

elevated plains bordering the foothills of the Rockies are reached; but so gentle is the rise that it can scarcely be realized that Calgary, nine hundred miles west of Winnipeg, although a prairie town, is at a greater elevation than the summit of the highest peak in the British Isles.

Beyond lie the mountains, four mighty ranges, the Rockies, full of wondrous colouring and astonishing the beholder by their marvellously variegated strata; the dark Selkirks, clothed from their base to crowning glacier by almost impenetrable forests; the rounded domes of the Gold Range; and lastly, the snow-capped Coast Alps, which for four degrees of latitude are the western barrier of the Dominion. Through this veritable sea of mountains the railway finds its way, traversing pleasant valleys guarded on either side by towering peaks, plunges down abysmal canons, and, crossing raging torrents rushing impetuously to the sea, reaches the shores of the Pacific at Vancouver, the great Canadian gateway to the Orient. Separated from it by the sunny waters of the Gulf of Georgia, is charming Victoria, most English of all the cities of the New World.

