



LEACHILL RANGE

THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

By Rev. A.C. Crews

IF there is any trip in the world that will yield a more satisfactory return in delightful sight-seeing and interesting variety of experiences than the journey from Toronto to Victoria and return, by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the writer has not heard of it. There is absolutely no danger of sea sickness, and so comfortable are the trains that there is no necessity of even getting very tired, while there is always something to engage the attention, and delight the eye. Some travellers may regard the prairie as a trifle monotonous, but it is a most appropriate prelude to the glory of the mountains. These fertile plains of Manitoba and the North-West, however, have their own charm and it is worth while to make a long journey to see their vastness. At present we have specially to do with the mountains, which are without doubt, the greatest in the world.

Talk about Mount Blanc! Here are a score of Mount Blancs. Here are a dozen Righis. Talk about the glaciers of Switzerland! Here is one glacier as large as all the glaciers of Switzerland combined. A European guide, who had spent some time in exploring this marvellous region, recently said: "Turn all the mountain climbers in the world loose among the Canadian mountains, and at the end of twenty-five years they will still be discovering new beauties and new attractions." What a pity it is that Canadians know so little of the attractions of their own continent! Many of them go to Europe to feast their eyes on the glories of Old World scenery, when greater beauties can be enjoyed without crossing the ocean. Instead of laboriously climbing the Alps one can sit comfortably in an observation car and feast the eye for hour after hour. It is passing strange that far-away hills seem so much more desirable.

The Canadian Pacific Railway supplies each passenger with what is called an "Annotated Time Table," which describes the scenery along the line, so that all the tourist has to do is to take a seat in the open observation car, and enjoy himself. The most remarkable thing about these mountains is their extraordinary extent. There are single peaks which doubtless equal in height and grandeur anything to be found in the

Rockies, but here there are mountains without number that are worth looking at, and the panorama continues without lessening of interest for two or three days.

"The Three Sisters" first receive attention. They are a trio of snow-clad peaks that stand off by themselves, with family resemblance enough to make their name exceedingly appropriate. There is not much time to admire their beauty, for our train quickly brings us into range of new attractions.

Cathedral Peak bears a striking likeness to a magnificent Old-World cathedral, with spires and minarets, while Castle Mountain looms up like a stern fortress with towers and bastions. We would scarcely be surprised to hear the signal gun booming from one of its turrets.

About five o'clock in the morning the train pulls into Banff, which is set apart as a National Park. Happy is the tourist who can afford the time and money to spend a week here. The mountains here are most impressive, and from this valley a great variety of sublime and pleasing scenery may be viewed. The peaks loom up on all sides, "Cascade," "Massive" and "Sulphur" being the most prominent. *One of our pictures shows the C.P.R. Hotel and "Old Sawback" as the jagged ridge beyond the hotel is sometimes familiarly called.* Eight miles beyond Banff is Lake Minnewanka, or Devil's Lake, on which a fine launch has been placed. There is capital fishing, the trout being of extraordinary size. Wild sheep and mountain goats are occasionally to be seen on the neighboring heights, and there is a fine herd of buffalo in the Park. The hot springs are at different elevations upon the eastern slope of Sulphur Mountain, the highest being 900 feet above the Bow. All are reached by fine roads, commanding glorious landscapes. "The more important springs have been improved by the Government, and picturesque bathing houses have been erected and placed under the care of attendants. In one locality is a pool inside a dome-roofed cave, entered by an artificial tunnel; and, near by, another spring forms an open basin of warm, sulphurous water." Since the opening of the railway, these springs have been largely visited, and testimony to their wonderful curative properties is plentiful.