

BOOK REVIEWS AND LITERARY NOTES

THE CANADIAN ALPINE JOURNAL.

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Sometimes, when a trifle jaded with the racial question, the religious question, the language question, the imperial question, and half a hundred other questions that ruin Canadian digestion at the breakfast table, the average Canadian must be at least dimly conscious that if his country is ever to be more than a geographical expression (or even to remain adequately that) it must endeavour to combine the many elements of which it is composed, with some more cohesive instrument than the butcher knife of partisan controversy. In all that pertains to race and its heritage, we shall be a divided people until these things cease to operate as dominant factors in emotion. Meanwhile, what have we, as a nation, to join hands over? Not race, nor language, nor religion; not even political institutions, for the renewed discord of the imperial problem, with its inevitable cry of race, scarcely awaits the conclusion of the war. But there is one element of national greatness which elicits common enthusiasm from us all: the land itself,—hill, valley and plain from sea to sea. And of this the noblest feature is the Rocky Mountains.

As the Swiss worship their native hills, so will Canadians be devoted to the Rockies in the day when they more thoroughly realize that Canada is, among other things, an Alpine country. We are still a little diffident about accepting proprietorship. It is hard to realize, in this commercial time, that the mountains are *ours*—not a railway concession, but a national heritage. The traveller across the Selkirks who is reputed to have expressed admiration for the Canadian Pacific Railway's enterprise in putting the great Illicilliwaet Glacier by the hotel, simply voiced a very common suspicion that the mountains are something merely staged—a clever background for the railways.

To dip into the pages of the Canadian Alpine Journal is to be disabused once and for all of that suspicion. The Journal is written and edited by mountaineers and geographers. It is published annually by the Alpine Club of Canada, a national organization whose object is to make the mountains accessible in every way possible, through sport, science, art, and literature, to the Canadian people; and to infuse a bit of "de ole tam Voyageur" into the blood of twentieth century town-folk. The pages of the Journal are filled with the actual doings of men who have penetrated

