

KOOTENAY LAKES



KOOTENAY LAKE forms a kind of splitting wedge that breaks the huge bulk of the Selkirk Mountains into two separate ranges. One of these, the Selkirks proper, runs down the west side of Kootenay Lake; the other, known as the Purcells, passes down on the east side of Kootenay Lake and forms the dividing line between East and West Kootenay. In the trough thus formed lies Kootenay Lake, running seventy miles almost due north and south. From the north it is fed by the Duncan River, rising in the Selkirk Range and connecting it with Howser Lake; from the south, by the Kootenay River, which finds an outlet through the West Arm, a narrow sheet of water running in a south-westerly direction from a point about one-third the way up the lake.

Rarely within a comparatively small area can be found such a variety of lake and mountain scenery as here. On the one hand, soft and rounded landscapes; on the other, the deepest blue lakes. Deep canyons, high peaks, glaciers and leaping waterfalls, bench lands with carefully tended orchards surrounded by snow-capped and timber-covered mountains, the whole mirrored in lakes or stately rivers—such is the Kootenay Lake. Easily accessible from all sides, and opened up by railways, its lakes, and a gradually extending road and trail system, it offers splendid attractions to that increasing class of holiday-makers who desire to spend a vacation profitably and at the same time economically.

Nelson, charmingly situated on a commanding eminence overlooking the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, is the commercial centre of the Kootenay district, and practically of the entire southern British Columbia region. At the convergence of lake and rail systems, it is an attractive little city in which life passes very pleasantly. The people of Nelson say that Nature practised on Switzerland before making British Columbia. They compare the location of their city to Lucerne; and, indeed, the Selkirks, the dominant features of the Kootenay landscape, have little to suffer in a comparison with the Alps. In the neighborhood are hot springs, glaciers, great cataracts, and fishing lodges. Within easy reach is excellent trout fishing. Nelson is the centre of the "Boundary" mining district; immediately behind is a wonderful mountain in which is located the famous "Silver King" mine from which over ten million dollars of treasure have been taken. It has several saw

mills that supply the prairies, and is the market place for a very large fruit region. Because of its railway and steamer connection in all directions, Nelson is the natural setting-off point for the visitor. By steamer to Kootenay Landing, whence connection is made with the C.P.R. Crow's Nest Pass Line, it affords direct communication with the prairies. Westward from Nelson runs a railway line that, at West Robson, links with the Arrow Lake Steamer Service, and, continuing still west, joins the Kettle Valley Railway at Midway, thence via Penticton to Vancouver. From Nelson a daily steamer service up Kootenay Lake communicates with Kaslo and Lardeau.

At the central point of the north end of the lake lies Kaslo, the distributing point and residential centre for the surrounding mining districts, a four-hour steamer journey of 77 miles. It is also accessible by a branch railway line from Nakusp, on the Arrow Lakes, whence Arrowhead is reached by steamer, and Revelstoke, on the main line of the C.P.R., by rail.

Fronting on Kootenay Lake, Kaslo is faced by the great bulk of the Purcell Range, with its numerous deep canyons and cloud-piercing peaks, an almost unexplored region little known even to the hardy prospector. The Kaslo River, a swift and clattering stream, has broken through from the glacial fields at the summit of the Selkirk Range lying to the west, and washed down mountain debris, which, built up through untold centuries, has become in time an extremely picturesque townsite in a locality whose topography is such that anything in the shape of a level townsite is very scarce indeed.

From Kaslo many interesting and delightful excursions may be made by horseback, rail, motor boat, steamer, automobile, bicycle or on foot. A splendid road, passing through symmetrical and well-kept orchards, leads up through the lower part of the Kaslo Creek Valley to Zwickey, and thence for twenty miles up the South Fork of the Kaslo River to the northern flanks of the stupendous Kootenay glacier. This glacier, the last and most southerly of the great ice-fields of the Selkirk Range, lies snugly encompassed by numerous bare rock peaks, some of which range between nine and ten thousand feet in height. Along the highway may be seen the picturesque mining pack trains, made up of mules and horses, carrying silver-lead ore in little