

THE COMMERCIAL

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PANORAMIC SUPPLEMENT.

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INTRODUCTION.

 THE TOURIST and other pleasure seekers have had floods of literature written for them regarding what may be termed Western Canada, or that portion of the British Empire stretching from Lake Superior on the east, to the Pacific shores on the west; and the settler in search of a Western home has been deluged with information regarding the rich farming lands of Manitoba and the Northwest, and the valuable mining fields, fisheries and other attractions of British Columbia. On the other hand the class of information, of greater value to the commercial public of the East and Europe, relating to this vast stretch of country with its varied resources has been but slenderly supplied, given forth in detached fragments about special localities in journalistic efforts, the bulk of it being contained in the regular weekly issues of this journal, and therefore only known to regular readers of THE COMMERCIAL and other periodicals which have supplied it piecemeal, so to speak.

In this Panoramic Number it is the intention, by condensed sketches and illustrations, to convey to the reader some idea of the commercial prospects, progress and possibilities of this great country, and at the same time to give quite a share of attention to the all-important matters of agricultural progress and advantages, while not failing to convey to the lovers of nature a glimpse of the grandest and most varied collection of scenery to be found in any country on this globe.

As stated the sketches will be condensed and necessarily concise in their descriptive parts, but it is hoped that a pretty clear idea of the whole country will be given to the reader, who will carefully peruse the work and if it falls short of doing what it was intended to do it is because of the magnitude of the undertaking.

This publication is probably the most comprehensive and extensive ever undertaken in one issue of a Canadian journal and all the publishers desire is that the travelling business man with a copy in his possession will have a kind of directory which will post him in a short and easy way on what he wishes to know about this great land of Western Canada.

THE GATEWAY.

IT has been stated that where Nature stores her greatest treasures, she invariably surrounds them with a forbidding frown, and the coast around the North-western shores of Lake Superior certainly corroborate this statement. Frowning rocks piled up in chaotic confusion, depository on top at one place, and granitic in another, all frowning down upon the deep blue father of inland waters, Lake Superior, and presenting in their formation a tangle, which would craze the student of geology in his attempts to dissect and unravel. Such are the frowning sentinels which nature has placed along this coast to guard the rich mineral and timber resources stretching away westward to the prairie-land margin and the rich agricultural lands stretching thence to the breast of the Rocky Mountains.

To get fairly started on our panoramic course it is necessary to find an entrance through the rocky barriers above described and the places of entrance are few, and distant from each other. The one destined by nature to be the main gateway is unquestionably by Thunder Bay and the estuary of the Kaministiquia River. Leaving the outer waters of Lake Superior and rounding the great Thunder Cape, which rises abruptly from the water to a height of some eight hundred feet, we enter Thunder Bay and here find ourselves in a wide, partially sheltered roadstead, which has formed a temporary refuge for many a lake craft during time of storm. Islands lying off from ten to twelve miles from the mainland form the breakwater of this roadstead, and away inside of these can be seen the line of an artificial breakwater, inside of which is the harbor of Port Arthur, and the main and only navigable outlet of the Kaministiquia River. This harbor affords anchorage room for an unlimited fleet of vessels, where they can lay in smooth water during the wildest storms, and the line of wharves along the river shore give ample accommodation for the unloading and loading of vessels of heavy as well as light tonnage. The artificial breakwater has completed one of the finest harbors to be found on the great chain of American lakes, while the dredging of the Kaministiquia, accomplished a few years, has furnished several miles of a navigable stream where vessels of heavy draught can ply thus completing the course of lake navigation to the town of