



SH COLUMBIA

AND AGRICULTURAL WEALTH

an National Park, Banff.

WINNIPEG SATURDAY NIGHT."

carriers.

Office—157 and 159 McDermott Avenue.

VOL. 2, NO. 3.

WINNIPEG, SEPT.-OCT., 1894.

Whole No. 55.



Interior View of C. P. R. Sleeping Car.

The Rich West.

REGARDLESS of all that has been written and published laudatory of the great Canadian West but a faint idea of the vastness of its territory and the immense resources thereof exists in the minds of Eastern people. Journeying from Winnipeg to Vancouver, the terminal city of Canada's great trans-continental highway, one passes through a storehouse of national wealth such as is possessed by no other country in the world.

Leaving Winnipeg on the morning express, the first day's ride carries one through the great wheat fields of Western Manitoba and by the prosperous, thriving towns of Portage la Prairie, Carberry and Brandon, which are the principal market-places of this rich and populous district. Regina, the Territorial capital, is passed early in the morning of the second day, all of which is spent crossing the fertile plains of the Territories, glimpses at Moosejaw, Swift Current and Medicine Hat being afforded the traveler. Calgary is reached on the morning of the third day. Calgary is the center of a great ranching country and has tributary to it the much-talked-of Edmonton country as well as the rich coal fields of Lethbridge, both of which are connected by rail. It is a substantially built town and is charmingly situated on the Bow river, the white peaks of the Rockies being plainly discernible.

From this point onward the road leads through the peaceful valley of the Bow, winding its way through the grassy foothills past the little town of Morley, and an hour later the iron horse plunges in through the gap, the rocky gateway through which the Bow river issues from the hills.

The author of the New West thus eloquently describes this portion of the journey:

"The scene is one of indescribable grandeur. The scenes are empowered by the ideas of immensity, titanic strength, adamantine hardness and endless existence which these huge collections of rock evoke. It is only in such a spot that the human mind can adequately comprehend the sublime imagery of the inspired writers who told of the 'everlasting hills.' The frowning peaks, at times dark and gloomy and threatening, defying the elements for ages past, and to defy them for ages to come, appeal and oppress one with their immensity—on the one side fantastically broken and castellated heights—on the other, huge snow-mantled monsters. Beyond again, the Three Sisters loom up as if the long-gone builders of the pyramids of Egypt had crossed the ocean ages ago and left in this western land these monumental traces of this wonderful work. Beyond this trinity again, the Bull's Head is to be seen; then Anthracite mountain, a spur of the Fairholme range, rich with the coal its name indicates, rises impressively, and not far away is Banff, the great sanitarium which nature has created and which man has sought to improve."

Anthracite is not prepossessing in its appearance to-day, but the town has a bright future in store. The rich coal-mines here now being successfully operated by Mr. H. W. McNeill give promise of a never-failing supply as well as those at Camrose, a few miles below, and the quality of the products of the respective mines is such as to warrant

an ever increasing market, not only in Canada but in the northern portion of the United States. The Camrose bituminous coal is already being used by the British naval squadron off the Pacific coast, and the anthracite is a household name in the prairie villages, the American hard coal being almost completely driven out with its introduction. So much for Anthracite and Camrose, two of Alberta's hardy mining towns.

A few miles further and the express whistles into Banff, the entrance to Canada's great national park—the nation's pleasure ground. From the little rustic station a drive-way leads to the village proper, a mile distant. This park is a national reservation, north-east and south-west, twenty-six miles long by ten miles wide, embracing parts of the valleys of the Bow, Spray and Cascade rivers. Besides these picturesque streams and innumerable lakeside is Devil's Lake, whose fascinating loveliness befits its name. Not only in name but in reality should this park be called the nation's pleasure ground, for it certainly stands without a rival perhaps in the entire world. The beautiful drives through the valleys of the Bow and Spray and along the mountain sides, built at a great expense by the Dominion Government, render good points of view and features of special interest more accessible than is the case at any other point throughout the mountains. The facilities for trout fishing, too, are unequalled anywhere, the mountain streams and lakeside yielding rich treasure to the disciples of Isaac Walton. Canoeing, driving, walking and mountain climbing may be numbered among the pleasures of this famous resort. Banff is known far and wide as a health resort, and the medicinal virtues of its hot springs are being heralded throughout the health-seeking world. The springs are located at different elevations upon the eastern slope of Sulphur Mountain, the highest and most important being four thousand five hundred feet above the sea level. All are reached by fine roads commanding glorious landscapes. Those seeking for health come here each year not only from all parts of Canada, but also from the Old World, and as each year rolls on old visitants as well as new ones are captivated by charms heretofore undiscovered, while nature bewilders her admirers with her lavish beauty, yet she keeps ever in reserve a wealth of attraction which is revealed only to those who yield to her alluring spells and leave their day by day into come fresh infatuation. Here can be found all the appliances necessary to minister to the comforts of human nature and satisfy the most exacting. It welcomes yearly the thousands who have heard of it from afar and been drawn thither by the magic of its name. There are a number of splendidly equipped hotels within the limits of the park, built in the most picturesque places, affording every accommodation for tourists and invalids. All of these hotels contain baths supplied from the Hot Sulphur Springs. The park is under the supervision of Mr. Stewart, a Government appointee, who exercises the utmost care in protecting the game within its limits from wanton destruction. A detachment of North-West Mounted Police are stationed within the confines of the reservation. The Canadian Pacific Railway continuing through the park shows wonderful views on either hand.

I believe in this province the traveler cannot fail to note the general tendency toward closer trade relations between British Columbia and her sister territories and provinces. The Provincial Government seems to be doing all in its power to open up and develop the country, especially the Kootenay section, where they have built trails and roads with much promptitude. The people of the province, especially in the Kootenay country, are desirous of keeping up the bond between the East and West and much prefer to deal with Canadian firms. Spokane has drawn an immense trade from the mining camp, but it is fast giving way to Winnipeg and Toronto houses. Large numbers of cattle and sheep, besides butter, eggs, and other produce, are being shipped

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