pleasant place to reside. Speculation has dragged the town out to nearly three miles in length, and places of business are located one here and another yonder over this stretch. There is plenty of business done in the place by the score or so of stores located there, as parties of every kind starting out either up or down the river do more or less trading here. Had the town been compactly located it would have made a good business appearance, and no doubt have been improved by those located therein. At present it looks like so many fragments of different towns scattered at distances apart, and any town-like appearance that might be there is effectually spoiled.

Still Revelstoke is quite a trading point, and can boast of at least one comfortable hotel, much superior to the average mountain tavern. It has its school and churches also, and in a social way is fairly organized, while its business people are a hopeful and enterprising crowd. The headquarters of the Columbia and Kootenay Steam Navigation Co. is located here, this being the highest point on the river navigated by that company's boats.

One noteworthy fact about Revelstoke and the valley it lies in is the abundance of moisture there. Scarcely a week passes during the summer without liberal rains, while in the Okanagan and other valleys further west the rainfall is very light and periods of drought are not unfrequent.

### WEST KOOTENAY.

TO learn anything of the mineral wealth of the great West Kootenay country the traveller has to leave for a time the main line of the C.P.R. at Revelstoke and start on a special journey down the valley of the Columbia. This he can do by taking the boat right at Revelstoke and enjoying the beautiful sail down the narrows of the Columbia into Upper Arrow Lake, or he can go down the C.P.R. branch line to the head of Arrow Lake and there, at the beginning of deep water navigation, take to the steamboat. By the latter course he will miss a proper view of the scenery going down the Columbia, but he will also be sure to miss the possible annoyance of being stuck on a bar in the river for a few hours, thus verifying the old saying of "No loss without some gain." Once on the Upper Arrow Lake, and on board of one of the comfortable and well-equipped boats of the Columbia and Kootenay Steam Navigation Co., the traveller can have some genuine enjoyment. The Arrow and Kootenay Lakes are all mere reservoirs pent up between ranges of high mountains, and with depth of water sufficient to float an iron-clad navy. There is in North America no more enchanting sail than down the Upper Arrow Lake to its southern outlet and through the narrows into the Lower Arrow Lake, and down that lake to the landing-place of Robson. The scenery of these lakes, softer to a great extent than what has been passed through in the Rockies, is of the most beautiful character, and is ever changing and at the same time ever beautiful. The lakes vary in width from three-quarters of a mile to three miles, and with the varying height and outline of the mountains on either side the sail is a panoramic treat.

From Robson further down the lake and thence down the rapid Columbia to Little Dalles a fine steamboat runs regularly, and by this route the traveller can go on to Spokane Falls and join the Northern Pacific. A wiser plan however is to take the C.P.R. branch line train at Robson for Nelson. The journey by rail of 28 miles up the valley of the Kootenay River with its rapids, cascades and cataracts is one of the most enchanting pieces of travel in the world. Here, too, the sportsman has struck an El Dorado, for in this river the trout are in millions and the fishing has no equal in the known world. Then as the Kootenay Lake opens out a stop is made at the busy town of Nelson, and the traveller is in the heart of the silver deposits of West Kootenay.

### NELSON.

The town of Nelson itself has a population of over 1,500, and it has all the appearance of a busy mining town. A good hotel and several large and commodious stores go to show that the people are expectant about the growth of the town. Here the traveller can start out in any direction for a mining prospecting tour. Over the shoulder of the hill behind the town lies the famous "Silver King," the mine which two years ago sold for one million dollars. Around the district scores of mining claims are staked out, and only some move-