

The coke ovens are built of fire brick, in double rows, with supporting walls of masonry. A railway runs along the top of each battery. Over it cars are hauled to charge the ovens with slack coal, through a circular hole at the top. For about seventy-two hours the coal is burned, that is, the gases are driven off. Almost pure carbon is left behind. When drawn from the oven the coke is firm and has a metallic lustre.

The City of Fernie, in the heart of the coal area, is the most important place in East Kootenay. Into it Great Northern trains run. Thus two railways give markets to the coal fields for their products.

Cranbrook, farther west, situated on a prairie and within view of the Selkirks and Rockies, ranks next to Fernie in importance. It is a lumbering centre and has the railway workshops. From it a railway runs to the lead and silver mines of Kimberley.

The chief lead producer in Canada is the St. Eugene silver-lead mine at Moyie. By means of machinery the ore is sorted in a huge concentrator, the largest in the province, and shipped as concentrates.

#### **Moyie**

#### **Silver-lead Mine.**

After leaving Moyie the British Columbia Southern passes through the Goat River mineral section to Kootenay Landing, its terminus, whence a steamer runs all the year round to Nelson.

When we parted with the Kootenay River at Tobacco Plains we did so with the expectation of meeting it again after it had passed through the States of Montana and Idaho. Upon recrossing the boundary line the river expands into Kootenay Lake, then issues from the west arm of the lake to join its old neighbor, the Columbia. The confluence of the two streams is at Robson.