



## The Pacific Coast

The train traveller, quitting the Prairies, spends almost a full day in the cloud-topped mountain belt of British Columbia before plunging into a wet and luxuriant forest world. Here the Douglas fir and red cedar soar to enormous heights, straight as church spires and older than historic Canada. Underneath these evergreen giants lies a thick and sometimes impenetrable tangle of matted undergrowth that bears testimony to the heavy rainfall and temperate climate of the coastal strip.

The climate of the coast has been compared with that of England; this is perhaps why many immigrants from Great Britain settle in Van-

couver on the mainland and in Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. Both cities have little winter snow, although the annual rainfall in Vancouver is 54.5 inches. In Victoria, golf can usually be played on Christmas Day and flowers bloom in December. Most of British Columbia's population is clustered in this verdant southwest corner, although pockets of settlement are to be found in the narrow but fertile valleys that run north and south

1. One of British Columbia's many towering trees

2. Beauty of winter in Mount Revelstoke National Park, British Columbia

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