

THE CANADIAN ROCKIES AS A MOTORING CENTRE

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAY

CROW'S NEST TO CRESTON

"This has been the most enjoyable part of our trip from San Diego. Your roads are wonderful, and the scenery is incomparable, I hope to come again." . . . "Roads, generally speaking, are excellent, and the scenery is second to none." . . . "Great roads, greater scenery." . . . "Really fine roads, words cannot describe the scenery." . . . "Shall certainly be a booster for this trip."

These remarks and many more in a similar strain have been written by tourists in the Register of the Board of Trade Information Bureau at Fernie, and being the expressions of disinterested persons will doubtless create a better impression in the minds of those who read them, than would a whole book of descriptive matter written by us. We therefore shall confine our remarks to a brief description of the road and the most interesting points and leave you, who come to see, to form your own opinions.

The most outstanding feature of a trip through this section of British Columbia is, that one can drive over almost perfect roads for days at a stretch, the whole time never being away from alongside rivers or lakes, or running at the foot of one or other of the many majestic mountains ranging to as high as 11000 feet. We believe that we are correct in making the statement that nowhere else on the American Continent can such a trip of 350 miles be found. The through road is open usually from the end of March until the end of October, but West and South of Elko the season is much longer for local travel.

Starting at "The Divide" at Crow's Nest, which is the Eastern extremity of the road, it passes Crow's Nest Lake and for the next 9 miles follows the course of Michel Creek through a narrow defile into Michel, where are located some of the collieries of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. Then through Natal and two miles beyond, it meets the Elk River and swings abruptly to the South

following the course of this river for the next 40 miles, passing through Hosmer where it crosses the river at the foot of Mount Hosmer (8000 feet). It then enters what has been called by many tourists "The scenic wonderland of the Rockies," passing in the order named Mt. Proctor (6000 feet), Trinity Mountain (9870 feet), and Mount Fernie (5000 feet), at the foot of the latter it again crosses the river and enters the town of Fernie.

FERNIE

(33 Miles from Crow's Nest, 51 Miles from Gateway, Mont., and 112 Miles from Eastport, Idaho.)

This town with its population of approximately 5000 is the largest town in South-Eastern British Columbia and one of the most progressive towns in the Province, it is ideally situated in the scenic heart of the Rockies being surrounded on all sides by high mountain peaks, the most picturesque of which are Castle Mountain (5000 feet), and The Hog's Back (5500 feet) on the east, Mount Fernie (5000 feet) on the west, Trinity Mountain (9870 feet), Camel Mountain (6000 feet), and Mount Hosmer (8000 feet) on the north, the Lizard Range (from 4000 to 7000 feet), and the Morrissey Mountains (about 5000 feet) on the south, whilst the Elk River flows from north to south through the town.

Its basic industries are Coal and Lumber. The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company's mines are the largest individually owned mines in Canada, covering an area of over a quarter of a million acres. The supply is practically inexhaustible, it is Bituminous coal of excellent steaming qualities. They give employment to about 1200 miners and produce about 4000 tons of coal and 600 tons of coke daily.

The timber areas in the vicinity are very extensive and consist chiefly of Tamarac, Pine, Spruce and Cedar—these are operated by the Elk Valley Lumber Co. and the White Spruce Lumber Co., the daily capacity of their mills is around 100,000 feet at each. There are also several post and prop camps operating. This industry employs about 500 men the year round.