

a wide reputation, both on account of the quality and the quantity of coal extracted. These coal fields, which are without doubt the best and most extensive undeveloped on the continent, are situated in the southeast part of the district, and are traversed by the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. The first or eastern deposits are not far from the west end of the Crow's Nest Pass through the Rocky Mountains, and consist of numerous seams of coal, one above another, clearly visible along the mountain ridges and stretching to the summits. These are bituminous in their nature. Another great series of seams is that in the Elk River Valley, where they extend for a distance of forty miles. An analysis and test of these coals have been made, and the results, as shown in the Government reports, prove that they compare favorably with the best coals of the same variety in Pennsylvania. Of coking coal there is an abundance, which is proving of great importance to the smelters of British Columbia, it being indispensable for the treatment of refractory ores. By the development of these coal measures not only is coal supplied east and west, but over 1,000 coke ovens are already in operation at different points, and their number is being largely augmented as the demand for coke increases. In other portions of southern East Kootenay are deposits of coal which are now being prospected, and there is every reason to believe that before long the number of thriving towns in the region will be increased.

One of the various resources of East Kootenay that is now awaiting development is located in the southern part of this district, and in a section of country of which but little has hitherto been known, where there are extensive oil fields, which were discovered a few years ago.

The lumber industry is a great and growing one. There are large saw-mills located throughout the district, and during the past year there have been a number of new ones erected, the output of which finds a ready market.

The resources of East Kootenay, however, unlike those of mining regions generally, are not confined to minerals. The district is, speaking generally, also a good agricultural and pasture country. It contains a valley nearly 300 miles long, from the international boundary line to the apex of the Kootenay triangle of the Big Bend of the Columbia, with an average width of eight to ten miles, in the centre of which is enclosed the mother lakes of the Columbia, 2,850 feet above sea level. "It is," says Judge Sproat's report, "one of the prettiest and most favored valleys in the province, having good grass and soil, a fine climate, established mines and promising mines, excellent waterways and an easy surface for road-making." Nearly the whole of the area of the valley described is a bunch-grass country, affording excellent grazing. The grass country is 250 miles long, of an average width of five miles, besides a number of lateral valleys of more limited extent. It is safe to say that the whole of the valley is fertile. The atmosphere is clear and dry, and the snow-fall in winter light, but in a district so extended climatic conditions vary considerably from local causes.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has recently published for free distribution a map showing the lands controlled by it in the Kootenay and