

district, from the proximity to the international boundary line—the Okanagan, the Nicola and the Thompson valleys.

THE BOUNDARY DISTRICT.

This region, which is becoming one of the wealthiest portions of the province, forms the south-eastern part of what has hitherto been known as the Yale district. In it are four distinct mineral basins—that around the Christina Lake on the east; that adjacent to the North Fork of the Kettle River; of the Boundary Creek; and that of the main Kettle River with Rock Creek, West Fork, Canyon Creek and other tributaries.

The whole area covers a distance of about 50 miles east and west, and extends a similar distance northwards. There have been numerous finds of ore in all these basins, but a good deal of unexplored territory is still open to the prospector, while further north is a region that is practically a virgin field for the gold-seeker. The ore bodies in the Boundary district are very large and carry good values in gold and copper or gold and silver. A lot of development work has been done on numerous claims, and on some properties costly plants have been placed. The output of ore is becoming increasingly large owing to the extension of the Canadian Pacific system through this region. Not only does a great trunk line traverse the entire district, but the railway company has also built short branch lines to the principal mining camps to facilitate the shipment of ore, an unprecedented departure from the usual course pursued by railway companies. The tonnage of ore shipments, chiefly copper ore, had, by the end of September, 1902, reached an aggregate of about 832,000 tons, of which 97,800 tons were shipped in 1900, 386,700 tons in 1901, and 347,500 tons during nine months of 1902. Of this total more than 700,000 tons were smelted at district smelters, of which there are three, viz., the Granby Company's works, with four blast furnaces and a copper converter, at Grand Forks; the B. C. Copper Company's, with two furnaces, at Greenwood, and the Montreal & Boston Copper Company's, with one furnace, at Boundary Falls. Arrangements are being made for the enlargement of all three smelters, and the erection in the district of another smelter is being prepared for by the Snowshoe Gold & Copper Mines Company.

The Boundary District possesses other resources than its enormous mineral wealth. It has fertile valleys and hillsides, with great capabilities for farming and market gardening, and bunch-grass ranges, affording good pasturage for horses and cattle. Fruit growing has shown splendid results, the apples grown near Grand Forks, Kettle River Valley, being as fine as grown anywhere. Pears, cherries, plums and prunes can also be grown in abundance, the trees in the valley being said to be more productive than those of California and other States of the Union; and small fruits of different varieties are plentiful. For all these fruits there is a steady home market at good prices. Vegetables are also a prolific crop, potatoes yielding from 10 to 12 tons per acre, and garden truck generally and roots, for which there is a constant demand, bring large returns to the producer. Wheat of a fine quality is said to yield up to