## the Gasper Way

## through the

## MAJESTIC CANADIAN ROCKIES




Jasper Park Lodge, a jewel in its magnificent setting, stands on the shore of beautiful Lac Beauvert. Beyond is Roche Bonhomme "The Old Man".
ew people have a chance to travel through the Canadian Rockies more than once or twice in a lifetime, and the experience enjoyed is one that can never be forgotten. It is for the dual purpose of providing information while the trip is in progress, and to aid in refreshing the memory of it later, that this booklet is presented to you with the good wishes of the Canadian National Railways.

The trip, of course, is much more than one through the Canadian Rockies although that is the familiar way of referring to it. The routes (there are two of them) wind through the Selkirk, Cariboo, Coast and other ranges as well as the Rockies, and every mile there is much to be seen and enjoyed. The scenery presents vast differences. There is no way, for instance, of comparing the Thompson and Fraser River passages of the Vancouver route with those along the Bulkley and Skeena Rivers on the Prince Rupert line. But there is this similarity. Always the scenery is magnificent.

On either route two points stand out with distinguished clarity. One is Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies and certainly one of the most majestic. The other is Jasper National Park which, with its famous summer resort, Jasper Park Lodge, is not only the largest but one of the most popular vacationlands in Canada.

In association with the guide maps in this booklet, the notes have been so written and arranged as to give the traveller a quick and reasonably accurate picture of the country through which the railway runs, between the prairies and the Pacific. It's not a job designed for a professional geographer. It's just meant to help you so that you can consult it, as you look out of your train window, and learn a little more than you would without it, of where you are and what you are seeing as you move along upon your Canadian National journey.

While text reads "East to West", if you are travelling "West to East" notes may be followed easily by starting at page 11 from Vancouver, at page 18 from Prince Rupert, and reading from back to front. Mileage figures are railway divisional mileages; see white boards beside the right-of-way.



## EDMONTON - VANCOUVER

EDMONTON Alt. 2185 Edmonton, capital of the Province of Alberta, on the North Saskatchewan River, is an important manufacturing and distributing centre, gateway by air, rail, water and highway to the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska, and hub of vast oil, gas, coal and agricultural resources. Taking its name from Edmonton near London, Eng., it was originally a Hudson's Bay Co. fort, 20 miles downstream. Established on its present site in 1808, it is today Canada's fastest growing city; home of Alberta University and Canadian National Railways' Macdonald Hotel.
Wabamun and Seba Beach on Wabamun Lake are attractive summer resorts, favorites with Edmonton residents.

ENTWISTLE Alt. 2571 At mile 67.7 the line crosses the Pembina River on the highest of the many bridges encountered on the journey between Edmonton and the Pacific Coast.

WOLF CREEK Alt. 2852 About mile 122 Wolf Creek and the McLeod River are crossed. Both of these rivers flow northward to join the Athabaska and eventually reach the Arctic Ocean.

EDSON Alt. 2985 A railway divisional point and railhead for branch lines running south to coal mines.

ENTRANCE Alt. 3216 So named because it is the eastern gateway to the Canadian Rockies and Jasper National Park. At mile 64 the Athabaska River is crossed. The Athabaska (from the Indian meaning "Where There Are Reeds"') rises in the Columbia Icefield and flows north to join the MacKenzie which reaches the Arctic 2,000 miles away.

SOLOMON Alt. 3248 Near mile 67 the first "Jasper House" was established at the northern end of Brule Lake. This, in addition to being a trading post, stabled the horses used by the "Columbia Brigade" to transport goods through Athabaska Pass to "Boat Encampment" at the junction of Canoe River and the Columbia. This was
the route over which Governor Simpson of the H.B. Co. in 1824 made his famous "Express Canoe" voyage from York Factory on the Hudson Bay to the mouth of the Columbia in 84 days, establishing a new record. At mile 75, at the western end of a short tunnel we see, on the north, Boule Roche of the Bosche range, Bosche and Coronach peaks, and, across the river, Roche Miette and the Miette range.

DEVONA Alt. 3304 At mile 82 the Snake Indian River is crossed; on the north rises the De Smet range, with De Smet, Gargoyle and Cummock peaks; across the river is the Jacques range. All of these peaks rise from 8,000 to 8,500 feet.

JASPER Alt. 3470 Administrative headquarters of Jasper National Park, a divisional point, and rail stop for Jasper Park Lodge three miles distant on Lac Beauvert. The Park covers 4,200 square miles, is a game sanctuary and the holiday centre for thousands of visitors each year who come to see such scenic attractions as Maligne Lake, the largest glacial lake in the Rockies, Mount Edith Cavell and its Glacier of the Angel, the rugged Tonquin Valley and the Columbia Icefield, a great mass of ice, 110 square miles in area, that is the roof of the Rockies and the source of mighty rivers that run down to the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The Lodge is a village of $\log$ bungalows grouped on the shore of Lac Beauvert with every modern convenience and facilities for golf, tennis, swimming, riding, boating and motoring. Its main building is said to be the largest of log construction in the world and houses a ballroom, dining room and shops for guests. The lakes and streams in the Park offer excellent fishing for rainbow, speckled and Dolly Varden trout. The "Raven" totem pole near the station is from the Queen Charlotte Islands. Mountain and Pacific time zones meet at Jasper and watches should be changed, forward or back, depending on your direction.

YELLOWHEAD Alt. 3717 At mile 17 the height of land is crossed, which is also the Alberta-British Columbia boundary and a marker can be seen to the north of the track. This pass was named for a Metis who was called "Tête Jaune" by the natives on
account of his light coloured hair. He had a cabin and trap line to the west of Mount Robson and used the pass as a route to bring his furs to Jasper House.

LUCERNE Alt. 3650 East of here at mile 20 Yellowhead Lake is seen to the south of the track, with Mount Fitzwilliam rising to a height of 9,538 feet across the Lake. This lake flows into the Fraser River which rises to the south of here. At mile 36 Moose Lake is seen to the south of the track. Rainbow and Dolly Varden trout are to be had in these and many of the other lakes in the district.

RED PASS JUNCTION Alt. 3403 Here the Vancouver and Prince Rupert lines of the Canadian National Railways diverge. Just west of the station the Fraser River is crossed. This river was discovered by Sir Alexander MacKenzie in 1793 who came up the Peace River to the Parsnip River which he followed to its source and by a portage over the height of land to the Fraser River. It was not until 1808 that Simon Fraser explored it to the mouth and for him the river was named. This is the longest river entirely within the Province of British Columbia and flows 790 miles from its source in the mountains to the sea.

> The 6,700-yard Jasper Park Lodge championship golf course is one of the finest on the continent.



MOUNT ROBSON Alt. 3150 Coming from the east we get a spectacular first view of Mount Robson at mile 52 as it rises above a close-in range. The train stops at the station to give, on a clear day, a perfect view of this, the loftiest peak in the Canadian Rockies, alt. 12,972 feet, and of the snow dome of Mount Resplendent, 11,240 feet. Mount Robson dominates Mount Robson Provincial Park which offers excellent hunting for bighorn sheep, grizzly and black bear, moose, caribou. Hunting parties go in through Mount Robson station where guides and outfitters are located.

CANOE RIVER Alt. 2723 The canyon of the Canoe River, here some 70 feet in width with sheer walls of 100 feet, is bridged near Canoe River station. Rising in the Mica Mountains, the Canoe empties into the Columbia River and for 70 miles traverses a region of peaks and glaciers of impressive beauty.

ALBREDA Alt. 2867 Here is obtained an excellent view of Mt. Albreda, altitude 10,000 feet, and its glacier. At mile 104 travelling westerly we get our first view of the north branch of the Thompson River. This river was named for David Thompson, geographer and explorer who explored and mapped the country of the Thompson and Columbia Rivers early in the 19th century.

PYRAMID FALLS Alt. 2304 Pyramid Falls, at mile 113.7 have a drop of about 300 feet into a wide bowl so close to the railway that the spray wets the train when the river is at its height.

BLUE RIVER Alt. 2237 Blue River, a divisional point, is the gateway to Wells Gray Park. The attractiveness of its setting is enhanced by the lovely station garden for which seeds have been contributed by flower-lovers from all parts of the world.


The north face of mighty Mount Robson, showing Tumbling Glacier and Berg Lake.

Pyramid Falls, on the route of "The Continental Limited" between Red Pass Junction and Blue River.



WOLFENDEN Alt. 2175 Near Wolfenden the entrance to the Thompson canyon may be seen.

MESSITER Alt. 2079 At mile 12.3 and mile 13.5 we see Little Hell's Gate on the Thompson River, outlet of an eight mile canyon through which the rushing waters boil and toss. In 1863 the leading rafts carrying a party on their way to the Cariboo gold field were drawn into the canyon and many were drowned. This is good fishing country (rainbow, Dolly Varden and Kamloops) and accommodation can be had at lodges at Clearwater and Little Fort.

WIRE CACHE Alt. 1893 At Wire Cache a ferry crosses the North Thompson. Between Wire Cache and Wabron the railway crosses the river twice.

BIRCH ISL.AND Alt. 1386 Near Birch Island the North Thompson is again crossed. Silver lead properties are located in this neighborhood.

CLEARWATER Alt. 1329 The Clearwater River joins the North Thompson here. This stream is noted for its excellent Dolly Varden

The Fraser River valley-Sumas Mountains in background.

and rainbow trout fishing. During the spawning season when the salmon are running, they can be seen as they move up the North Thompson into the Clearwater. The Fraser plateau, which the railway traverses between Clearwater and Lytton, extends northward from the International boundary to the Nechako plateau.

HEFFLEY Alt. 1185 The region between Heffley and Savona, where the North Thompson is crossed, is excellent agricultural country. Irrigation is employed extensively for the cultivation of farm crops, market gardens and orchards.

RAYLEIGH Alt. 1169 In the vicinity of Rayleigh are large deposits of bituminous coal of excellent quality.

KAMLOOPS JCT. Alt. 1153 From Kamloops Junction it is three miles to Kamloops, the route traversing an Indian reservation and crossing the South Branch of the Thompson near its junction with the North Branch. Here in 1812 a trading post was established at the confluence which was called "Cumeloups" (The meeting of the waters) by the Indians. Kamloops is the centre of an important fruit and vegetable industry. A C.N.R. branch runs from here to another famous fruit country, the Okanagan Valley.

TRANQUILLE Alt. 1183 Here the Government has established a Tuberculosis Sanatorium, where among pleasant surroundings and lots of sunshine many a cure has been affected. Between miles 10 and 11 the train passes through the longest Canadian National tunnel in the mountains ( 2,827 feet), to the west of which Kamloops Lake is followed for nearly twenty miles. At mile 20 the entrance to a mine can be seen, where over 7,000 pounds of mercury were produced before shutting down.

ASHCROFT Alt. 993 Ashcroft is the gateway to the 60,000 square miles of the Cariboo District. It is famous for its potatoes grown in the sandy soil of the district. From mile 51 to 54.7 the river has worn through the bed rock of black cretaceous shale, and the famous "Black Canyon" is followed.



SPENCE'S BRIDGE Alt. 742 Situated in a dry belt, yet with irrigation this region produces excellent crops. The old wagon road to the Cariboo district passes through the town which is the distributing centre for the mining and ranching areas back in the hills. Here is seen "Arthur's Seat", thought to be an extinct volcano, rising to a height of 5,500 feet. In 1905 the face of the seat broke away, damming the Thompson River and causing the destruction of an Indian village on the far bank.

LYTTON Alt. 565 Lytton was named for the English novelist who was British Colonial Secretary when the gold rush started in 1858. Here the Thompson is crossed. The Fraser River can be seen coming in from the north, and the difference in the rivers is noticeable, the Fraser being muddy and the Thompson bright green, and the distinction can be seen for about two miles when all trace of the Thompson is lost. West of Lytton the Fraser is crossed twice, and a change is noted in the physical geography as we cross the eastern boundary of the mountainous region of the Coast and Cascade ranges.

BOSTON BAR Alt. 453 This is a divisional point and the train stops for servicing. The name of the town was given in the gold rush days when the bars on the river were panned for gold and the claims named for the owners. Many such names still exist such as "China Bar", "Dutchman's $\mathrm{Bar}^{\prime \prime}$, etc.

GORGE Alt. 000 At mile 7.3 "Hell's Gate" can be seen. At this point the river boils through a canyon only 100 feet wide. Fish ladders can be seen on both sides of the river. These have just recently been completed at a cost of one and a half million dollars, and since completion the fish run has increased more than three-fold.

YALE Alt. 218 This is the head of navigation on the Fraser. It was from here that in 1861 the construction was started on the famous Cariboo Road, which followed the left bank of the river and traces are still discernible. Just below the town, Hill's Bar, one of the richest claims to be worked on the Fraser, was staked.

HOPE Alt. 157 It was here in 1856 the first discovery of gold was made on the Fraser, but it was not until the spring of 1858 that the real rush started, and it was estimated that soon more than 10,000 miners were in the valley of the Fraser.

CHILLIWACK Alt. 34 Chilliwack is a progressive and thriving town within the midst of a good dairying and fruit country, and the gateway to popular hunting and fishing districts. The resort of Harrison Hot Springs is reached from here. Mount Baker (10,927 feet), in the State of Washington, may be seen to the south.

FORT LANGLEY Alt. 23 The first trading post was established here in 1827. Here in 1858 Douglas was sworn in as the first Governor of the newly created colony of British Columbia.

NEW WESTMINSTER Alt. 34 Because of its name often called the Royal City, New Westminster has a splendid fresh water harbor and good wharfage sites on the Fraser River. It is an important commercial centre, with huge canning factories and many lumber and shingle mills. Centre of the Fraser River salmon canning industry. A mile long railway bridge spans the Fraser River here.

VANCOUVER Alt. 14 Vancouver is named for the great navigator, Captain George Vancouver, and is delightfully situated on Burrard Inlet. With a population of 460,000 it is the largest Canadian city west of Toronto. A great all-year seaport, the beauty of its setting and the nearness of its playgrounds in the mountains and along the sea, make it perennially attractive to tourists. Stanley Park, eleven miles in extent, is famous throughout the world for its virgin forest and towering firs and cedars. In all, 13 beaches, numerous excellent golf courses, and in winter, skiing on Hollyburn and Grouse mountains, offer a wide range of recreations. Vancouver has many fine hotels including the 560 room Hotel Vancouver which is operated under the joint management of Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways. Canadian National Steamers, the popular "Prince" ships ply from Vancouver to Ocean Falls, Prince Rupert and Skagway, Alaska.



## RED PASS JCT. - PRINCE RUPERT

EMPEROR Alt. 3115 During daylight hours, if visibility is clear, the train stops five minutes to afford a perfect view of Mount Robson, altitude 12,972 feet, loftiest peak in the Canadian Rockies. To its right rises the snow dome of Mt. Resplendent, altitude 11,240 feet.

TETTE JAUNE Alt. 2402 Tête Jaune (Yellowhead) is named for François Decoigne, a trapper who had a cache for furs near here. In 1814 Decoigne was in charge of Jasper House for the Northwest Company. Yellowhead Pass, Yellowhead Lake, Yellowhead Creek and Yellowhead Mountain owe their name to him. Mica is found in this part of the country, and Mica Mountain, with an elevation of 9,600 feet above sea-level, which has deposits yielding sheets of unusual size, is south of Tête Jaune. During the construction of the railway, material was transported by scows, of which 1,400 were built at Tête Jaune, most of which made the three hundred mile journey to Prince George in safety notwithstanding numerous rapids. Spawning salmon come this far up the Fraser River from the Pacific Ocean. The Fraser and tributary waters afford good fishing for rainbow and Dolly Varden trout.

McBRIDE Alt. 2368 McBride, railway divisional point, lumbering and fur centre, stands on a pleasant plateau surrounded by high mountains. The valley of the Fraser here is broad and level. This region is noted for its big game, moose, caribou, mountain goat, black and grizzly bears, and its game fish. East of McBride, Cottonwood Creek is crossed over a high bridge.

RIDER Alt. 2237 Opposite Rider are to be seen Mt. Sir Rider and Haggard Glacier, all three of which were named in honor of the famous English novelist. Mt. Sir Rider, altitude 8,720 , is best seen from the rear of your westbound train, its height seeming to rise as the distance increases.


Mount Hudson Bay towers over the Bulkley River near Smithers, B.C.

GISCOME Alt. 1964 This region has vast resources of spruce, fir and cedar, and Hutton, Aleza Lake and Giscome are all important lumbering towns. The latter on Eagle Lake was once a point on the fur traders' portage between the Fraser and the Peace Rivers. Willow River, crossed at mile 128, has yielded much gold, its source being in the once famous Barkerville gold country.

PRINCE GEORGE Alt. 1869 The city of Prince George, today a busy divisional point at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers, was established by the fur trader and explorer, Simon Fraser, who began here his exploration of the Fraser to its mouth. Sir Alexander Mackenzie passed here on his-the first overland-trip to the Pacific in 1793. Eastbound we get our first view, westbound our last view of the Fraser as it turns south on its journey to the Pacific. The river is crossed on a combined railway and general traffic bridge, to the east of the city.

For many miles the railway follows the Nechako River, a swift flowing stream that drains an immense basin comprising extensive tracts of valley and plateau lands suitable for agriculture and cattle-raising. The Nechako valley is situated approximately in the centre of the Nechako plateau which has an east-west width of some 200 miles.



The Canadian National Railways line skirts the Fraser River.

VANDERHOOF Alt. 2096 Vanderhoof is the centre of a good mixed farming district that is noted for its butter. At mile 47, near Sinkut, the Stuart River is seen, flowing into the Nechako. It drains Stuart Lake, 40 miles distant from Vanderhoof. Fort St. James on Stuart Lake, now a trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company, was established in 1806 by the Northwest Company and was the administration point for all posts in the country. Stuart Lake is 50 miles long and is famous for its large rainbow trout. This entire area affords excellent fishing for rainbow, Dolly Varden and lake trout and hunting for grizzly and black bear, moose, caribou, deer, grouse, geese and ducks. Good accommodations may be had on Stuart Lake where fishing and hunting parties outfit.

ENDAKO Alt. 2246 Endako, a railway divisional point, takes its name from the Endako River and Valley which are followed for some 90 miles. This region is a splendid mixed farming country with considerable timber and some minerals.

BURNS LAKE Alt. 2313 Burns Lake is the northern entrance to Tweedsmuir Park, a huge provincial playground. To the south lie François and Ootsa Lakes whose waters afford excellent fishing for rainbow, Kamloops, Dolly Varden and lake trout. Game is abundant; moose, caribou, mountain goat, black, brown and grizzly bear.

Emperor Falls, the "Niagara of the Canadian Rockies"




SMITHERS Alt. 1624 Smithers, a divisional point on the Bulkley River, lies in a good dairy, fruit and grain growing country. Here is seen Hudson Bay Mountain, altitude 9,000 feet, its colors and glacier reflected in Lake Kathlyn. To the east and towering above the Bulkley River which the railway follows for 90 miles, is the Babine Range, rich in minerals and forest reserves.

BULKLEY CANYON Alt. 1106 Trains stop at the observation platform, 300 feet above the River, to provide a wonderful view of famous Bulkley Canyon and Gate. The latter is a solid dyke of rock 150 feet high and 8 feet thick. A few miles to the west the line pierces the second longest C.N.R. tunnel in the mountains, 2,069 feet in length.

NEW HAZELTON Alt. 1031 Overshadowing the town is Roche Deboule, altitude 6,972 feet; below it, Temeleham, the Indian Garden of Eden. Four miles to the west, Hazelton, 300 feet below the railway, was a trading post at the head of steamboat navigation on the Skeena River, which the railway follows between here and the sea. The Skeena is the second longest river in British Columbia.

Bulkley Gate, cut in the natural rock wall 150 feet high and 8 feet thick, stands in the swift waters of the Bulkley River.



Grotesque but strangely beautiful totems at Kitwanga.

KITWANGA Alt. 586 Time is afforded for a walk through this interesting Indian village, famous for its totem poles and old burial grounds. Weeskinisht Mountain (Seven Sisters) lies across the Skeena about four miles away.

USK Alt. 294 Look across the Skeena near Doreen and you will see Mount Sir Robert and Borden Glacier, named for the Prime Minister of Canada during World War I. As you cross Fiddler Creek you see Fiddler Mountain, part of the Coast Range. A few miles to the west the line skirts the edge of Kitsalas Canyon on the Skeena, whose raging waters and sawtoothed rocks, some 25 feet high, wrecked Hudson's Bay Company's steamers in pioneer days. Across the river may be seen OK Mountain, these two letters being etched in ice high up on its slopes.

TERRACE Alt. 225 Centre of the principal fruit growing area of north central British Columbia. Gateway to Lakelse Lake which is noted for its trout and hot springs.



TYEE Alt. 18 The line skirts closely the right bank of the Skeena which for a distance of more than 40 miles from its mouth has a width of from one to three miles. Clouds drape its surface and fishing villages line its bank. Port Essington, an important canning centre opposite Tyee, was once the starting point for the sternwheel steamer for Hazelton. A number of tributary streams are crossed and many lovely views are obtained, Split Mountain, Emanon Falls, 1,500 feet; the Guardian of the Skeena; Gibraltar Mountain, opposite Kwinitsa and Khatada Mountain near Skeena station.

PRINCE RUPERT Alt. 19 The city of Prince Rupert stands on Kaien Island overlooking a spacious harbor which is sheltered from the Pacific by forested islands. It is the northern Pacific terminus of Canadian National Railways and port of call for the "Prince George" and other C.N.R. steamers plying between Vancouver ( 500 miles to the south) and Alaska. Prince Rupert plays an important part in lumbering and mining; it has a grain elevator of $1,250,000$ bushels capacity; a drydock and shipyard; and its cold fish storage plant, largest on the Pacific Coast, attests to Prince Rupert's preeminence in the fishing industry.

The Skeena River flows through rugged country.



Mount Robson, highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, is the embodiment of all that man's mind thinks a mountain ought to be.

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Mount Athabaska and the Athabaska Glacier, climax of the Columbia Icefield Drive from Jasper Park Lodge.

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