

The Columbia-Kootenay Valley as a Mineral District

Mr. Frank I. Clark, Secretary of the Bureau of Provincial Information of British Columbia, in his report to the Hon. Pryce Ellison, Minister of Finance and Agriculture, says with reference to the mineral possibilities of the Columbia-Kootenay Valley :

“British Columbia, the mineral Province of Canada, with all her undeveloped mineral wealth, possesses few if any mining districts more worthy of examination than those of the Columbia-Kootenay Valley. The deposits are as a rule not difficult of access; prospecting by comparison with other districts is easy and the climate and scenery are very attractive. Ten or even five years ago it would have been an unfriendly act to advise men to seek fortune in this valley—the time was not ripe—but now, with the long promised railway under construction, and the word of a great corporation pledged to complete it without unnecessary delay, the tide is at the flood inviting those willing to embark in an enterprise which promises rich results for careful, conscientious work.

When it is considered that Elko is the southern gateway to this valley, is situated in close proximity to the mineral lands and has the coal at its very doors, the question of railway haul, so far as Elko is concerned, is practically eliminated. With the Great Northern extending from Elko into the States, connecting with the great systems there; with the shipment facilities afforded by the C.P.R. both east and west from Elko; with Elko the southern terminus of the Kootenay Central Railway now under construction—to say nothing of the prospective attainment of the Grand Trunk Railroad through the Crow's Nest Pass—no town or center in the entire Kootenay district occupies a more favorable location for smelting works and manufactories than does Elko. It is safe from all present indications to predict that Elko will be the future mining center of the East Kootenay district.