

THERMAL WATERS OF WESTERN CANADA

This promiscuous synopsis of an unfinished study of the hot springs of Western Canada would never have been presented, had I not repressed all consciousness of the enormous work spent by patient labourers in every field of research. The limited time which a technologist crowded with the application of scientific discoveries (generally of others) to the commercial problems of a railroad company, is able to give to such a subject, ought to be sufficient apology for its imperfections, which I hope will afford the more scope for an interesting discussion by those whose knowledge may be more highly specialised.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Any attempt on my part to describe the scenic setting of these springs, especially to those who may easily have seen more of the country in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains than has been my privilege, will be quite unprofitable, so I shall merely confine myself to stating where the various better known springs are to be found, with brief description of those most accessible in this section.

Banff—Supposing we are travelling westward, the first thermal springs we find are at Banff, almost on the western borders of Alberta, just as we encounter that line of least resistance or of greatest interference of stratified rocks, that great chain of Rocky Mountains. The Alpine town of Banff is 4,521 above the sea level and the springs, several in number, issue from about 500 feet higher up the side of what is called "Sulphur Mountain." In every instance there is an enormous deposit of tufa around the points of issue, which gives the impression that both the quantity and pressure of discharge were in the nature of Geysers, the ancient falling fountains both denuding and petrifying the formation upon which they fell. Evidences of the water having been ejected to great height are furnished by the tufa formation far above the present issue of the water. Above all this, Sulphur Mountain towers 8,030