

tains by way of the Bow Pass. As most accessible, it furnishes a fair sample of the process of evolution above referred to. The river has here a width of some three hundred feet and a greatest depth of from eight to ten. In mid-summer the water is clear as crystal, and the boulders and gravel at the bottom easily discernible. In June and July it is a rushing, mud-coloured flood, and occasionally, owing to cloud bursts along the eastern face of the mountains—some fifty miles distant—or to exceptionally hot weather early in the year, overflows the banks and causes much confusion among the inhabitants of the lower levels of the town as well as considerable disarrangement to railway traffic, owing to washouts of the white clay banks which confine this portion of its course.

On the climb through the foothills, from the windows of the train the trough of the Bow may be seen, winding like a black snake through the green or yellow grass of the beach-lands above, so narrow as only to be followed by the eye from a height or when close to the bed, and chiefly to be traced by a line of stunted spruce tops and gnarled and twisted Douglas fir, distorted by the strong, warm chinook winds sweeping down the valley. In this section the Bow is joined by several tributaries of considerable volume, noticeably the Elbow, Jumpingpound, Ghost and Kananaskis Rivers. Some idea of the volume attained by these streams during flood time may be gathered from the following measured discharges:—The average highwater flow of Jumpingpound River is 130 cubic feet per second; in 1897, owing to continued heavy rains in the mountains, the flow reached the enormous proportion of 7,400 cubic feet per second. This, of course, was abnormal, but still a flood flow may be anywhere between. Owing, however, to their deeply cut channels, the streams are well confined and little damage is done beyond partially flooding the immediate bottoms.

Not far beyond the junction of the Kananaskis the gap in the eastern escarpment of the mountains is reached. The Bow River now assumes the nature of a mountain stream; the grade becomes steeper, the course wider, and boulders and stranded debris more frequent. At

Anthracite, the railway leaves it temporarily to take a short cut, and does not again join it until some distance beyond Banff. In the interim, however, other attractions are presented, and the river for the time being is forgotten. At the first-named village are the coal mines; close by are the "Hoodoos," fantastically shaped pillars of hard, sandy-clay, eroded from the face of the cut-banks on which they stand. And then, the Canadian Buffalo Park, and the hope of a passing glimpse at the buffalo and other species of mountain animals collected there by the enterprise of Mr. Howard Douglas, the present superintendent. In 1901, the writer was standing in the observation car of a westbound train. On board was a largely attended Raymond excursion from the United States. As the confines of the park were reached, the conductor came in and called in a loud voice: "Now, ladies and gentlemen, look out for the buffalo!" Almost as he spoke, two of the animals broke from a poplar grove immediately beside the railway and lumbered along in clear view for fully a minute. It seemed as though he had touched a button and let them loose. It is needless to say, the incident was greeted by cheers and many exclamations of delight at the forethought of the Company in providing so interesting and timely a spectacle.

Beyond Banff, the river flows quietly through the valley of the Vermilion lakes, but soon again becomes more broken as Laggan and the summit are approached. It grows ever smaller as numerous tributaries are cut out, the Spring River, Cascade Creek, Forty-mile Creek and Pipestone River, until at Laggan it has but a width of a hundred and fifty feet, and a depth of only five or six.

Here, it is crossed by a rustic bridge, from which a well made road leads through picturesque pine and spruce woods, along the border of a foaming cascade to the C. P. R. chalet, at Lake Louise. Lake Louise is a gem of transparent blue, nestling at the base of Mts. Victoria, Lefroy and Fairview. It collects the melting ice and snows, reaching from base to summit of the mountains named in a natural reservoir, which pours