

part of the Rocky Mountains, runs for about 200 miles in two branches in a westerly direction, and then in one stream runs due south for nearly 400 miles before turning to rush through the gorges of the Coast range to the Straits of Georgia. Its total length is about 740 miles. On its way it receives the waters of the Thompson, the Chilicoten, the Lillooet, the Nicola, the Harrison, the Pitt, and numerous other streams. For the last 80 miles of its course it flows through a wide alluvial plain, which has mainly been deposited from its own silt. It is navigable for vessels drawing twenty feet to New Westminster, about fifteen miles from its mouth, and for light draught river boats to Yale, a small town 110 miles from the mouth, and again for smaller craft for about 60 miles of its course through the northern interior, from Quesnel Mouth to Soda Creek in Cariboo.

The Columbia, a large river rising in the southeastern part of the province, in the neighborhood of the Rocky Mountains, near Kootenay Lake, runs north beyond the 52nd degree of latitude, when it takes a sudden turn and runs due south into the State of Washington. It is this loop made by the abrupt turn of the river that is known as the "Big Bend of the Columbia." The Columbia drains an area of 195,000 square miles.

The Kootenay, which rises near the head waters of the Columbia, flows south through East Kootenay into the States of Montana and Idaho, and returning to British Columbia, empties into Kootenay Lake, its waters again being discharged through the Lower Kootenay River into the returning branch of the Columbia some distance south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Peace River rises some distance north of the north bend of the Fraser, and flows eastwardly through the Rocky Mountains, draining the plains on the other side. Gold discoveries at its head waters have been reported in recent years, but the river more properly belongs to the district east of the Mountains that bears its name.

The Thompson River has two branches, known as the North Thompson and the South Thompson. The former rises in small lakes in the Cariboo District, and the other in the Shuswap Lakes in the Yale District. They join at Kamloops, and flow out of Kamloops Lake into the Fraser River at Lytton.

The Stikine flows into the Pacific Ocean through a short stretch of Alaskan territory, and forms the main artery of communication for a large portion of the province north of latitude 57 degrees, and for years has been regularly navigated. The Cassiar mining district is reached by it. It is navigable for river steamboats for about 130 miles to Glenora and Telegraph Creek.

The principal lakes are the Kootenay, Slocan, Arrow (Upper and Lower), Okanagan, Trout, Shuswap and Harrison in Southern British Columbia, and Quesnel in Northern. They are all navigable, and on the five first named, an unexcelled steamboat service has been established by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., which connects with its extensive system of branch railways that gridiron