

For so large a district with such scanty population the roads compare favourably with any district so situated and the Highway Department of the province is keeping pace with the growth of the country in meeting the request for more and better roads. It is not a difficult country in which to build trails or roads and excellent transportation facilities will be a feature of the development.

The railways, steamboats and stages operating in this district all carry mail which is further distributed by numerous regular carriers. Except in the most outlying settlements mail service is reasonably frequent and quite reliable. The number of post offices in Central British Columbia is being constantly added to. The gross postal revenue for the year ending March 31, 1918, amounted \$22,817.42 at Prince Rupert and \$4,462.61 at Prince George.

The district is singularly fortunate in being provided with number of telegraph lines. During the years 1878 to 1887 the Dominion Government constructed a line for the benefit of the Cariboo mining district from Ashcroft to Quesnel and thence to Barkerville. It is 276 miles in length and follows the Cariboo road. It is now adapted to both telegraph and telephone uses. At Ashcroft connection with the Canadian Pacific Telegraph lines gives service to all outside points. A branch line added in 1902 from 150-Mile House to Quesnel Forks gives service to Harper's Camp and the Quesnel Lake district. It is 89 miles in length. These lines are used locally to a great extent.

When the rush to the Klondike gold-fields took place the need of telegraphic connection with new centres springing up then became urgent. Commencing in the year 1899 the Dominion Government constructed the famous Ashcroft-Dawson line which now reaches to the Yukon-Alaska boundary line at Eagle—a total distance of 1,777 miles.

It follows the Cariboo road as far north as Quesnel, then cuts across to Fort Fraser and traverses the Endako and Bulkley valleys to Hazelton. It then runs north traversing the Kispiox valley and following the divide at the head of Nass river cross the Stikine at Telegraph Creek beyond which it reaches Atlin, Whitehorse and Dawson.

From Hazelton a line was built down the Skeena valley during the years 1901-1902 to Prince Rupert, Essington and Port Simpson. It is 218 miles in length with some twenty-two offices. A number of local telephone lines also radiate from the Hazelton office.

From Terrace, on the Hazelton-Prince Rupert section, another branch of 110 miles was constructed in 1910-11 to Anyox and Stewart. It follows up the Kitsoy valley, crosses the Nass river at Upper Nass and swings around the head of the Bulkley to Alice Arm. There are eight offices on this section.

In 1912 a branch line was built from 150-Mile House on the Ashcroft-Quesnel line westerly through the Chilcotin district, across the Coast range of mountains and down Bella Coola valley to the coast. The length of this branch is 329 miles with twenty-eight offices. It touches Chimney Creek, Riske Creek, Hanceville, Alouette Creek, Redstone, Chilanko Forks, Tatla Lake, and other points. Telephones are now used on this section.

Still another Dominion Government line serves the Peace River district east of the Rockies. It is some 700 miles in length running from Edmonton to Peace River.