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Rockies are procurable at Banff. The hotel opens on May 15th and closes October 1st, and the rates are from \$3.00 to \$4.50 per day (with a reduction for those stopping a week or longer), a moderate charge for such a hotel in such a locality.

### Swiss Guides.

Experienced Swiss guides are stationed at the hotel during the tourist season, and under their personal guidance systematically planned excursions will be made daily to several of these or other points of interest, so that in a comparatively short stay the visitor is enabled to explore the region hereabouts under the most favorable auspices. Each day's programme will be posted in the rotunda of the hotel on the evening previous, and will be so arranged that the greatest number of interesting places will be visited with the least amount of travel.

## The Lakes in the Clouds.

Not far from Banff are the Lakes in the Clouds. So near and yet so dissimilar are these two charming spots that, one having been seen, there is naturally a desire to visit the other. If Banff is beautiful, these lakes are enchanting. There is nothing like them on the face of the earth elsewhere than here in the Rockies, where they lie like a string of jewels in the clefts. The trip from Banff is through one of the grandest parts of the whole mountain region — up the forested valley of the Bow, skirting the Vermillion Lakes and passing out of the National Park past Castle Mountain, a sheer precipice of 5,000 feet, with views of the Saw-back range on the right and the Bow range on the left, and Lefroy lifting its whitened head above the surrounding heights. The station on the Canadian Pacific line for the Lakes in the Clouds is Laggan (thirty-four miles west of Banff—about an hour's ride), where choice can be made of driving, riding or walking up to Lake Louise (altitude, 5,645 feet), the first to be reached of the three sheets of water hidden high up above the valley.

### Lake Louise.

The drive is two and one-half miles through a pine forest, in which a good carriage road has been cut, following up Louise Creek, which carries off the waters of the Cloudland Lakes to the Bow. Although the most graphic word-painting does not adequately convey the effect of the approach to Lake Louise and its sudden burst on the sight of the traveller, for mental pictures involve themselves with actual sights, it may be worth while quoting one writer:—

"Nestling at the foot of two great mountains, which seem to guard against the encroachments of the vast glaciers resting on the sides of a third, canopied by a sky like the petal of a soft blush rose, its great depths reproducing, with mirror-like fidelity, the green forests, bare peaks and motionless seas of snow-mantled ice—Lake Louise is a dream of loveliness. The delicate colorings of its waters are an irresistible charm. The lake is about one and one-half miles in length, with a

MAP OF LAKES IN THE CLOUDS.



width of half a mile, and it is between 500 and 600 feet deep. To the right is a vast amphitheatre of spruce, whose tall heads rise up in a terraced evenness to the foot of the Beehive, and through whose intricacies are passes to the upper lakes. Between the two great mountains is Mount Victoria, a back-setting of gray and white—the ice-fields, the one at the base being covered with the drift of centuries. These glaciers are of enormous thickness and of great area, and with the coursing of the sun or the passing of clouds, present new shapes and fantastic forms, and, as the rays of old Sol pour down, the stillness of the air is broken by the crunching and grinding of the ice beds. The base of Goat Mountain, on the left, is clad with spruce on one side, and beautiful fresh foliage embellishes another, which, in the fall of the year, is rich with the autumnal tints peculiar to American woods, while above there are huge precipices of bare rock, which come sheer down for thousands