

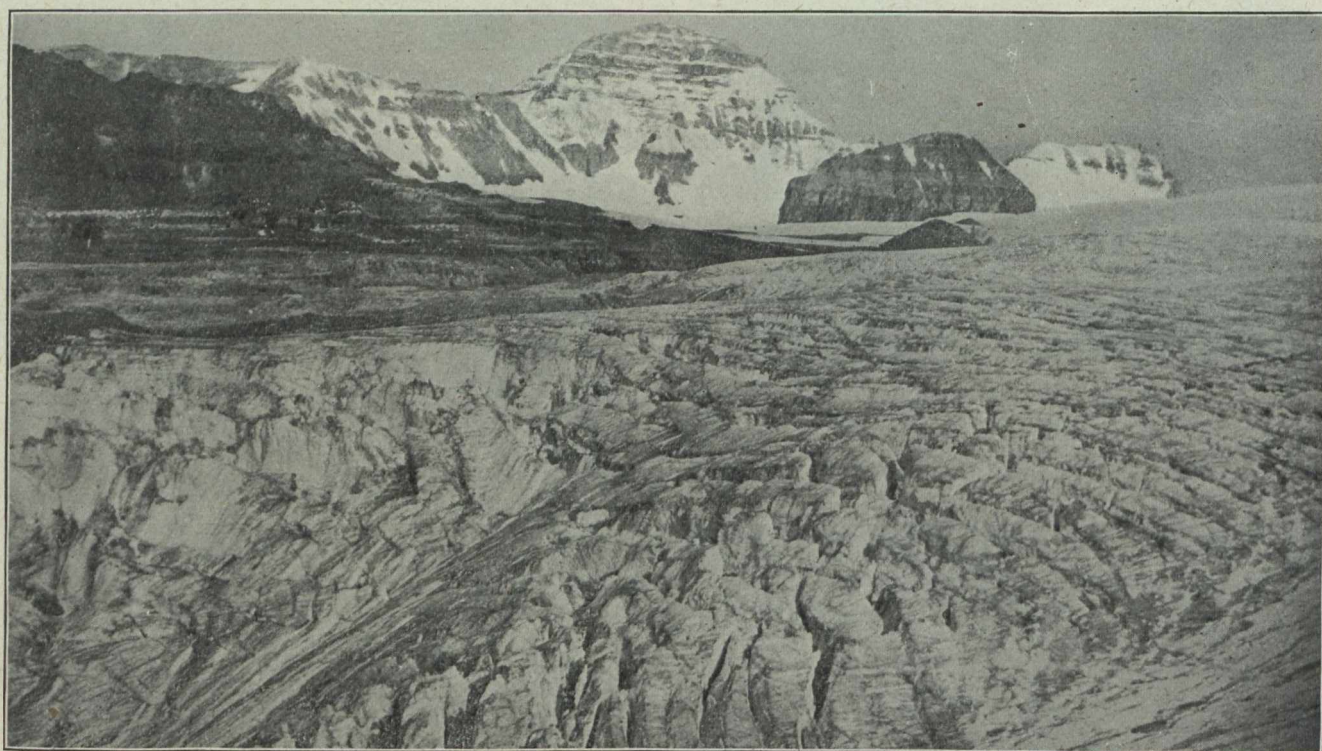
because the climate is slowly growing warmer so that thawing goes on faster or because the snowfall is lessening so that the *neve* fields no longer feed the glaciers as substantially as before. On this account one can often see several terminal moraines down the valley below the one now forming. The nearest to the present end of the ice is almost bare, the next, a few hundred yards away, may have bushes growing on it, and others a mile or two away may be covered with ancient forest.

Glaciers once filled all the mountain valleys and even pushed out through the passes into the prairies and through the fiordes to the sea, for everywhere one finds boulder clay and moraines and valleys with U shaped cross sections that can only be accounted for by glacial action on a large scale. This work was done during the Ice Age, and one may truly say that the higher mountains are still in the Glacial Period.

One of the most beautiful results of former ice action is to be found in the "cirques," half Kettle or

and reaching the bottom as mere threads of spray.

Rocky Mountain Park.—There are very few parts of the world where fine glacial scenery can be found so close to a great railway as in our mountain parks. If one stops at Lake Louise, in Rocky Mountain Park, the splendid Victoria glacier is in view doubled by reflection in its waters, which get their exquisite color from the last remaining particles of mud brought down by the glacial stream. Two miles walk or ride along a good trail brings one into its presence, and often great masses of ice may be seen avalanching down from cliff glaciers above to the surface of the lower glacier. From Lake Louise as a centre one can reach the well named Paradise valley by ten miles ride or drive over a good road and visit the fine Horseshoe glacier at its head. The valley of the Ten Peaks farther to the southeast requires a somewhat longer ride or drive, passing the splendid front of Mt. Temple, the highest summit in sight from the railway (11,626



Crevasses, Glacier Southeast of Ten Peaks

arm chair valleys, high up among the mountains overhanging the main valleys and enclosed by vertical cliffs on all sides except in front. These are the deserted nests of cliff glaciers, hollowed out by ice itself and often deepened so that a turquoise blue lake lies within rock rims. If not too high up these cirque lakes are surrounded by evergreen forest, behind which rise the grey or purple walls of rock with some snow in the ravines above, the whole mirrored in the lake, until some catpaw of breeze shatters the reflection. Lake Agnes in the mountains behind Lake Louise is an easily reached example of a cirque basin, and there are hundreds of others scattered through the fastnesses of the mountains, all gems in their way, many not yet seen by the eye of a white man. The higher cirque lakes, above timberline, enclosed only by cliffs and snow, have an austere beauty of their own, but lack the graces and the wild flowers of their sisters below in the forest zone.

Often the walls of such valleys are leaped by streams from some melting snowfield falling hundreds of feet

ft.). Moraine lake, eleven miles from Lake Louise, lies near the entrance of the valley, but farther up can be seen the great Wenchemna glacier, and several small glaciers lying between the Ten Peaks. Beyond the Ten Peaks to the south there is a broad snowfield and glacier leading over to Prospector's valley and Vermilion Pass, but for an excursion of such length and difficulty one should be equipped for serious climbing and have a light camp outfit.

From any high point west of Lake Louise one can catch glimpses of a much larger snowfield towards the north near Mts. Daly and Balfort, but the glaciers flowing from it are not so easily reached as those to the south of the railway.

There are glaciers in sight during most of the descent by rail from the summit of the pass through the wild Kicking-horse valley to Field, in the Yoho Park, from which the Yoho valley may be visited with Yoho glacier at its head. Descending beyond this into the warm depths of the Columbia valley the Alpine type of scenery is lost for a time. As the railway climbs