

slope of the Rockies and the Pacific Coast, a branch line runs to Arrowhead, a small station at the head of the Arrow Lakes, from which place the journey is continued by means of palatial steamers as far as Robson, a small town at the southern end of the lakes. From Robson, the Columbia & Kootenay Branch of the Canadian Pacific runs to Nelson. The journey from Revelstoke to Nelson occupies less than twelve hours. As soon as the line is in thorough running order, the Crow's Nest Pass branch will be the more direct route from the East, as the time occupied by the journey from Winnipeg to Nelson will be reduced by nearly thirty-six hours.

The traveller from the Southern States can also reach Nelson via Spokane and the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway, the journey from Spokane to Nelson occupying eight hours.

Nelson is now connected with the Boundary District by means of the Robson-Penticton Railway. This line places Nelson in direct communication with the principal cities and towns of that part of the Province known as the Boundary Country.

Nelson the Commercial Centre of the Kootenays.

The remarkable growth of the City of Nelson is not of the mushroom order like many mining towns; on the contrary there is an aspect of solidity and permanency about the city which at once strikes the observant stranger's glance.

Massive brick blocks, which are every month being added to in number, serve for warehouses and offices for the large commercial firms.

There are four banks in Nelson, viz: the Banks of British Columbia and Montreal, the Merchants Bank of Halifax, and the Imperial Bank of Canada. No less than twenty-nine large wholesale houses have established warehouses in the city. The excellent facilities for transport by both rail and water to all parts of the Kootenays assist in maintaining a brisk and ever increasing trade for these firms. It is thus that Nelson has gradually become the distributing point for all kinds of merchandise throughout the Kootenays. Other cities in that district are dependent on some neighboring mine or mines for their very existence, but Nelson stands alone as the home of trade and commerce for the mining portion of the Province of British Columbia. The assured value of personal property in Nelson is greater than the combined assessment of the cities of Rossland, Kaslo and Sandon. In 1898 the value of exports (according to the Custom House returns) for the City of Nelson, amounted to \$3,695,624.00, and the value of the imports for the same year was \$588,753.00. These figures will speak for themselves.