

### L'Envoi.

It is hard to realize that, but ten years ago, the now prosperous city of Nelson, with a resident population of over 6000 inhabitants, was but a collection of a few huts.

There are those in the city who have seen the infant town reach the adult stage; and who, strong in their faith in the future of the city, have invested their capital in it, with the result that they are now independent.

The recent arrival can, week by week, see new buildings and houses creeping up. Everywhere is to be heard the sound of the carpenter's hammer and saw, the ring of the mason's chisel and the creaking wheels of great wagons loaded with building material. Day by day new streets are being opened up or graded and new sidewalks constructed.

The siren of the steamer and the whistle of the locomotive, though discordant, break on the natural beauty of the scene, are ever and anon heard, betokening the advent of further trade and commerce.

Huge freight trains, laden with merchandise or with coal, from the rich and apparently inexhaustible coal fields of the Crow's Nest Pass or Lethbridge, are constantly to be seen discharging their cargoes at the various depots in the city, to be afterwards distributed throughout the Kootenays.

It will be interesting in the course of a few years to look back to the time when these lines were written and compare the then great city with the Nelson of to-day; for undoubtedly we have the makings of a great city here in the heart of the Kootenays. As trade increases, manufactories will come, and Nelson will produce as well as purchase.

As a well-known railway magnate said, on the occasion of a recent visit to Nelson, when asked why The Canadian Pacific Railway Company looked upon Nelson as the Mediaevalist looked upon Rome (for "all roads lead to Rome"), replied: "We have made Nelson our central point for the interior of this Province because we feel sure that this city is destined to become the Birmingham of British Columbia."