

**THE**    

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**CITY OF**  

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**NELSON**  

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THE METROPOLIS OF THE  
FAR-FAMED MINERAL    
DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY 

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Nelson, B.C.

*The City of Nelson.*



VIEW FROM NELSON, LOOKING DOWN KOOTENAY RIVER.

Dec 13 1907  
Nelson B.C.

# CITY OF NELSON.

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**NELSON**, the metropolis of the far-famed mineral district of Kootenay, is situated on the shore of the Western Arm (near its south-west extremity) of Kootenay Lake. The geographical position of Nelson is unique, in that it is in the centre of the richest Gold, Silver and Copper bearing region of Kootenay. Trade and commerce have made the most of its natural advantages, so much so that within ten years the city has expanded from a few log huts into the largest and busiest inland city in British Columbia.

The great railway companies have not been slow to recognize this fact, for no fewer than three branches of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, viz: the Slocan River, the Columbia & Kootenay, and the Crow's Nest Pass Railways have made Nelson their terminus. Nelson is also the British Columbia terminus for the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway (now the property of the Great Northern Railway Company), which line connects the City with the principal railroads of the United States.

Nelson is also the chief port for the extensive Kootenay Lake trade. There are several services of steamers plying daily from the City to various points on the lake.

A level plateau, well above high water mark, extending along the shore of the lake, has been partly monopolized by the business portion of the city. Beyond the plateau, the land undulates, then gradually slopes upwards until the base of the surrounding mountains is reached. On this higher ground is spread the residential portion of the city.

A site more admirably adapted for a commercial and residential city could hardly be found.

## How to Reach Nelson.

At the present moment, the most direct and most comfortable route to Nelson from Eastern or Western Canada, or from New York, is by the Canadian Pacific Railway. At Revelstoke, on the company's main line, a station about midway between the Eastern



LAUNCHING STEAMER MOVIE, AT NELSON, 1898.

slope of the Rockies and the Pacific Coast, a branch line runs to Arrowhead, a small station at the head of the Arrow Lakes, from which place the journey is continued by means of palatial steamers as far as Robson, a small town at the southern end of the lakes. From Robson, the Columbia & Kootenay Branch of the Canadian Pacific runs to Nelson. The journey from Revelstoke to Nelson occupies less than twelve hours. As soon as the line is in thorough running order, the Crow's Nest Pass branch will be the more direct route from the East, as the time occupied by the journey from Winnipeg to Nelson will be reduced by nearly thirty-six hours.

The traveller from the Southern States can also reach Nelson via Spokane and the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway, the journey from Spokane to Nelson occupying eight hours.

Nelson is now connected with the Boundary District by means of the Robson-Penticton Railway. This line places Nelson in direct communication with the principal cities and towns of that part of the Province known as the Boundary Country.

### Nelson the Commercial Centre of the Kootenays.

The remarkable growth of the City of Nelson is not of the mushroom order like many mining towns; on the contrary there is an aspect of solidity and permanency about the city which at once strikes the observant stranger's glance.

Massive brick blocks, which are every month being added to in number, serve for warehouses and offices for the large commercial firms.

There are four banks in Nelson, viz: the Banks of British Columbia and Montreal, the Merchants Bank of Halifax, and the Imperial Bank of Canada. No less than twenty-nine large wholesale houses have established warehouses in the city. The excellent facilities for transport by both rail and water to all parts of the Kootenays assist in maintaining a brisk and ever increasing trade for these firms. It is thus that Nelson has gradually become the distributing point for all kinds of merchandise throughout the Kootenays. Other cities in that district are dependent on some neighboring mine or mines for their very existence, but Nelson stands alone as the home of trade and commerce for the mining portion of the Province of British Columbia. The assured value of personal property in Nelson is greater than the combined assessment of the cities of Rossland, Kaslo and Sandon. In 1898 the value of exports (according to the Custom House returns) for the City of Nelson, amounted to \$3,695,624.00, and the value of the imports for the same year was \$588,753.00. These figures will speak for themselves.



NELSON SMELTER.

### Nelson, the Centre of a Rich Mineral District.

Although Nelson is essentially a commercial city, yet the mines of the surrounding country play no unimportant part in increasing its wealth and magnitude. As we have before stated, Nelson is the central point of the Kootenay mineral district. This is easily proved by consulting the map, when it will be seen that the several mineral districts of Slocan, Ainsworth, East Kootenay (Fort Steele and Windermere), Ymir and Trail Creek form a complete auriferous circle round the city. The Slocan is reached from Nelson by two routes, namely: by the Slocan River Railway and by steamer by Kaslo. Rossland, the mining city of the Trail Creek District, is reached from Nelson also by two routes, viz: the one by the Columbia & Kootenay Railway via Robson, the other by the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway via Northport. By either route, Rossland can be reached within four and a half hours, though the Robson route is some fifteen minutes quicker. The town of Ymir is on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard line, about an hour's journey from Nelson.

East Kootenay is now tapped by the new Crow's Nest Pass Railway, so that from Nelson any point in that district can now be easily reached. Nelson is also the starting point for the Bourlary Country. The Canadian Pacific Railway has just commenced to construct a new branch from Nelson, by steamer to the head of Kootenay Lake, thence through the Lardeau District to Arrowhead. There are many rich and valuable mineral properties in the Lardeau District, the development of which has been hitherto retarded owing to its inaccessibility. The new line will thus open up an entirely new mineral country.

Some of the largest and best known mining companies have their head offices for the Province at Nelson; as for instance, the Hall Mines Company, the London & British Columbia Goldfields Company, the Whitewater Mines Company, the Ymir Mining Company, the Fern Gold Mining Company, the Exchequer Gold Mining Company, the Athabasca Gold Mining Company, the Poorman Gold Mining Company, the Dominion Mining, Development & Agency Company and the Duncan Syndicate. The management of these large and influential companies have been wise in recognizing the fact that Nelson is at once the most central railway point; the best town for supplies and the most desirable place of residence for companies' officers in the Province.

### The Principal Mines within the Immediate Vicinity of Nelson.

The largest and most important mine within a short distance of the city is the Silver King Mine, which is situated on Toad Mountain, some four and a half miles from Nelson. It is the property of the Hall Mines, Ltd. Over two hundred men are regularly employed at the mine and some thousands of tons of ore monthly extracted from it.

The valuable products of the Silver King are copper and silver. The ore is taken from the mine to the company's smelter in Nelson by means of a tramway. This smelter is an important factor for the welfare of the city; it employs over one hundred men and has a capacity for smelting not less than three hundred and seventy tons of ore per day. Ores from other mines, particularly copper ores, are purchased by the Hall Mines Company and treated by them at the smelter.

A new company is the Slocan Ore Purchasing Company, who recently established themselves in Nelson. They are erecting a custom sampling plant—now in course of completion—at a point on the shore of the lake where the Canadian Pacific and Nelson & Fort Sheppard lines join, so that ores can be transmitted to the sampler by rail or water. This undertaking will be of great advantage to the many mines in the locality, especially those which have only a small quantity of ore to dispose of. Other mines in the neighborhood which are ore producers and which have paid, and are paying dividends, are: The Athabasca, a free milling gold mine with a ten-stamp mill; the Fern Mine, a free milling gold mine with a ten-stamp mill; the Poorman, a free milling gold mine with a ten-stamp mill; the Ymir Mine, a free milling gold mine with a ten-stamp mill; the Porto Rico Mine, a free milling gold mine with a ten-stamp mill; the Dundee Mine, with a concentrator; the Yellowstone Mine, with a mill under construction.

To the above named mines a long list of promising properties, in various stages of development, can be added, all situated within a comparatively short distance of the city of Nelson, and with the necessary expenditure of capital, the number of dividend paying mines will be rapidly increased in the near future.



### Nelson, a Desirable Residential City.

A most important consideration for an intending settler is: What are the residential advantages of the city? Charming and picturesque dwellings, with well-kept gardens and grounds, form a pleasing addition to the perfect landscape offered by nature in this mountain city. The houses at once strike the stranger as being built by people who intend to make the city their home.

Various sources of amusement add to the natural attractions of the place. A well appointed opera house, two skating rinks, tennis, cricket, football and rowing clubs; a five-mile bicycle track; a musical society, which boasts of more than one member formerly well known in the musical profession, provide varied recreation for the hours of leisure.

Handsome churches of every denomination, a fine school, two hospitals and a public library appeal to the more serious requirements of the citizens.

The city has recently spent a considerable sum of money on new water-works and a thorough sewer system, upon the latest modern principles.

A powerful and complete electric light installation supplies light to both public and private buildings as well as to the streets.

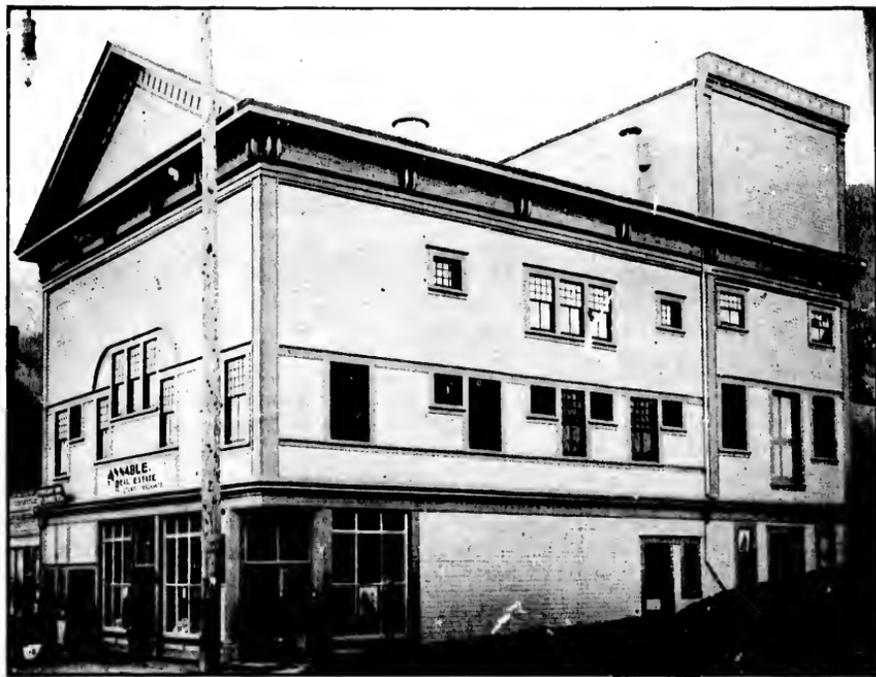
Charters have recently been granted by the Municipality to an English Corporation for the institution of an electric street car system, and to a Toronto Gas Company for the erection of Gas and Coke Works.

Nelson is moreover the Assize town and Judicial Centre for Kootenay. There is a residing Local Judge of the Supreme Court there and a number of lawyers.

The Dominion Government are about to erect a substantial building for Postal, Customs and Inland Revenue Offices, the increase of business demanding larger and better quarters for these Departments of the Federal Service.

Nelson is also the Provincial Government Headquarters for the District.

The climate is very similar to that of England; the mortality of the city is infinitesimal; law and order are so strictly maintained that both person and property are safer by far in Nelson than in any city of the Old World.



NELSON OPERA HOUSE.

### Nelson, the Home of the Sportsman.

A few words on the sporting attractions of Nelson may prove of interest to many who intend coming to the city. The trout fishing in Kootenay Lake and river is phenomenal; in fact there are times when even the sanguine angler may be gluttoned with the number of his victims.

During the Spring and Summer months, the fishing in the lake opposite to the city is first-rate. In the Autumn the river is at its best, and a two mile walk or row will bring the angler to one of the best fishing stations on the river. The Columbia and Kootenay Railway follows the Kootenay river to where the junction with the Columbia river is made, a distance of over 20 miles. At almost any point along the line where the trains stop, really magnificent fishing can be had. The trout of Kootenay belong to the species known as *salmo purpuratus*; they run very large fish—over 5 and 6 lbs. in weight. Fish of this size are frequently taken with the fly.

By trolling in deep water enormous trout and charr, as heavy as 30 lbs., can be taken.

If the angler has a little time to spare, a trip to Balfour will give him the opportunity of trying many excellent points for trout in the lake. There are plenty of Caribou, Mule, Black and White Tail Deer to get within reasonable distance of Nelson in the season. Any number of duck and grouse frequent the shores of the lake in the Autumn. An extended shooting trip to the distant surrounding mountains will bring the sportsman within reach of bear, goat, and Rocky Mountain sheep.

Finally, the sporting visitor to Nelson must remember that his sport here costs him nothing but his time; on the contrary, there are times during the year when a man can live on the proceeds of his rod and gun. And in addition to the attractions of sport, the fact must be borne in mind that the game is pursued amidst some of the grandest and most impressive scenery in the world.

For the sportsman, who is also a lover of nature, Kootenay is a veritable Paradise.



UPPER FALLS, KOOTENAY RIVER.

### L'Envoi.

It is hard to realize that, but ten years ago, the now prosperous city of Nelson, with a resident population of over 6000 inhabitants, was but a collection of a few huts.

There are those in the city who have seen the infant town reach the adult stage; and who, strong in their faith in the future of the city, have invested their capital in it, with the result that they are now independent.

The recent arrival can, week by week, see new buildings and houses creeping up. Everywhere is to be heard the sound of the carpenter's hammer and saw, the ring of the mason's chisel and the creaking wheels of great wagons loaded with building material. Day by day new streets are being opened up or graded and new sidewalks constructed.

The siren of the steamer and the whistle of the locomotive, though discordant, break on the natural beauty of the scene, are ever and anon heard, betokening the advent of further trade and commerce.

Huge freight trains, laden with merchandise or with coal, from the rich and apparently inexhaustible coal fields of the Crow's Nest Pass or Lethbridge, are constantly to be seen discharging their cargoes at the various depots in the city, to be afterwards distributed throughout the Kootenays.

It will be interesting in the course of a few years to look back to the time when these lines were written and compare the then great city with the Nelson of to-day; for undoubtedly we have the makings of a great city here in the heart of the Kootenays. As trade increases, manufactories will come, and Nelson will produce as well as purchase.

As a well-known railway magnate said, on the occasion of a recent visit to Nelson, when asked why The Canadian Pacific Railway Company looked upon Nelson as the Mediaevalist looked upon Rome (for "all roads lead to Rome"), replied: "We have made Nelson our central point for the interior of this Province because we feel sure that this city is destined to become the Birmingham of British Columbia."



LOWER FALLS, KOOTENAY RIVER.

