

LAKE LOUISE, IN THE CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

By WALTER D. WILCOX.

WHILE making a hasty overland journey by the Canadian Pacific Railway during the summer of 1891, my attention was called to the remarkable beauty and grandeur of the Canadian Rockies. Again in July, 1893, in company with a college friend, I spent several weeks at Banff and Lake Louise, the latter a beautiful sheet of water surrounded by the grandest mountains along the line of the Canadian Pacific, and now annually visited by possibly one hundred tourists. Remaining two weeks at Lake Louise, we had time to attempt the ascent of the two highest mountains in the vicinity, but failed in each instance, being stopped by a vertical rock wall of great height on one mountain, and on the other by the dangerous condition of the snow, where we narrowly escaped an avalanche. We were not properly equipped for accomplishing much in a region unexplored and unmapped, where we were necessarily our own guides, and where, by reason of the heavy forests in the valleys, it is very difficult to carry a tent or provisions to any great distance from head-quarters.

The failure of this season inspired me with a desire to organize, if possible, a party for the summer of 1894, which should be equipped to thoroughly explore and survey the region in the vicinity of Lake Louise, to ascend several of the highest peaks, and to make photographs of every interesting feature. It is not necessary to dwell on the difficulties attending the organization of a party of men to travel several thousand miles to a region about which they knew nothing save what they could