

construction and operation, better days than those of old will be seen in Golden Cariboo. The C. P. R. people have enterprise which others would do well to emulate.

The engineer party that has been at work for the Canadian Pacific between the Columbia River and Rossland were suddenly ordered to move to Slocan Lake to make preliminary surveys for a road from the Nakusp & Slocan at Rosebery, south along the east shore of the lake to Slocan Crossing, on the Columbia & Kootenay. The country is an easy one in which to build a road.

Word is said to have been received from St. Paul that that one of the large mills in that city is engaged in rolling steel plates to be used in the construction of a large transfer steamer at Bonner's Ferry for the Great Northern railway. The story goes that broad gauge cars will be brought to Kaslo, and loaded directly from chutes built along the high ground on the water front, the Kaslo & Slocan constructing a high level spur to accomodate the traffic.

Rossland.

Rossland is the largest inland town in British Columbia, having a population at this date exceeding 3,000 people, and is situated at the head of Trail and Little Sheep Creeks at an elevation of about 4,000 feet above sea level, five miles north of the international boundary line and the same distance west of the Columbia River.

It is located right in the heart of the mines of the Trail Creek district, none of them being more than 20 minutes walk from town and most of them within five minutes of the post office. There are at present between 400 and 500 miners employed in the camp, and perhaps twice or three times as many will be at work inside of 60 days.

The town numbers among its business houses, 20 hotels, half a dozen general merchandise stores, one private bank, numerous restaurants, boarding houses, grocery stores, shoe stores, merchant tailoring establishments, gent's furnishing goods, notions, drug stores, etc. Almost all lines of business are well represented, but good openings exist for a wholesale liquor house and bonded warehouse, dry goods store and a few smaller investments. A chartered bank is the most urgent need of the town, and the first to locate a branch here will do a bigger business than both banks in Nelson combined. A good dentist is also badly needed.

There is a complete sawmill and also a planing mill. Lumber is worth from \$13 to \$30 per thousand feet and carpenters wages run from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day.

A narrow gauge railroad is now building from the smelter town of Trail to Rossland, and two more stand-

ard gauge railroads connecting with the Canadian Pacific and Spokane & Northern Railroads will be built this summer. The combined mileage of these three roads and their branches within a radius of three miles of Rossland will exceed 25 miles.

Business lots are selling for cash from \$1,000 to \$5,000 while residence lots can be obtained on easy terms at prices ranging from \$100, or even less, upwards.

The town has four churches, a good public school and an opera house.

The town of Trail which is about seven miles east of Rossland on the Columbia River, has a population of about 1,000 and like Rossland is growing rapidly.—*Rossland Miner.*

Oil in East Kootenay.

One of the various resources of East Kootenay, waiting development is in the south-eastern portion of the district. This is a section of country but little known and which is separated from the remainder of the district by a high range of mountains. The natural outlet of the valley is down the Flathead River into Montana, and the nearest railway is the Great Northern. Some years ago attention was called to this section through the finding of crude oil in the possession of some Stony Indians, who annually hunted in that valley, and they were induced to show some miners where they obtained the oil, which they (the Indians) were in the habit of using as

a medicine for complaints of all kinds. The surface indications are good, and two different qualities of oil have been obtained. On Kisheena Creek, a short distance north of the international boundary line, a black oil, similar to the Pennsylvania and Ohio oils, is found. But on Sage creek, some eight miles north, there is found an oil that is nearly pure, of a light yellow color which will burn in a lamp as it comes from the ground. Close by there is a natural gas escaping from the bedrock, which burns freely. Some of this



HAULING ORE AT ROSSLAND.

oil sent to the Geological Museum at Ottawa caused considerable excitement and comment, and was pronounced a fraud on account of its purity. Dr. Selwyn, the head of the department, made a special trip to the valley and was surprised to find the oil genuine, and also that this oil was found in the Cambrian formation, which was something unknown, as all oil fields hitherto discovered have been in the Trenton limestone. Directly due east of Sage Creek, and on the eastern slope of the main ridge of the Rocky Mountains, in Alberta Territory, there are plenty of surface indications of crude oil. And the finding of these indications over such a large area, and in the same formation, would go to show that there is a large oil field awaiting capital to develop it.