

# THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

Seventeenth Year of Publication  
ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY

SUBSCRIPTIONS, CANADA AND UNITED STATES  
\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE OR \$2.25 WHEN  
NOT SO PAID; OTHER COUNTRIES, \$2.50 PER  
ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

Changes for advertisements should be in not later  
than Thursday Morning.

Advertisements purporting to be news matter,  
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Journal, will not be inserted.

Office: 151 McDermot Street.

D. W. BUCHANAN,  
Publisher.

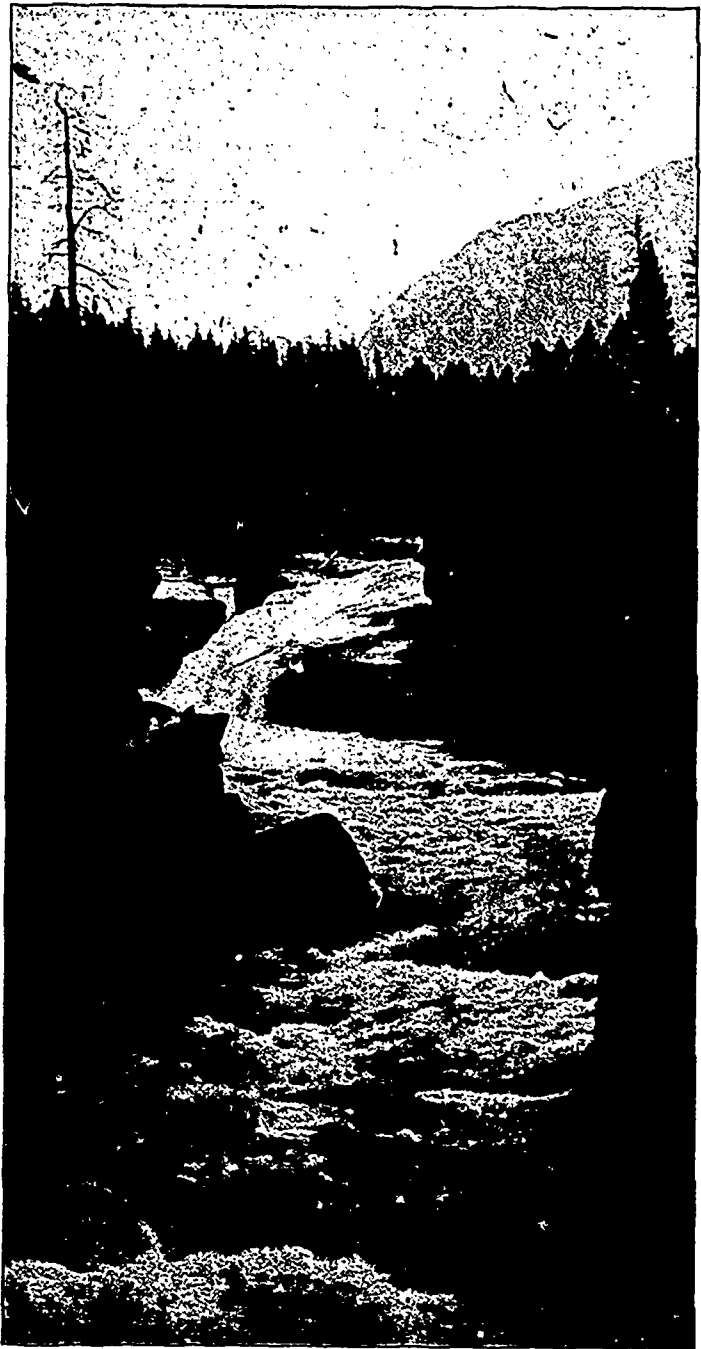
The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much  
larger circulation among the business community  
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facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 18, 1899.

## Crow's Nest Railway Towns

The construction of the Crow's Nest railway has led to the building up of a number of new towns in that hitherto practically unaccessible region owing to the large deposits of coal of good quality and the existence of other valuable mineral deposits, some of these towns are likely to develop into important centres within a few years. One of the new towns which has particularly good prospects is Elko, a point on the Crow's Nest road in the district of East Kootenay B. C. A folder descriptive of the new town and district has recently been issued by the Land Department of the C. P. R.

Elko is situated at the crossing of the Elk River. The valley of the Elk River, down which the railway is carried for forty miles, here merges into the great valley of the Kootenay. The valley averages about two miles in width above Elko. The flat bottom lands show their richness in the growth of forest trees, consisting of cedar, fir, pine, spruce and tamarac. These are rapidly being removed to supply the saw-mills located along the river and the land is being quickly cleared by the action of forest fires. The country, especially in the vicinity of Elko, is one of extreme beauty. The grassy bench lands are dotted over with pines. The absence of undergrowth permits an uninterrupted view in every direction, and through the groves of pine can be seen on either hand the sharp peaks of the Rocky Mountain, while looking up the valley glimpses of the bright blue waters of the river winding its way through cedar covered flats suggest sites for the homes of the coming agriculturists. To the tourist this district pos-



ELK RIVER FALLS, EAST KOOTENAY, B. C.

sesses many attractions, and in addition to its picturesqueness it is the home of big game, as the name of the town suggests. The Elk river is well known as one of the best fishing rivers in British Columbia.

The valley of the Elk is capable of supplying quite a number of settlers with homesteads, and before long a thriving agricultural population will spring up in the valley, which will make Elko its market town. All the elements required to constitute a rich and progressive district are found in the valley of the Kootenay, these comprise in part, a rich agricultural soil, bunch grass lands, forests of merchantable timber, pine, cedar and fir, the minerals of commerce, gold, silver, lead, iron and copper, and immense deposits of bituminous coal. Added to this the country enjoys a dry salubrious climate, favorable to health and

fruit growing. Placer mining for gold is carried on profitably on some of the streams tributary to the Kootenay river.

The coal beds of the Crow's Nest pass lie along the valley of the Elk river and its tributaries. Mines are being operated by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company on Michel and Coal Creeks. The most important mines lie about twenty miles north of Elko on Coal Creek. It has been demonstrated that a coke superior to any manufactured in the United States and equal to the best coke of Wales is obtained from this coal. With coal and coke close by and a magnificent water power available, Elko stands a good chance of becoming a smelting and manufacturing centre. Power could also be cheaply generated at the falls and transmitted to the mines in the district.