

1865 Mr. W. Moberly, C. E., would have discovered it or perished in the attempt, but his Indians refused to follow him, insisting that if they went on they would be caught in the snow and never get out of the mountains. Consequently the honour of discovering it fell to Major Rogers, C. E., who, after repeated attempts, succeeded in 1882, greatly to the satisfaction of the syndicate that had undertaken the construction of the railway. Crossing the Selkirks by the Rogers Pass, we come again upon the Columbia, greatly increased in size, and now running to the south, and see the Gold range rising on the other side of the river, cloven to the feet by the Eagle Pass, which Mr. W. Moberly discovered in 1865. Previous to this the Gold range was supposed in British Columbia to be an unbroken and impassable wall of mountains. From the summit of the Pass a series of lakes extend westward, the largest known as Bluff, Victor, Three Valley, and Griffin, all strung like beads on the Eagle River, and emptying through it into the exquisitely beautiful, star-shaped Lake Shuswap. Emerging from the dark blue waters of Lake Shuswap, and sailing down the South Thompson, we come upon the elevated plateau that extends from the Gold range west to the Cascades. The physical character of this intervening region is directly the opposite of the humid mountainous country.

At Kamloops the North flows into the South Thompson, and the united river pursues its course to the Fraser. Everywhere the country is of the same general character — low brown hills and benches dotted with an occasional tree, everywhere a dry, dusty look, except where a little creek is used to irrigate a flat or garden plot and convert it into a carpet or riband of the freshest green. These bits of green are like oases in a desert, beautiful to look upon and yielding abundantly every variety of fruit or grain. From Yale to the Gulf of Georgia is the Lower Fraser, or New Westminster district, perhaps the most valuable part of British Columbia from an agricultural point of view. Irrigation is not required as in the interior, and the rainfall is not too excessive, as in other parts of the coast region.

The best views of the Cascades are obtained from the deck of a steamer in the middle of the Straits of Georgia. From the same standpoint we see the fifth range, counting from the prairies of the northwest, a range which has been submerged here and there by the Pacific Ocean, but which stands out grandly in the Olympian Mountains to the south of the Straits of Fuca, in the noble serrated range that constitutes the back-bone of Vancouver Island, and in the Queen Charlotte Islands and the Archipelago away along the coast of Alaska. This half-submerged range protects the mainland shores of the Province from the ocean, and is the explanation of the spectacle presented by its coast line, which Lord Dufferin declared "not to be paralleled by any country in the world. Day after day," said His Excellency, "for a whole week, in a vessel of nearly 2,000 tons, we threaded an interminable labyrinth of watery lanes and reaches that wound endlessly in and out of a network of islands, promon-