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Among the Canadian Rockies.

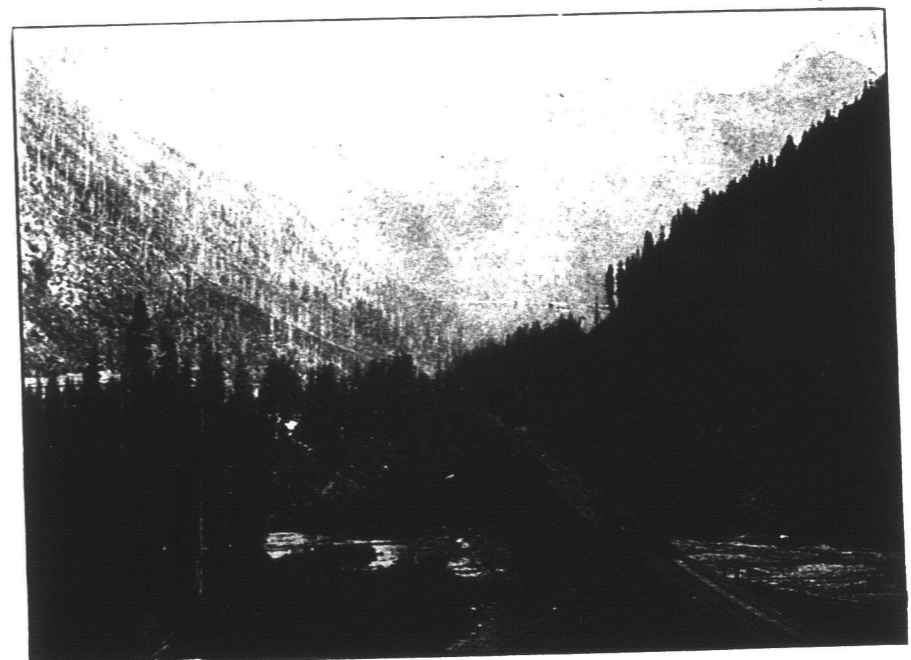
By T. A. TROY.

Some months have passed, aye they have merged into years, since the glowing accounts of the scenic beauties of the Canadian West, whispered into my all-attentive ears by the daring voyager, first seduced me. His fervid utterances depicting the boundless entrancing prairies wailed in by a gigantic mountain chain, which were even then his home—a home unlimited, alluring; aye even pleading for recognition—made an impression upon me so deep and convincing that I decided to follow his trail and examine for myself those claims put forward by this untutored mouthpiece of the west. It was not long until occasion offered and I embarked for the Prairie City of Western Canada.

At Winnipeg I heard of the scenic grandeur of the Canadian Rockies. Reports of around-the-world travellers gave glowing accounts of the British Columbian mountains, and tourists from the ice-land of Alaska had been captivated by Canada's snow-crowned ranges. Wishing to compare these mountains with others of my acquaintance, I prepared for a western tour to explore the famous passes in the head waters of the Columbia River, proposing to spend a month in the rugged wilds of the

transparent depths; the outlines and forms of the mountains were and ruggedly traced on the horizon, while a glorious sun poured down the effulgence of its rays on the glittering chain. The winds blowing from the ice-clad summits were fresh and exhilarating as draughts of ethereal champagne, and acted like a mystic tonic on the nerves. In the clear atmosphere forms were visible at a long distance, and objects far remote seemed near at hand.

Reaching the valley of the Bow River, we followed up the clear, dashing waters of that snow-fed stream into the shadows of the Rockies, the canyon opening a pass through the great chain. High cliffs on either side guard the entrance, and their precipitous walls extend up the pass. Here and there the canyon opens into valleys or rounded basins, whose sides, up to the snow line, are clothed with enormous and stately trees—the product of a rich soil, watered with frequent showers—whose waving tops appear like tossing seas. The prevailing growth is spruce, and the shapely forms and even outlines of these handsome trees add unique beauty to the wild grandeur of the gorges.



THE FOUR TRACKS ON C.P.R. IN CANADIAN ROCKIES.

Rocky Mountains, shoot game, catch fish, inhale the invigorating air of the highlands, and admire the beautiful pictures of the canyons. With fur robes, camping accoutrements, some tackle, and weapons, I took passage on the Canadian Pacific Railroad for the long journey to the coast ranges.

From Red River valley the train crosses the level prairies of Manitoba and enters the wide plains of Saskatchewan and Alberta, over whose wide open bosoms, spreading in green grass to the west until lost in the azure of the distance, we looked out for two days on the banks of the Saskatchewan, the town of Medicine Hat—a former railway town of Canada—was a prominent landmark. A clear view of the mountains of Alberta and Saskatchewan was obtained from the train.

The Rocky Mountains. The scenery was magnificent and the air was fresh and invigorating. The mountains were covered with snow, and the valleys were green. The air was clear and the sky was blue. The mountains were majestic and the valleys were fertile. The air was fresh and the sky was blue. The mountains were majestic and the valleys were fertile.

Log cabins of mountaineers and wigwams of Indians occasionally appear in the winding pass, perched on rocky knolls along brawling streams. Timber fires have left on the mountain slopes scars of charred trunks, whose skeleton forms stand out among the surrounding forests.

An observation car—open at the sides—gave unobstructed views of the surpassing scenery as the snorting engine plunged into the gaping canyons. Former tours among its southern peaks and parks had given me an attachment to the great continental range, and with pride I observed that the majestic Rockies sustained their scenic fame in the northern regions. Their impressive fronts and gigantic domes held the gaze of all observers, while the huge masses of snow piled on their lofty crests varied the grey towers with flecks of eternal white.

The sky was an arch of blue, every blue poured forth a stream of crystal water, and from the crags of the peaks fell roaring cataracts whose voices filled the canyons with strange echoes, while the roar of the winds was heard among the trees.

The peaks increased in height and ruggedness as we penetrated farther into the range by instep, and several of the same name with their walls of snow and ice were seen.