

Miles from Mont ¹	Trans-Contin ¹ Train	STATIONS—DESCRIPTIVE NOTES
	Thompson Canyon	<p>vegetation, contrasts sharply with the bright green waters. The railway has to be carried on ledges and through tunnels on the southern bank, the views over the lake being beautiful as the route winds in and out, now piercing a tunnel and now hung upon a bridge over some great fissure. A half-dozen rocky ridges stretch across this lake, and have been broken through by the waters, so that it presents a series of high promontories and intervening bays. "The little village of <i>Savonas</i> where the Government's line ended and the C. P. R. construction eastward began is at the foot of the lake, and below this the gorge narrows and the Thompson river flows out with swift current towards the sea, plunging with mad pace over the succession of rapids at the bottom of the canyon. This canyon broadens and narrows as the mountain chains approach or recede, and the railway is carried high above the river on the southern side. Where the bottom lands spread out the river winds through them, leaving flats or bars. It is on these and the sandy outflows of the mountain streams which fall in, that much gold has been found, and both here and on the Fraser river can be seen the gold hunters shaking their 'cradles' to wash the sand from the gold dust. In the bottoms and on the hills along this river, until the gorge runs too far into the mountains, the grazing is good, and there are evidences of some settlement, with cattle herds and horses feeding on the 'bunch grass,' which looks in its dried condition like so much hay. <i>Ashcroft</i> is the headquarters of ranching here, and is the point where all the merchandise and products of the upper Fraser valley and Cariboo districts of the northern interior are despatched and received by means of ox-teams and pack-trains. "Below this part, however, the rocks become too steep to permit of much habitation. A light bridge deep down in the canyon, thrown across the Thompson river where several roads come together out of the mountains, gives a name to the station of <i>Spence's Bridge</i>. . . . As the Thompson river canyon gets further into the mountains the gorge becomes deeper and narrower and the scenery even more grand. The hills are denuded of trees, but some shrub-timber grows in sheltered parts of the valleys. The river becomes a wild torrent. The railway has a difficult route, is laid high above the water, and crosses a great number of lofty trestle-bridges over the fissures in the sides of the canyon, while it has to pierce cliff after cliff through tunnels. The sides of the gorge in most places are precipitous, making it impossible to get down to the water's edge. A waggon road is cut into the precipice along the top, high above the stream, and here is seen a party of Indians with their ponies, moving their household goods on the animals' backs. But it seems perilous navigation to go along such a roadway in such a dangerous place, entirely unprotected from falling far down into the abyss below. Then the canyon gradually winds its way into the Cascade mountains and approaches the highest</p>
	At Savonas	
	Gold Washing.	
	Ashcroft and the Cariboo District	

2774

2789

2801

2815

2823

2833

2842

2851

2861

2871

2879