

Kootenay differs from the Western Division in containing extensive coal deposits and a considerable amount of land fit for cultivation. Too mountainous for agricultural lands, West Kootenay is almost entirely devoted to gold-copper and silver-lead mining.

The Columbia River, with its tributaries, drains both Divisions. Taking its rise in Columbia Lake, situated in the valley between the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains, it flows northward past Windermere and Golden. The Windermere country contains many fine farms and affords good pasturage for cattle. Timber, consisting of fir, tamarac, pine and cedar, is plentiful; and the mineral prospects are good. A waggon road extends from Cranbrook on the south to Golden on the north.

Golden, at the junction of the Kicking Horse River and the Columbia, may be called the first Canadian Pacific Railway station in British Columbia, because the intervening stations between it and the Rocky Mountains come within the boundaries of the Canadian National Park. It is chiefly a distributing centre.

**Golden,  
and the  
Big Bend.** Lumbering, a little mining and stock-raising are carried on in its neighborhood. Below Golden the railway for a space parallels the Columbia. Then while the former makes its way through the Selkirks by Roger's Pass and the Illecillewaet River, the latter continues its course to the north until with a gigantic swerve the "big bend" is formed and the direction of the stream is reversed. Railway and river come together again at Revelstoke. The Big Bend attracted thousands of miners in the sixties and produced in its best year about \$5,000,000. Placer mining still goes on, though not to the same extent.