

# A Trail Across the Rockies



(1) In the Sinclair Canyon at the Red Gate.  
(2) Forging the Vermillion River.

The first trip across the Simpson Pass through the Canadian Pacific was made by Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1821, and formed part of the first recorded overland tour round the world, that is to say across the North American continent, and by way of Siberia and Russia, comprising about nine months, and the subject of considerable literature. Jim Brewster, the famous guide and outfitter at Banff, discovered the fallen tree on the summit of the Pass on which the travellers left their record.

Fired by the ambition to cross this summer, with two guides, ten ponies and camping outfit, and supplies for six or seven days, Jim Brewster set out from Banff to Invermere at the headwaters of the Columbia Valley, where I had promised to wait for them. Close to Invermere are the remains of Kootenai House, an outpost of the Northwest Trading Company established by David Thompson in 1806. Now there is a comfortable little tourist hotel, much appreciated by motorists who use the excellent Government road through the Upper Columbia Valley.

On our first day's ride we stopped off for a swim at the hot sulphur springs of Sinclair Canyon, where St. John Harnsworth, brother of the famous Lord Northcliffe, and himself proprietor of the still more famous Perrier water, built a concrete bathing pool under the springs which pour its naturally warm water out of the rock. At night we found shelter in a homestead's cabin, the owner of which was away at the war and hospitable enough to leave the latch loose. Next day we were in the forests of the "valley," a wonderful resort, for big game hunting, by the tracks we saw and the animals we even met—two black bear and a deer on the trail with moose paths worn deep into the small Devonshire lanes along the meadows beside the river.

The Kootenay River had a rather bad reputation. Two parties were drowned in the attempt to make the crossing at the same time last year, and we ourselves had been

warned to postpone our trip. However, we found a ford where we did not even have to swim our horses, and most day were on the banks of the Vermillion River, into the Vermillion pours the raging torrent of the Simpson, which itself is fed from the melting glaciers of the snow-capped Rockies high above. At least one cyclone seemed to have swept down its valley, and the river itself had washed away several corners so that our trail had to be made, or found, on many a mile.

Once while Ed Dawson, the leading guide was backing a trail through a deadfall, his saddle pony took it into its head to cross the torrent. The packponies followed suit, and before we could stop them, our camp, and most of all our food supplies were on the wrong side of the most vicious looking water I ever saw to see. There was nothing to do but follow, and evidently we got across—else how could this tale have ever been told? As we approached the Summit of the Pass, one grimly left a visiting card such as grizzlies do leave—scattered upon the trail and again we saw deer tracks. The Summit, according to the guides, should be ten feet deep in snow, and the description given by Sir George Simpson gave the same anticipation: "We were surrounded by peaks and crags on whose summits lay perpetual snow; and the only sounds which disturbed the solitude were the crackling of protruding branches under the tread of our horses, and the roaring of the stream as it leaped down its rocky course."

"About seven hours of hard work brought us to the height of land, the hinge as it were between the eastern and western waters. We breakfasted on the level isthmus, which did not exceed fourteen paces in width, filling our kettles for the crystal sources of the Columbia and the Saskatchewan, while those willing feeders of two opposite oceans murmured over their beds of mossy stones, as if to bid each other a lower farewell, could hardly fail to attract our minds to the sublimity of the scene.

"But between these kindred foun-

tains, the common presence of the same snow wreaths, there was this remarkable difference of temperature that the source of the Columbia showed 40°, while that of the Saskatchewan raised the mercury to 57°; the thermometer meanwhile striking as high as 71° in the shade. "From the vicinity of perpetual snow, we estimated the elevation of the height of land to be seven or eight thousand feet above the level of the sea, while the surrounding peaks appeared to rise nearly half that altitude above our heads."

We surmised the snow all gone and our horses found sweet and ample pasture on an Alpine meadow. As we looked back from the Great Divide upon the mountains of the Selkirk, we had as fine a panorama as any eye could desire—rugged outlines, forested and fringed with perpetual snow.

The Banff side of the Summit comes within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, and its Superintendent of Parks was good enough to provide us with a trail right up to Mount Assiniboine, the giant of these giant mountains—only a glimpse however, for in a minute his head was caught in a turban of clouds. Thence without adventure except for a place of mossy gulches we reached the C.P.R. Hotel at Banff, alive with summer tourists who found in our cavalcade a fitting subject for innumerable snapshots.

The fishing, I may say in passing, which one gets on such a trail, is of the very best. Every trout, every pool seems to be stocked with trout, all instinctive about the nature of the fish. Brown Hackle and Grey Hackle are used freely. The red flies such as Parachutes take do not seem to take so well in these waters. There were both Dolly Varden and Steelhead to our credit on the Simpson, and one a little over a pound. In the Kootenay the trout ran up to two and three pounds and were very scarce, though shy in the middle of the day.—J. M. G.

It is because of their habit of always to see women, and in public places. They will sit back their chairs, take a few cigarettes from their vanity bags, light up and puff away with rather a fine-lit-devil air. They grasp their cigarettes somewhat timidly with four fingers and blow the smoke out quickly lest it choke them. They are gentlemen in a way. It is the old mountaineer women with their pipes who are continuing a custom, as this story from the "Memoirs of Louis XVI" by the Duc de Saint Simon shows:

"One evening, after the king had gone to bed, and while Monsieur de Chartres and Monsieur de Duchesse (who were bound together by their mutual aversion to the Princess Conti), sat down to a supper in the chamber of the first married, Monsieur, upon retiring late to his own room, found them smoking with pipes, which they had sent for from the Swiss Guards! Knowing what would happen if the smell were discovered, he made them leave off, but the smoke had betrayed them. The king next day severely scolded them, at which the Princess de Conti triumphed."

To-day, the frown of royalty, has terrors for few, but fortunately public opinion, though it tolerates, does not encourage the woman smoker.

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## Canadian West In "Movies"



and some of the reasons for this progress. Every operation is given life; milking the cows on the farm, delivering the cream to the creamery, grading the cream, making the butter, packing it, and shipping it to the markets in Europe or on the Pacific Coast. The government grading station where the butter is tested and given the grade under which it is sold shows that this new country is not taking second place to any other in the methods employed in promoting its dairy industry. In sterilizing, bottling, and delivery of milk to the city residents everything is also up-to-date.

But that it is not all work even there and that the farmer and his family have many diversions with shown in a picture dealing with what may be called the lighter side of life on the farm in Western Canada. A farmer and his family are pictured in their comfortable home, the children have been to school, the mother has finished her household tasks, has fed the chickens and milked the cows, the father has returned from his work in the field. They are planning to go to the summer fair at Calgary. They decide to go. They are shown at the fair mingling with the crowd, enjoying themselves at the roundabouts, in the shows, and watching the automobile races and other events. The splendid horses, cattle, sheep and hogs on view at the exhibition are also pictured. Altogether the party spends a very enjoyable day.

Later in the season, they go for a holiday. They have not far to go, and find in the same province hot springs. They go to one of these hot springs. Here they enjoy themselves in the swimming, fishing, and other amusements. Afterward they visit Banff, the heart of the Rocky Mountains. In connection with their visit, they see the magnificent mountain scenery, the lakes, the forests, the glaciers, and the snow-capped peaks. The picture shows that in the Canadian West, Canada is not all work and no play.

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### Port Dover Harbor

Port Dover, March 24.—This community is dissatisfied with the amount which has been put in the estimates for the improvement of Port Dover Harbor.

Reeve R. M. Taylor has been invited to attend the meeting which is to be held in Brantford on Friday afternoon and evening of this week, at which representatives of all the municipalities along the Lake Erie and Northern and Grand Valley Electric railways will be present to discuss the matter. It is understood that an indignation meeting will be held in the Telephone city at no distant date, to be followed by the sending of a strong deputation to Ottawa to impress forcibly on the minds of those in authority something worth while must be done and soon, in regard to Port Dover Harbor.

### The Mutual Life of Canada

Policyholders in the Mutual Life of Canada will be pleased to read the following extracts from the Company's Forty-Ninth statement just issued:—

"The first thing worthy of special remark is the production of new business, and more especially in view of the fact that there were so many business restrictions imposed upon the agents on account of war condition.

"The next feature of the year's work that is remarkable is the substantial net increase in the business. As never before, policyholders have shown an appreciation of the protection afforded by their policies and have carefully conserved their insurance.

"Another gratifying feature is the fall in the ratio of expense to income, despite the fact that great events of the year involved many special expenditures.

"Perhaps the most remarkable fact connected with the operation of the company, was the decision to maintain the payment of Surpluses or Dividends to policyholders according to the standard of previous years. The War claims, and later the death from influenza, imposed a heavy strain on the life companies, making it necessary for some of them to consider a reduction of their dividends to policyholders. Owing to this Company's policy of building up a "Reserve Surplus" in the years of prosperity, they are now in the happy position of being able to continue the same liberal dividend scale of the past.

**D. F. AIKEN, Dist.-Rep.**  
SIMCOE, ONT.

### Army Coal for Civilians

To meet the scarcity of coal in England, which is acute in certain localities, an arrangement has been come to between the War Office and the Coal Control Department, by which public needs may be met temporarily by drawing on army stocks.

The arrangement provides that lists in army camps above immediate requirements, assistance in fuel supply may be given to the public from such stocks by mutual arrangement between local Fuel Overseers and the officer in charge of War Office supplies.

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