

REPORT
ON A PORTION OF THE
WEST KOOTANIE DISTRICT,
BRITISH COLUMBIA,
1889,

By GEORGE M. DAWSON, D.S., F.G.S.

INTRODUCTORY.

Within the past three years, numerous discoveries of valuable ores ^{Discoveries in West Kootanie.} have occurred in the West Kootanie district,* and this district appears likely to be the first in which metalliferous mining on an extensive scale will be initiated in the province of British Columbia. As nothing was known of the geological structure of the southern part of the West Kootanie district, where a number of the more important discoveries of ores have been made, it was considered desirable that the writer should undertake a geological reconnaissance of that part of the district, with the special purpose of ascertaining the character and mode of occurrence and association of the ore-deposits, and of estimating their prospective importance. The present report embodies the results obtained with reference to these points. The field-work upon which it ^{Object of present report.} is based, occupied little more than a month, extending from June 10th to July 12th, 1889; and while this time proved to be sufficient for the purpose of visiting the several mining camps, as well as for some general examinations along the routes followed, it did not admit of

* The name here written Kootanie, has been and is rendered in a variety of ways. Without exhausting the subject, the following versions may be quoted:—Arrowsmith's general map of British North America, 1811, *Coo-too-nay*. Arrowsmith's maps of 1850 and 1854, Palliser's official map printed in 1865, and on earlier preliminary maps published in connection with Palliser's expedition, also on the map accompanying Alex. Ross's book on the first settlers on the Columbia River (1849), and many others—*Kootanie*. On the joint maps of the Boundary Commission between British Columbia and the United States, on Trutch's map of B. C., and in recent maps published by the Government of B. C.—*Kootenay*. As applied to a station on the Northern Pacific Railway—*Kootenai*. There is perhaps little to choose between these various renderings, no one of which represents the true pronunciation of the Indian word, but I can see no reason to alter the older spelling, which has been used in former reports of the Geological Survey and is here adopted.