



CANADA'S NEW NATIONAL PLAYGROUND

Alpine Scenery of Unrivalled Magnificence

A WAY beyond the magnificent Jasper portals of the charming Athabaska Valley, through which the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway traverses the Rocky Mountains, lies a vast, wide, wild, unsubdued Alpine wonderland, rich in peerless scenic grandeur, and wild regions hallowed by history, by Indian legend and by the romance of the picturesque voyageurs, the *coureurs du bois* and the path-finders of the fur trade, who builded the foundations of an empire under the setting sun. This is a glorious heritage of the Canadian people which the Grand Trunk Pacific is developing, and which is as precious, if not as plentiful in corn and milk, as the rich plains which stretch away for a thousand miles eastward from those rugged, mighty bulwarks of the western hemisphere. It is a heritage which has not, and never can be, alienated, as it has been vested forever in the name of the nation as the Jasper National Park—an illimitable sanctuary for the work-a-day world, far from the strife and bustle of the market place, and in contact with nature, peaceful, pure and undefiled.

There is every diversity of natural features to delight and gratify the mountaineer or the explorer, or to interest and revivify the tourist. It is an expanse of indescribably sublime grandeur, with an ocean of glorious majestic, virgin peaks comprised within the numerous well defined ranges, snow-capped and glacier scored, which tower above a continental watershed wherein are the headwaters of five mighty rivers, the Saskatchewan, the Athabaska, the Thompson, the Columbia and the Fraser; rugged forest-clad slopes; flowerstrewn passes; impressive solitudes; secluded fastnesses; charmingly beautiful lakes and tarns reposing in their mountain privacy like mirrors set in emerald; vast snow fields; turbulent torrents brawling down from the frozen torpitude of their glacial sources, and beautiful, sublime vistas of majestic Alpland with wondrous, sweeping, spectacular panoramas where sunny valleys cleave the ranges of serrated, vapor-veiled peaks, all resolving into the subtle details of a harmonious whole. There are also rocks and formations of every age and description, and an abounding wealth of flora and fauna, affording exceptional opportunities for scientific and artistic study and research. Above all is the added delight to the mountaineer which lies in the fact that these regions are not "overdone," but are beckoning with the resistless lure that ever leads the adventurous beyond the confines of the vast unknown.

Around and about it everywhere is the inexpressible influence of the mountains, subtle, ethereal and aesthetic, that inspires, elevates and dignifies all who come under its spell. It is the spirit of the hills and the highlands—the spirit of the unconquerable people whose homelands lie within the shadow of their majesty—the spirit that is infused into all who tread their thrilling solitudes, breathe the life laden in the air from their rarified regions, or drink the clear distillation of heaven from their eternal snows. Such a playground is the new National Park.