



Cock o' the North

By Agnes Deans Cameron

B RITISH COLUMBIA today finds herself on the crest of a just-forming great wave of progress. The commercial awakening is confined to no one part of the giant province nor to any specified industry, simultaneously half a hundred districts are rubbing their eyes, developing each its own latent wealth, crying its special wares in the marketplace.

The reason for this new vital thrill? Many causes contribute,—the westward trend of questing humanity, the influx of Old Country and United Statesian capital, the recognition on the outside of what British Columbia has to offer to the invalid, the artist, the hunter of big game. But beyond and above all these one factor is responsible for the vivifying throb of new life pulsing through the Pacific Province, and this factor is the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

For five years, silent men with the transit have been going hither and yon in the tangled wilderness of the Northern Rockies searching out the pass of least resistance by means of which the iron horse of the Grand Trunk Pacific can find a road from the prairies to the Pacific. It has been a second search for the Northwest Passage, a land search this time, and very much more to the purpose than the old hunt for that chi-

mera of the imagination, the Anian Strait.

It is the Yellowhead Pass that has been chosen, and through this by the year 1911 the wares of the Orient will pass eastward, and Canada's rich produce will find ultimate goal among the teeming millions of Australia, India, and the Isles of the Sea.

Do you ask what concern the average American citizen has with an undertaking that is purely Canadian? To this question we would reply that the English-speaking people on the American continent are equally concerned in continental questions, and no man on one side of the dividing parallel of 49 can afford to ignore the history that is making on the other side. The laying of this great trans-continental spine across Canada opens up three hundred millions of agricultural acres, and so makes available America that much bigger than it was before; the traveler, the sportsman and the homeseeker are all interested in this stupendous undertaking. The building of the Grand Trunk Pacific is of greater immediate import to white men the world over than is the Cape-to-Cairo Railway.

Giant Nature is kind to those who take her on trust and beard her in her den. It has been a surprise to the en-