



LAKE LOUISE AND CHALET.

of feet. These walls are vari-colored, resembling marble in places, whose tinted hues are in pleasing contrast with the dull dun and gray rock and the dark slate."

"To row out on the lake in the early morning," adds another visitor, "is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. The boat seems poised in mid-air, surrounded above and below by the mountains and sky. Away from it, stretching out on all sides, is the wonderfully clear, silvery blue-green water. The oars touch its sheen, the boat moves gently forward, and grounds at length on a tiny sandy beach at the opposite end of the lake from that on which the chalet is situated. On the shore just beyond the beach and below the glacier is a flower garden of blue forget-me-nots. As we gather them we are frequently startled by peals like those of heavy thunder, though we are under clear skies; but we soon discover that the sounds are caused by the falling masses of the hanging glaciers plunging over the distant cliffs of Mount Victoria."

On the margin of the lake the railway company has built a chalet, which is under the same management as the Banff Springs Hotel, for those who desire to remain either to explore the mountains or to fish or hunt—the region abounding in mountain goat, which require all the skill and perseverance of the Swiss chamois hunter, and numerous coveys of ptarmigan grouse, duck, and other feathered game—and at Lake Agnes and the Saddleback, shelters have been erected for the accom-

modation of visitors. Streams have been bridged, and over twelve miles of trails have been constructed, which render many points of vantage easily accessible. One leads around the west side of the lake to the base of Victoria Glacier, three and one-quarter miles; another to Saddleback Mountain, overlooking Paradise Valley, and to Annette Lake in the Valley itself, giving magnificent views of groups of rugged peaks and clusters of smaller glaciers; others lead to the upper lakes—Mirror and Agnes. Ponies are available for these ascents by those not desiring the walk; but the delights of mountain climbing, which are here lavishly offered, prompt many to indulge in that pleasurable experience which, except to the feeble, is unattended with difficulty. The charge for ponies is \$1.00 per day, and experienced Swiss guides arrange for and accompany excursions daily, as at Banff, for the convenience of guests. The chalet is open from about June 15th to September 15th, the rate being \$2.50 per day. Conveyances meet all trains at Laggan, and by pre-arrangement the round trip, including the ascent to the upper lakes, can be made from Banff in one day, single-fare tickets being issued on presentation of certificates from the managers of the Banff Springs Hotel or Sanitarium. In the chalet is a dark room for the use of photographers, and there is telephonic connection with the station at Laggan, by which communication with Banff is had.

Mirror Lake.

The ascent to Lakes Mirror (altitude 6,550 feet) and Agnes (altitude 6,820 feet), the one on the breast and the other on the shoulder of the mountain that confines Lake Louise on the southern side, is usually made on Indian ponies, but with sturdy climbing powers one can scramble up the steep ascent without any great waste of time or exertion. A trail, completed in 1897, which brings Mirror Lake within two miles of the chalet and Lake Agnes two and one-quarter miles, leads on to the summit of the Beehive; another branches off near Mirror to the Lesser Beehive and the base of St. Piron, from which its summit can be reached. Four hours are occupied from the chalet to the crest of St. Piron and return, and two hours to Lake Agnes and return. Mirror Lake, which is one-third of a mile long by a quarter of a mile wide, has no visible outlet, its shallow waters escaping through an underground channel into Lake Louise. They rise and fall as the inflowing streams pour their floods more rapidly than they are carried off. Its still and clear surface, differing in color from that of Lake Louise and of Lake Agnes, reflects in a peculiarly effective way its encircling walls, and suggested the appropriate name of Mirror Lake. Anxious to reach the highest point, the visitor shortens his stay at the intermediate water, and, remounting his pony or grasping his alpenstock, continues his ascent to Lake Agnes, there being two trails, one a ten minutes' easy climb and the other around the sloping side of the mountain, which, while not at all dangerous, is at times attended with all the pleasurable sensations of excitement.

Rare although i
terizes its
that bread
fed by se
numerous
that enclos
cade over
is a clump



dining-table
grim Mount
cession of vi
back in the c
reaching far
moraine. F
the accumula
weather, it i
you are near
match can be