

Elko's Importance as a Strategic Railway Center

ELKO is on the Crow's Nest Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 40 miles west of the Crow's Nest Pass and 180 miles east of Nelson, B. C.

ELKO is on the Great Northern Railway, which intersects the Canadian Pacific at this point, establishing an important connection with the Railway Systems in the States.

ELKO is the Southern Terminus of the KOOTENAY-CENTRAL Railway, which connects with the C. P. R. west of Elko. Passenger and freight traffic over this road are now routed from ELKO. The KOOTENAY-CENTRAL is now under construction from ELKO to GOLDEN and is in operation as far as FORT STEELE. Contracts to the amount of \$3,500,000 have been let for the entire construction of this road and it is planned to have it completed and in full operation inside of twelve months. The completion of this road will open up for further settlement and development the rich mineral, agricultural and fruit lands of the COLUMBIA-KOOTENAY VALLEY.

ELKO is a junctional point on the C. P. R. with its WALDO Branch south, the extension of which will develop the territory south and southwest of Elko.

ELKO is located in the first valley of any considerable area west of the Crow's Nest Pass, and where the natural conformation of the land in this mountain-locked region affords the best available grades for railway connections north, south, east and west. Nature has made the town site of Elko an inevitable base of operations for four transcontinental railroads.

The greatest undertaking which the C. P. R. has now in hand in the Prairie Provinces is the Weyburn-Lethbridge line, now under construction from each end of the line and under contract to be entirely built this season, if conditions permit. This line is designed to become a part of the Crow's Nest Branch of the C. P. R., and being the shortest line from the Rocky Mountains to Winnipeg, its completion will mark the establishment of the Crow's Nest line as the southern main line of the C. P. R.

Eastward the Kettle Valley line in British Columbia is being pushed rapidly to completion. This will be an extension to the Coast of the Boundary Branch of the C. P. R. and will bridge the gap between the Kootenay systems and the Coast systems. When the entire connection is effected, it means that Elko will be a strategic point on the short main line of the C. P. R. from Winnipeg, through the Crow's Nest Pass, to the Pacific Coast.

The Canadian Northern has also formulated far-reaching plans to link up its prairie systems with the Pacific Coast through either the North Kootenay or the Crow's Nest Pass. The Canadian Northern is planning to parallel the C. P. R.'s Weyburn-Lethbridge line through territory further south towards the boundary. Its operations seem to disclose a purpose to use the North Kootenay Pass through the Rockies, and it has now actually under construction a line from Macleod south and west which is routed through this Pass. Should this line be pushed forward, it must inevitably follow the valley of the North Fork of the Wigwam and ultimately reach Elko as a base. This seems most probable when some other projected operations of the Canadian Northern are taken into account. This road has contracted with the British Columbia Government to build a bridge southward into the Okanagan, and from a terminus set there, a natural route for extensions would be by way of Fire Valley to the Arrow Lakes, and thence to Nelson by the Kootenay River. The link between these branches and the southern prairie system of the Canadian Northern must inevitably bring the Canadian Northern to Elko, which would then become an important point on that line by reason of its strategic situation at the gateway to the great Columbia-Kootenay Valley.

The Grand Trunk, it is known, has also a route surveyed through the Crow's Nest Pass and has in contemplation the extension of its Calgary line in this direction.

The Idaho, Washington and Northern line of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul is now building down the Pend d'Oreille Valley in Washington and designs to cross the boundary line into British Columbia with the purpose of tapping its mineral territories and the vast coal deposits of the Crow's Nest fields, which extend to Elko.