

of that district is now one of the greatest in Canada. Owing to the lack of railway facilities in that section of British Columbia, the trade is largely monopolized by the City of Spokane and other cities across the boundary in the United States. Although British Columbia has the mines, the United States cities get the benefit of the trade. It is true that the Canadian Pacific Railway, by a circuitous route, has a connection with a part of Kootenay, but the distance is so great, and the freight rates so high, that the merchants and others of the coast cities in British Columbia cannot compete with the traders of Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma, in the United States. Consequently the greater part of this enormous trade is lost to Canada.

The main object of this enterprise is to bring the great mining trade of Boundary Creek, Kettle River and Kootenay, to the coast cities of British Columbia, by the shortest possible route, and thereby preserve the mining trade of that section of the Province for the people of Canada. By the shortest possible route to Kootenay at present, either by the Canadian Pacific or the Great Northern Railways, with steamboat connections on the inland waters, it takes about three days from Vancouver to reach Rossland, but by the construction of the projected road it can easily be done in 20 hours, thereby giving the cities of that Province direct communication with Kootenay and the control of a trade which is now going to the United States, a trade which is unlimited in its extent and will increase from year to year, as new mines are developed and new districts opened up. Under the present conditions in Kootenay the greater part of the ore is shipped to the smelters of Great Falls, Tacoma, Everett and Butte, in the United States. Any person can see that though British Columbia has every facility for doing this business, yet, owing to the absence of railway connections, they are prevented from utilizing what is their own. By the construction of this railway it is certain that a new era would dawn, and the mining trade of the Province would be kept within its own boundaries. They would then enjoy what they claim to be their heritage. The ore which is now smelted in the United States would be either smelted on the