

sulphur springs, whose waters are led by conduits to various sanitariums, and high up in the mountains is a natural basin full of tepid water where many a visitor takes a plunge ; and a few hours' steaming through the pass of the Rocky Mountains, lands the visitor among the wonders of the Selkirk range. He leaves the train at the very foot of one of the greatest glaciers in the Temperate zones.'

Fancy a river of solid ice about 500 feet thick, stretching up the mountain for nine miles with a width of a mile to a mile and a half, moving down the slope in midsummer, over a foot a day, with immense moraines along the sides and front where quartzite blocks, weighing many tons, have been pushed ahead or swept aside, and you have a faint picture of the Great Glacier of the Selkirks. It is believed no Indian ever visited these mountains, and the Selkirks are still imperfectly explored, though we know many of the mountains are almost uniformly about 10,000 feet high, that above 7,000 feet the rugged peaks are clothed in perpetual snow, and that scores of glaciers push down the slopes to the forest region. It was an interesting discovery that our mountain climbers may find, at home, opportunities for adventure above the snow line, rivaling those of the Alps and the Caucasus. Our chief authority on the Selkirks is the explorer Green, the first to climb Mount Cook in the New Zealand Alps. He calls the Selkirk region, "one of the loveliest districts on our planet," though he had some tribulations there induced by a bucking mustang to whose back the scientific instruments unfortunately had been confided. In a paroxysm of bucking, the animal dashed the theodolite, the prismatic compass, and other instruments to the ground, and then adding insult to injury by rolling on the débris. When Mr. Green explained to the Royal Geographical Society of London why he could not return the costly instruments it had loaned him, he convulsed that learned body.

But notwithstanding Canada's activity in the field of explorations, the work has just begun. A recent report of the Geological Survey says that very little precise knowledge has yet been obtained of large districts even in Manitoba. The large colony of Icelanders who recently found new homes between Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg settled in part upon still unsurveyed lands. As a rule, however, the land surveys have kept far in advance of settlement, and there has been a great decrease of field work since 1887, as the Government sees no reason for staking out the farming lands many years before pioneers will occupy them. Recently, land surveys have been far more actively pursued west than east of the Rocky Mountains until at last they cover the whole of the lands taken up by settlers in British Columbia.

Interesting discoveries as to the resources of this vast country have crowded fast upon one another. The world talked long of the rich new wheat lands of the Red River Valley and the Saskatchewan ; but it never seemed to occur to any one that the great plains farther west, to the Rockies, where millions of buffalo had roamed, were admirable grazing lands. That discovery was made later ; cattle raisers flocked into Alberta with their herds, and ranches are still multiplying. Then, as the surveyors pushed up along the east side of the Rocky Mountains, they were surprised to find that there seemed to be no limit to the northern extension of the arable and pasture lands, influences from the Pacific warming the winter air.

Then along and near the line of the Canadian Pacific as it approaches the mountains, rich coal fields, both bituminous and anthracite, were discovered. The Canadian North-West, though not well furnished with timber, doubtless could supply the whole continent with coal for centuries to come. In the regions of the Belly and Bow Rivers alone, it is estimated by the Geographical Survey that there are about 800,000,000 tons of good coal ; and farther north, at Edmonton, the citizens are supplied with the product of their own coal miners at a cost of less than three dollars a ton. Canadian anthracite has been sold in the California markets.

The discovery of large areas of petroleum basins was reported several