

built up as the old streets. In the older section, however, the old, unsightly structures are being replaced with new ones, giving it a bright and enterprising appearance.

The business of the town is important, as has already been indicated. Its mercantile trade with the surrounding ranches and mining camps is a source of considerable profit. It has a large grist mill and a saw mill, that do a good business. Timber is rafted from Shuswap lake. A brick kiln is soon to be put in operation near the town.

At Kamloops a good public school for girls and one for boys are maintained, and an Indian school to cost about \$18,000.00 is soon to be erected. The Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist and Roman Catholic congregations have neat and commodious edifices, and the last also has a convent there. The government has an Indian agency at Kamloops, and there are also a provincial jail, a public hospital, five hotels, a branch house of the Bank of British Columbia, and one of the best newspapers in the province, the *Inland Sentinel*. The town has a good water works system, and more graded streets and sidewalks than many more pretentious burghs.

In the neighborhood of Kamloops there are mineral lodes of importance, including mica, iron, copper and silver. A fine quality of red granite, and marble, and extensive coal measures also exist. The climate is dry and not very severe. In winter sleighing lasts only a week or ten days, and there are a few days when mercury goes below zero. As the principal town in the Thompson river valley, and with such a wide extent of valuable country tributary to it, Kamloops certainly can not fail to have a most gratifying growth.

THE TOWN OF ASHCROFT.

ASHCROFT is one of the most important stations on the Pacific division of the Canadian Pacific railway, and is located on the south bank of the Thompson river, near its junction with the Bonaparte. Its great importance as a shipping point lies in the fact that it is the trading post for the Cariboo, Clinton and Lillooet districts, in the northern interior of

the province, and the point where all travel to those sections leaves the railroad. Large quantities of freight are taken into those districts in trains drawn by oxen or mules. Some of the ranches are reached only by trails, all freight to them having to be transported by means of pack mules. The first post inland from Ashcroft is Cache creek, only six miles distant. Clinton is thirty-two miles in the interior, Lillooet fifty-two miles from Ashcroft, and Barkerville, which is in the heart of the Cariboo country and the chief town of that region, is two hundred and eighty-five miles from the railroad. The materials and implements for working the mines, as well as the supplies for the men employed, are taken from Ashcroft where most of the trading is done. Many millions of gold from the placers of that region have passed out to market through Ashcroft, and the express company, whose stages afford the only regular communication to that upper country, does a heavy business there.

Ashcroft has about five hundred inhabitants, many of whom are engaged in stock raising in the vicinity of the town, which has grown up since the railway was constructed through that country in 1885. Sufficient grain for home consumption is raised in the valley, and there is a large grist mill in operation at the junction of the Bonaparte and Thompson rivers, where steamboats plying up the Thompson have a landing. The British Columbia express company has its headquarters in the town, and its stages leave once each week for Barkerville and three times a week for Clinton, where connections are made for Lillooet. Three good hotels afford ample accommodation for travelers. There are a number of large mercantile establishments which have a thriving business, public school and church accommodations, and other adjuncts of a flourishing town. Besides being the trading point for the mines, there are many tracts of farming and grazing lands in the tributary valleys that are lending Ashcroft an additional stability, and as the country is fast being improved the town has prospects of even better prosperity than it has heretofore enjoyed. As the country settles up it will be the business center of a large population, for its central location by the natural routes of travel must always maintain it as the chief town of that region.