

Ashcroft "The Gateway".

ASHCROFT is easily one of the most important towns in the interior of British Columbia and few towns in the province are better known to the mining and commercial interests of not only Eastern Canada but also the United States and Great Britain. The town has a prosperous and industrious appearance with its many Ranchers shipping cattle and Farmers unloading wagons of produce consisting chiefly of the famous "Ashcroft Potatoes" (than which there are none better) and the equally famed luscious red apple. Yet another sign of industry is furnished by the many freight teams daily loading mining supplies for the Northern mines and merchandise for the many Chilcoten and Cariboo ranches.

Some idea of the foreign goods imported and shipped North after being cleared at the Ashcroft Custom House can be formed when it is known that for years past the duties collected at this point have averaged over \$15,000.00 per year.

The town is well equipped with all modern conveniences, three Churches flourish, a public School, two good Hotels, numerous General Stores, including one of the largest in the province.

ASHCROFT has an excellent Electric Light and Water service, also a Volunteer Fire Brigade and Board of Fire Wardens.

A branch of the Bank of British North America is established here and the medical and legal professions are likewise ably represented by a resident Doctor, two legal firms, and a County Court Judge.

The C. P. R. agency and Telegraphs including the Southern terminus of Ashcroft-Dawson line, is located at this point and telegrams are distributed East and West all over the World.

The British Columbia Express Company whose head offices are at Ashcroft, operate stage lines over six hundred miles in length through the Cariboo, Chilcoten and Lillooet districts carrying Mails, Passengers, Express and Fast Freight in most expeditious manner.

The Provincial Government Agency for West Yale is located here, the Agent also acting as Mining Recorder and Registrar of the County Court which is held about every two months.

The town also boasts of an up-to-date newspaper, "The Ashcroft Journal" which was established in 1895 gives reliable information of the Yale-Lillooet-Cariboo Districts and Northern British Columbia, and contains all the mining and agricultural news of these rich sections of British Columbia.

ASHCROFT is the shipping point for all the cattle raised in the Cariboo, Lillooet and Chilcoten districts, and between four and five thousand head are annually shipped to the Coast markets.

Devotees of Sport can find many a branch in which to indulge their fancy as Tennis, Baseball, Bowling, Basketball, Curling and Rifle Clubs are in full swing, while disciples of Isaac Walton can enjoy most excellent Trout fishing in the Thompson River, the fish, mostly of the Silver and Rainbow species, running from 1 to 12 pounds.

The Climate is everything that can be desired, the winter being neither too cold or too snowy, and yet just cold enough to make ice for curling and skating.

Up to the present time Cattle ranching has been the chief industry in the immediate vicinity of Ashcroft which includes the Bonaparte and Cacic Creek Valleys, but a change is now taking place, the land having become too valuable to merely range cattle over. The soil of these ranges is of a light sandy loam and capable of growing fruit, unequalled in California and fully equal to any other section of British Columbia.

ASHCROFT has met the whole Province at the New Westminster Exhibition and captured the first prize for Apples and at the Chicago World's Fair, Ashcroft again captured first prize for Apples.

Fruit from the bench-lands within the twenty five mile radius of Ashcroft has won the Gold Medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Exhibition in London England, and in other shows in Great Britain in competition with the British Empire. There are thousands of acres of these bench-lands which can be converted into first class fruit lands and capital is now being interested with a view of purchasing these properties and the installation of Irrigation Works, sub-division and placing the same upon the market.