

may be—through seemingly endless forests, where not as much local traffic can be looked for as will pay to keep the line in repair or supply fuel for the engine, you wonder at the perseverance which went on with the work of blasting granite rock, and carefully laying sleeper and rail through those hundreds of unprofitable miles. When you emerge on shining lake or river, cross waterfalls, run alongside still waters whose surface is clothed with water lilies, you forget the profits of the company in the pleasure and wonder of these endless pretty waters. Then when you reach the prairie, already largely the wheat-field of the world, with its stretch of unlimited plain; when you see cornfields like English counties, and meadow lands grazed by innumerable herds to whom, in a general way, the only fence that is known is that which their own habits define, you think how great and beneficial an undertaking this was which opened these vast reservoirs of food to the hungry sons of men. And then as you enter the mountains, climb the summit of their passes in your easy carriage, run along their most beautiful river courses, rise up to the neighbourhood of their snowy summits, skirt the feet of their glaciers, and descend to ocean again through the wild and terrible gorges which their streams and rivers have made for themselves, experiencing all the while a sense of security even when your head almost grows dizzy with the danger—all this is such as no other line on the surface of the earth can show you to the same extent and on the same grand scale. Tourists in search of new scenes and sights, and who have not crossed from east to west by this link of rail, have a pleasure before them which, once experienced, they will pronounce unique.

But this C. P. R. is great in another way. It is doing more than anything else to unify this vast Dominion. It brings its separated peoples and provinces together. It reveals to Canadians what Canada is,—a fact of which, till this line was made, most of them were as truly ignorant as we in England have been. For what could people be expected to know of each other, or of a country separated from them by 2,000 miles of wood and forest, which it would take weeks to traverse? As well might we in England be expected to be acquainted with the interior of Russia. Now, regular railway service,