

of the main line of the railway. The Columbia drains a total area of 195,000 square miles.

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. Rich 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 rising in small lakes in the Cariboo District, and the other in the Shuswap Lakes in the Yale District. They join at Kamloops and flow east out of Kamloops Lake into the Fraser River at Lytton.

The Stikine, which flows into the Pacific Ocean through a short stretch of Alaskan territory, forms the main artery of communication for a large portion of the province north of latitude 57 degs., and for years has been regularly navigated. The Cassiar mining district is reached by it, and it is also one of the great highways to the Yukon gold fields. It is navigable for river steamboats for about 130 miles to Glenora and Telegraph Creek, from which it is 145 miles overland to Teslin Lake, the principal source of the Yukon River, to which there is easy navigation for steamers and smaller craft.

LOCAL DISTRICTS

The mainland of the province is divided into Westminster, Yale, Kootenay, Lillooet, Cariboo, Cassiar and Comox districts, which are sub-divided into divisions for local purposes. The most westwardly of these districts on the mainland is the

NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT

which extends from the international boundary line on the south to 50 degs. 15 mins. on the north. Its eastern boundary is the 122 deg. longitude, and its western the 124 deg. where it strikes the head of Jarvis Inlet, and the Straits of Georgia. In this district there is a good deal of excellent farming land, particularly in the Fraser River Valley and in its delta. The soil is rich and strong, the climate mild, but in the winter months of the year there is considerable rain, which comes instead of snow, in those parts of the district nearest the coast. Live stock are often allowed to shift for themselves the year around. Heavy yields of grain are obtained without much labour. Very large returns of wheat have been got from land in this locality—as much as 62 bushels from a measured acre, 110 bushels of oats per acre, and hay that yielded three and a half to five tons to the acre, and frequently two crops, totalling six tons. Experiments have of late years been made in fruit growing, with the most satisfactory results—apples, plums, pears, cherries, almonds, prunes, and all the smaller fruits being grown in profusion, and at the Experimental Farm at Agassiz, figs in small quantities have been successfully produced. This part is fairly well settled, but there is still ample room for new comers. Those having a little money to use, and desirous of obtaining a ready-made farm, may find many to choose from. These settlements are not all on the Fraser; some are at a distance from it on other streams. There is considerable good timber in the western and south-western portions.

The Canadian Pacific Railway crosses the southern portion of this district to Vancouver, and rail communication is established with the cities situated on Puget Sound, with Portland, Oregon, San Francisco and the American system.