

SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A still more notable agency links together not only these three, but also the Okanagan Lake, with another valley and finally the sea. This link is the railway. The Kettle Valley branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, with its tributaries, now connects Nelson, the chief city of the southern lake region, with Vancouver, touching en route the shores of Kootenay, Arrow and Okanagan Lakes. At the same time, entrance into some of these valleys can advantageously be gained from the north from the main line of the Canadian Pacific.

These picturesque valleys are given over variously to fruit-growing, lumbering and mining, industries which are now providing the sustenance of an increasingly large settlement. But the present consideration is the fitness of this region as a holiday resort. Surrounded by mountains, with warm, equable climate, under clear blue skies rivaling those of California, the lakes provide a hundred centres ideally suited for summer vacations, long and short, easy and strenuous. The altitudes are moderate, ranging from 2,607 feet above sea-level at Lake Windermere, to 1,125 at Okanagan. With so much water, every kind of aquatic sport is available. There is sailing and boating across wide stretches or into pine-clad bays, swimming in calm, warm water, so clear that the sandy lake bottom, shelving in places gradually out from the shore for the careful beginner to keep his foothold, is visible a long way from the water's edge. There is delightful picnicking or camping on the tree-fringed shore, first class trout fishing for the angler—even salmon. At some points there is mountain climbing, at others, in season, big game shooting. One valley provides good golf; all of them offer good automobiling through beautiful scenery.

During the summer months the weather is warm and sunny—is not this suggested by the fact that in some of these valleys fruit such as peaches and grapes are grown? The fruit-farming industry, one of the principal sources of revenue of the inhabitants of these happy valleys, will, in fact, provide the visitor with much interest; and from the hospitable British Columbians he is sure of a hearty welcome and a cordial delight at meeting with those from outside the mountains.