

every time we gaze at them. Few persons have seen the wonders of the Oberland of Laggan. The mountains of Athabasca, Forbes, Bryce and others, seen here in Alberta, are the highest yet known in the Rocky Mountains. Their glaciers are wonderful.

Lakes Louise, Mirror, and Agnes—the "lakes in the clouds"—surrounded by Whyte, Beehive, and St. Piran Mountains with their snowy tops, are the gems of the Rocky Mountains.

Well known are the scenery-clusters of the Selkirks, with Mount Sir Donald, Tupper, and the enormous mer-de-glace—unexcelled, it is said, in America, and probably not surpassed by the great group of Jungfrau, Mensch and Eiger, and the glaciers of the Grindelwald in Switzerland.

The Arrow Lakes at the base of the Selkirks are probably comparable with Lake Lemna or Lake Thun.

To the writer, the canyon of the Fraser, with its historic associations, the old Trutch wagon-road, and its broken bridges with clambering highway are, as seen from the rushing railway train, a panorama more impressive than the much lauded Hudson River.

Beautiful, majestic, mountain provinces!

### SALUBRIOUS CLIMATE.

It has been said that while in other provinces men "speak of the weather, in British Columbia they speak of the climate." Alberta claims to itself the right to be known as "Sunny Alberta." Like the west coast of Europe, so the temperature of our most westerly provinces is mild and agreeable.

British Columbia has at least two climates, one being that of the coast, with perhaps a modification of that to a drier climate in Victoria. The other climate is that of the upland plateau. The coast climate is frequently wet, as Ireland and the west coast of Scotland are. The inland of British Columbia is decidedly dry. It is amazing to see in little more than two hundred miles from the sea the damp climate of Vancouver replaced by the dry, parching climate of Kamloops. In the interior almost all success in agriculture, fruit growing or gardening is only secured by irrigation. Fortunately in so mountainous a country there are usually streams of water which may be diverted from the hills. The temperature at Victoria in winter rarely goes lower than five degrees of frost; in Kamloops once or twice in a winter the thermometer may fall below zero, but the climate is usually equable.

The cause of the dry climate of the upland tableland of British America is that the winds from the Gulf of Georgia precipitate their moisture on the western slopes of the coast range, making the weather very wet, and the dried winds then pass over the heights and produce the inland dryness.

In Alberta, which is windy, there is more moisture than in the uplands of British Columbia, but the temperature falls much lower. The warm, dry winds which come through the many passes of the Rocky Mountains modify the climate of Alberta. These are known as the Chinook winds, coming as they do from British Columbia, where the Chinook tribe once lived. When this wind blows in Alberta it will lick up the snow in a few hours.

### TOWERING FORESTS.

It is maintained that "British Columbia possesses the greatest compact area of merchantable timber on the American continent." This claim seems a correct one. The moisture of the coast produces enormous growth, and trees grow freely in the damp regions to two or three hundred feet in height and from eight to ten feet in diameter.

In Alberta there are on the eastern slopes of the Rockies considerable