

the country, and affords a convenient and luxurious means of communication throughout the entire year in that portion of the province. A system of car ferries is also in operation, by which freight cars are taken through to their destination from the place of shipment without breaking bulk, thus enabling the handling of goods, etc., at comparatively low charges.

LOCAL DISTRICTS.

The province is divided into the Kootenay, Yale, Lillooet, Westminster, Cariboo and Cassiar Districts on the mainland, and the Comox (which includes the northern half of Vancouver Island and a portion of the opposite mainland), Alberni, Nanaimo, Cowichan and Esquimalt Districts on Vancouver Island. These districts are subdivided for local purposes, and in the mineral bearing regions mining divisions are formed, their limits being usually the surrounding watersheds.

THE KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

The Kootenay District, comprising an area of over 15,000,000 acres, extends north and south from the international boundary to the Big Bend of the Columbia. It is divided by the Purcell range of the Selkirks into East and West Kootenay. Almost the entire district is drained by the Columbia River, which flows north through East Kootenay and south through West Kootenay.

EAST KOOTENAY.

East Kootenay, lying between Alberta on the east, from which it is separated by the Rocky Mountains, and West Kootenay on the west, comprises the larger part of the famous Kootenay region of British Columbia. The country practically contains every variety of mineral wealth that is known to exist in North America. The great wealth of the region has been known for years, and in the early days of placer mining it yielded millions, but the lack of means of communication and the heavy cost of transportation of supplies and machinery, combined with the rich discoveries in other parts of the province which were more easy of access, naturally retarded mining operations seriously, and prevented the work of development reaching those immense proportions which, under more favorable conditions, would have been attained. The completion and operation of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, which traverses one of the richest parts of the district, have removed these impeding obstacles, and are giving a great impulse to the work of development. By this new avenue of communication, access is now readily gained to this region, and a new mining empire is being opened to the world. The magnitude of the latent riches of this immense tract can scarcely be realized yet, for, although the work of prospecting has been vigorously prosecuted, with most gratifying results, there is still a large area to be explored. The existence of immense bodies of ore has already been established, but how wide their distribution is can only be determined by actual search. Prospectors find here magnificent opportunities for discovery, and practical mining men and capitalists an unsurpassed field for investment.

Besides gold, copper and silver-lead, East Kootenay also possesses what are believed to be the greatest coal deposits in the world, which already have