

THE COMMERCIAL GAZETTE

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE FINANCIAL, MERCANTILE AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

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THE KOOTENAY COUNTRY

Of British Columbia—A volume Devoted to its Resources and Possibilities.

Like most Indian names Kootenay has a choice of spelling. In the earliest general map of British Columbia it was Coo-too-nay. In official maps of a later date it was Kootenaie, the spelling adopted on the American side. Dr. Dawson spells it Kootenaie, but on the Canadian side the official and popular orthography is Kootenay. It is of little moment. In the classics of modern showdom, "you pays your money and you takes your choice." THE COMMERCIAL is patriotic and prefers it with an "nay"

THE KOOTENAY DISTRICT—EAST AND WEST.

Kootenay is divided into East and West, and embraces in all about 16,500,000 acres. It may be described as a bi-sected triangle, the apex of which is a little north of the 52nd parallel, including the Big Bend country, formed by the great bend of the Columbia, which, after a long sweep northwesterly from where it just touches the upper Kootenay, turns with a sharp curve at the junction of Canoe river and flows almost directly south (a little southeasterly), finding its way to the Pacific ocean through American territory. The base of this triangle is the boundary line, the hypothemise or long

side is the eastern boundary of the province so far as Kootenay extends, being the watershed of the Rockies, while the third and west side is a line running almost midway between the 118th and 119th degrees of longitude. The line dividing East and West Kootenay, runs from the apex to the base along the main water shed of the Purcell branch of the Selkirks in a south-easterly direction.

These districts, quoting an official guide book, include three important valleys, formed by the threefold division of the Selkirk Range. The first is a portion of the great western valley of the Rockies, and is watered by the upper reaches of the Columbia and Kootenay rivers. Agricultural land is limited to the immediate vicinity of these rivers and much of it is subject to overflow. Mining operations are being prosecuted in several localities with good prospects of success, and large timber limits are being worked in the neighborhood of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The second valley is that lying between the Purcell and Selkirk Ranges, and is occupied by the Upper and Lower Kootenay Lakes. It is in this region that the mineral developments now occupying so much attention are taking place. The third

valley, lying between the Selkirk and Gold Ranges, is occupied by the second bend of the Columbia River and the Arrow Lakes, and is at present the chief means of communication, by steamboat, with the Canadian Pacific Railway. To the north of the railway lies the region known as the Big Bend, which once had a somewhat short-lived fame as a successful placer mining district. It is with the western division that we have principally to do in what follows. Revelstoke, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, is the northern gateway into this district.

THE JOURNEY IN.

One of the most Remarkable Routes on Continent.

In former days it required a circuitous, arduous and lengthened journey to reach West Kootenay, a journey which to-day is accomplished with comparative ease and comfort by rail and steamboat. It was a trip which was made by a variety of routes, all laborious and hazardous, whether from north or south of the boundary line—by steamboat, canoe, pack-horse, on foot, over trail, through mountain pass, on river and lake, packing provisions and camp outfit in their most con-