



CO-TINNER—THE WATER PEOPLE.

GLORIOUS KOOTENAY.—How little is known of this beautiful country, with its magnificent mountain ranges, its peaceful valleys, rapid rivers and placid lakes, with its variety of sport, its unrivalled accommodation for travellers and hunters, its vast mineral resources, and its wealth of beautiful scenery and invigorating climate!

Lying in the centre of the "Sea of Mountains" of British Columbia, Kootenay may be briefly described as the district watered by the streams that fall into the Columbia and Kootenay rivers. Rising in the western foothills of the Rocky Mountains these rivers pass one another in the north-eastern part of the district—the Columbia on its journey northward and the Kootenay southward bound, only after their long wanderings to meet again in the south-western part of the district, where, joining together at the foot of Arrow Lake, their mingled waters flow onward for a thousand miles, until at last they fall into the Pacific Ocean. The Columbia, having gone some 200 miles to the north, has cleft its way through the mountains and changed to a southern course, while the Kootenay, which passed by it, has flowed through the States of Montana and Idaho, diverting again northward to join its sister stream. These important rivers with their tributaries almost encircle the district of Kootenay.

But a few short years ago this vast region was almost unknown, except to the hunter, the trapper and the Indian. Exploration was difficult and though the excitement of placer mining in British Columbia attracted some passing attention in the early sixties, it was not