



Stove Sim- plicity

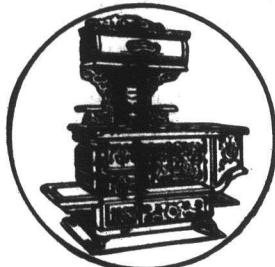
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the office in Naples, carriages leave every fair morning for the drive of fifteen miles out to the base of the mountain. From here cable cars carry the passengers to the upper station, the rest of the journey being made afoot. The Italian government compels the use of licensed guides for those who wish to approach within the danger-limits of the crater. For the most part, the trip is an entirely safe one, although some four years ago an unusually violent eruption of the volcano destroyed the upper station and a portion of the road-bed. Still, every



The electric line up Mount Lowe, California. The steepest Road-Grade in the world.

one who visits the Vesuvius tries to make himself out a valiant adventurer, allowing his mind to become filled with dread visions of the historic outbreak of A.D. 79, when Herculaneum and Pompeii were buried beneath a flood of hot lava and ashes, and the same applies to the recent eruption.

Probably the railroads up the Rigi and Pilatus in Switzerland are the two best known. More travellers have made these ascents than any other mountain-trips the world over. They lie on the main highway of Swiss travel, and so remarkable is the view from their summits that few tourists are foolish enough to miss them. Both the Rigi and Pilatus rise abruptly from the Lake of Lucerne, and their distance from the main Alps is such as to furnish an ideal vantage-point from which to see the panoramic grandeur of the big Swiss peaks. All central Switzerland, with its unrivalled picturesqueness and beauty, lies spread beneath one from the top of Pilatus.

On the Pacific coast of the United States is another remarkable bit of audacious mountain engineering, where it isn't necessary to post signs, "Don't walk on the tracks," since every one who goes there has too much respect for his life to commit

the folly. It is the electric line up Mount Lowe, out in the Sierra Madre Mountains of southern California. The first part of the road, the Great Cable Incinerator, is the steepest in the world, having a forty-eight per cent. grade. So much a matter of hanging on to the air was the work of building this line at certain places, that even the sure-footed burro could not be trusted to carry the material for the walls and buttresses, the workmen themselves being obliged to shoulder the burdens. Sharp curves, yawning chasms and overhanging ledges make the timid tourist keep his eyes shut most of the time. No Mount Lowe rattlesnake—and there are such, to the occasional consternation of visitors—can twist itself out of shape half so much as does the upper, or Alpine, division of this California road.

Around the great curve of the world there are, of course, not a few other famous railways of this sort. A queer one is to be found in the Austrian Alps, going up Hochstauffen Mountain. Here a little car, about as big as a doghouse, keeps itself hitched to a single rail, and is carried up by means of a balloon. Soaring high up overhead, it draws the people heavenward in a most unique though safe manner. There



Summit of Pike's Peak, Colorado, the highest altitude reached by rail in the World.

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