

to a height of more than 8,000 feet, holding on one of its shoulders, almost over our heads, a glacier whose shining green ice, 500 feet thick, is slowly crawling over the edge of a sheer precipice of dizzy height, from which falling fragments of ice are dashed to atoms below. We look down from the railway, clinging to the mountain side, upon the river valley, which here suddenly widening holds between the dark pine-clad mountains a mirror-like sheet of water, reflecting each peak and cliff with the most startling effect." Some distance beyond is the wide, forest-covered valley of the Columbia River, with mountains of the Selkirk Range.

British Columbia (including Vancouver, Queen Charlotte, and other islands along the coast) is that portion of Canada which looks out on the Pacific Ocean. It is the only British territory on the western or Pacific Ocean side of the North American continent. There is abundant proof of the existence of great mineral wealth in British Columbia. Gold, coal, silver, iron, copper, galena, mercury, platinum, antimony, bismuth, molybdenum, plumbago, mica, and other minerals have been discovered in different parts of the province, copper being very widely distributed. The rich valley of the Lower Fraser, or New Westminster district, is the largest compact agricultural district. It is on the mainland shore, opposite the south-eastern portion of Vancouver Island. The surface of the lower part of the valley is little above the sea level. This is the only large tract of choice agricultural land on the

mainland of the North Pacific slope, and lies actually upon the ocean, with a shipping port in its midst. A navigable river cuts it through, which is sheltered at its mouth. The Canadian Pacific Railway, as already said, runs through the district. The river is full of salmon and other food fish, and the district abounds with game. The delta lands and the clay loams can hardly be equalled for strength and richness, yielding great yields with comparatively careless cultivation. Much also of the interior is good farming land, and some highland districts afford very fine pasturage. The climate of British Columbia, in general, is much more temperate than the climate of any part of Canada lying east of the Rocky Mountains. Behring's Straits, between America and Asia, are so narrow and shallow, that not much of the icy Arctic current flows along the British Columbia coast. The Rocky Mountains, in British Columbia, trending north-westerly, keep off the cold north winds. Other causes of the temperate climate are the existence of a warm ocean current in the Pacific Ocean, which flows toward the coast, the prevalent warm south-westerly winds from that ocean which blow over the country, and also the north and south direction of the principal valleys, up which warm air from the south is drawn. The forests yield a vast supply of timber, and the fisheries are of great value. The population of British Columbia is now about eighty thousand, its capital is Victoria, in Vancouver Island. — *Illustrated London News.*

Mohammedanism is to-day as aggressive as it ever was, and in India the Hindus are stirred up by it to great fury. Foreign dis-

patches say that if British authority were withdrawn the whole country would be involved in a religious war.