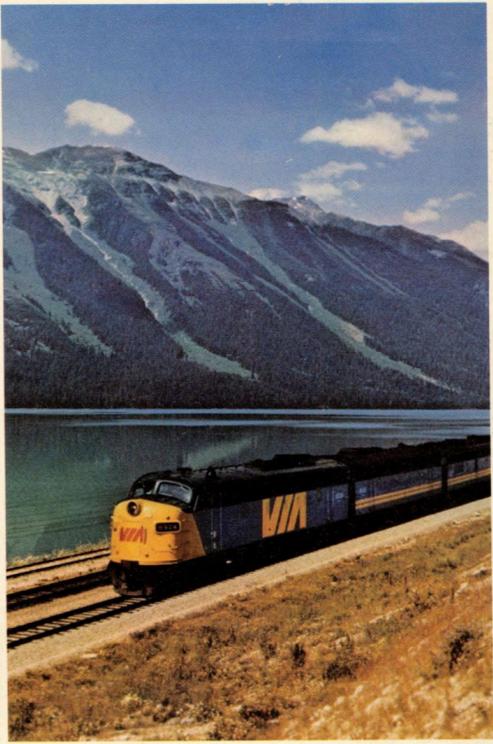




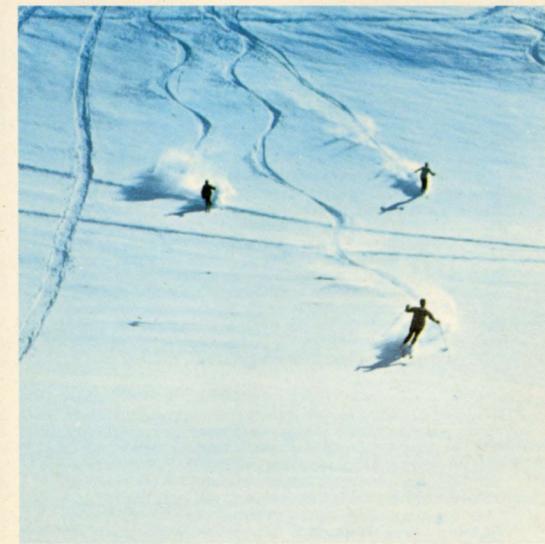
from mountainside to oceanside



Jasper Park Lodge



Columbia Icefields



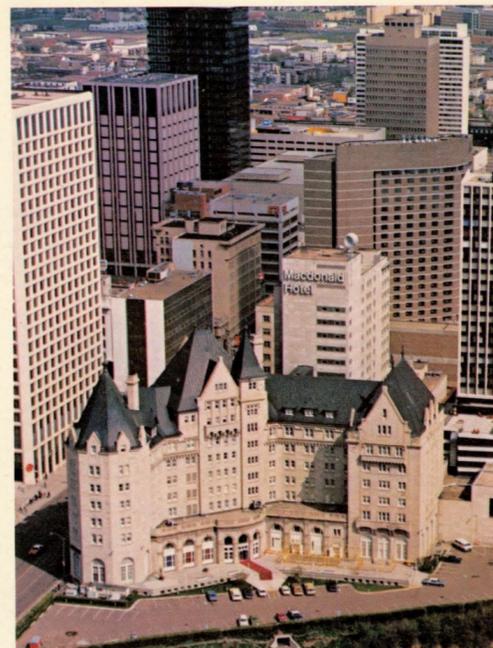
Skiing at Jasper



Jasper Sky Tram



Icefields trip from Jasper Park



Hotel Macdonald, Edmonton, Alta.



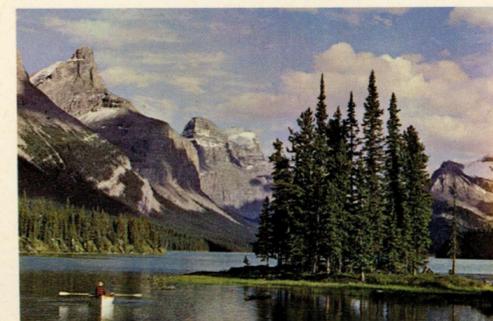
Trail Riding in the Rockies



Golfing, Jasper Park Lodge



Fishing at Jasper



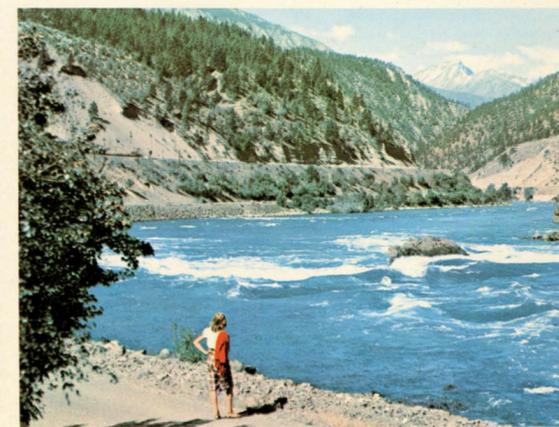
Maligne Lake in the Rockies



Vancouver, B.C.



Victoria, capital of British Columbia



Fraser River



VIA Rail Canada

Through the Valley of the Great Peaks

Edmonton to Vancouver

Edmonton typifies the spirit of the West — new, modern, big, bustling, picturesque and one of the fastest growing cities in Canada. It is the capital of Alberta and the oil and natural gas centre of Canada. It is portal to the Peace River country and the booming Northwest. Skeletal oil rigs dot the Northwest, their deep-set drills probing the subterranean pools for oil and gas. A multi-million dollar petro-chemical industry and many allied industries flourish on Edmonton's outskirts.

Standing at one end of Edmonton's civic centre is the 26-storey CN building while at the other is CN's Hotel Macdonald matching the progressive mood of the city they serve so well.

Your first view of the mountains will be a memorable one. After a short trip from Edmonton, you will see the jagged ridges of the Canadian Rockies, creeping across the western horizon. A misty mantle of deep purple wraps weather-worn slopes. Tints of white and gold glint from snowy summits and massive, slow-moving glaciers.

Down the deep passes, you gaze upon a profusion of peaks, gorges, lakes and torrents. Forested tracts of tall timber sweep across the lower reaches. The fragrance of pine, spruce and fir fills the crisp mountain air.

Contrary to popular belief, the Rockies are not the only range between Alberta's foothills and the Pacific Ocean. Westbound, they are the first you enter and they slope away to the western limits of the Fraser Valley. Next appears the Selkirk Range and then British Columbia's magnificent Coast Range overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Your route winds for 600 miles through mountain country.

The VIA main line threads past the base of Mount Robson, monarch of the Canadian Rockies. In Jasper National Park, you will see majestic Mount Edith Cavell. Centuries ago it was a landmark for French explorers who christened it the Mountain of the Grand Passage. Such splendor is a fitting introduction to the most striking mountain scenery in the world.

Whether you cross the country or ride only a few hundred miles, the following notes are intended to add pleasure to your trip and increase your knowledge of this region of grandeur. They are written for the westbound traveller, but can easily be used on an eastbound trip by reading back to front.



EDMONTON (Alt. 2,185) Located on the North Saskatchewan River, population 450,000. Black gold and blue skies—that's the winning combination of Canada's oil capital. It's high-rise towers and ultra-modern public library, live theatre and exciting art gallery. It's the Alberta Game Farm and the Alberta Museum and the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium and storyland Valley Zoo. It's historic past at Fort Edmonton; it's energetic present in the beautiful Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium and it's exciting future on the University of Alberta campus. The famous 'Klondike Days' is a happening in mid-July.

WOLF CREEK (Alt. 2,852) About Mile 122 Wolf Creek and the McLeod River are spanned. Both flow northward to the Athabasca and eventually reach the Arctic Ocean.

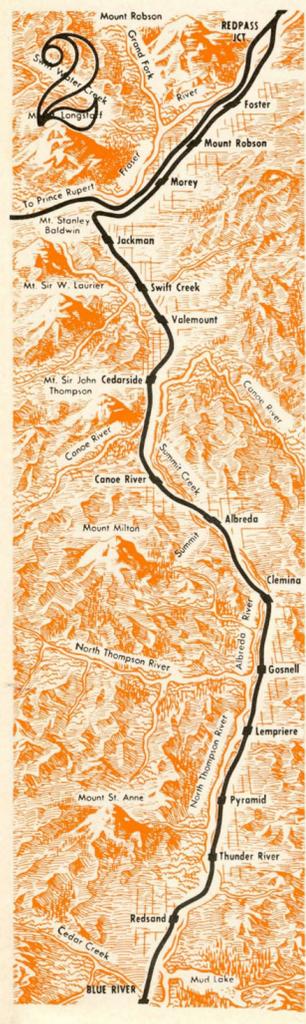
EDSON (Alt. 2,985) Headquarters for three major pipelines and a gathering system that serves the district which is primarily one for mixed farming and woodlot operation. Nearby Silver Summit Ski Resort offers excellent skiing facilities.

HINTON (Alt. 3,325) Hinton stands on 6,000 square miles of timberland on the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies. It is the site of a large pulp mill.

ENTRANCE (Alt. 3,216) Eastern gateway to the Canadian Rockies and Jasper National Park. At Mile 64 the Athabasca River is bridged. The Athabasca rises in the Columbia Icefield and flows north to join the Mackenzie, ultimately reaching the Arctic Ocean.

SOLOMON (Alt. 3,248) Near here the Alberta Resources Railway serves vast coal mines, the products of which are shipped to Japan from the McIntyre Mines. Other minerals and resources are being tapped. This line into the Peace River districts affords a short route for this area to the Pacific Coast cutting the distance by 367 miles.

DEVONA (Alt. 3,304) At Mile 82 the Snake River is crossed, on the North rises the De Smet range, with De Smet, Gargoyles and Gumbock peaks; across the river is the Jacques range.



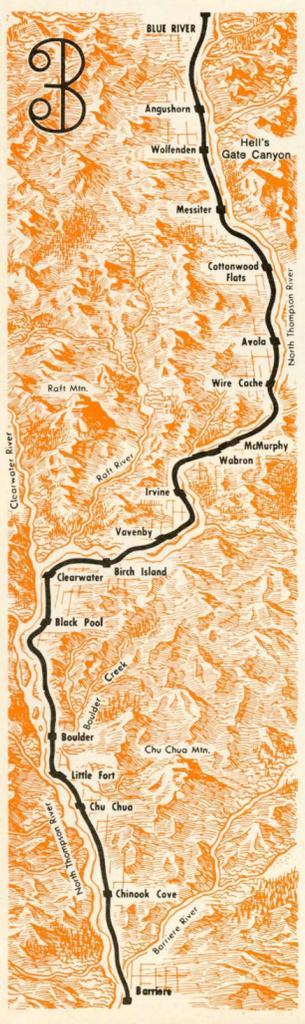
JASPER (Alt. 3,470) Administrative headquarters of Jasper National Park—Canada's largest—covering 4,200 square miles—is a game sanctuary and vacation centre. Such scenic attractions as Maligne Lake, the largest glacial lake in the Rockies, Mount Edith Cavell and its Glacier of the Angel, rugged Tonquin Valley and Mother of Rivers—the Columbia Icefield from which mighty rivers start on their journey to the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Located three miles distant from the station is world-famous Jasper Park Lodge, summer resort, crown jewel of the Canadian Rockies. Strung throughout the tall pines among the sheltered shores of Lac Beauvert, the luxury cottages surround the main lodge. Jasper Park Lodge offers a most gracious way of life. With superlative service, memorable meals, comfort and convenience. Nearby, high in an alpine basin surrounded by impressive snow peaks, is Mamot Basin, Jasper Park's answer to a skier's dream. From late October until May, expert or novice alike will find unlimited runs to test their skill. A feature of the basin is a five-mile ski-out without "flat spots".

The Yellowhead Highway continues west from here. With less snow and low altitude, this route offers easy all-year direct access to the Pacific Coast, resulting in an ever-increasing number of travellers through this new route.

Pacific time zones meet at Jasper; change your watch forward or back, depending on which way you are travelling.

YELLOWHEAD (Alt. 3,717) At Mile 17 the height of land is crossed. It is also the Alberta-British Columbia boundary. This pass was named for a Metis who was called "Tête Jaune" because of his light colored hair. He had a cabin and a trap line west of Mount Robson and used the pass to bring his furs to Jasper House.

LUCERNE (Alt. 3,650) East of here, at Mile 20, Yellowhead Lake is seen to the south, with Mount Fitzwilliam rising across the lake. Rainbow and Dolly Varden trout are found in many lakes in the district.



RED PASS JUNCTION (Alt. 3,403) At this point VIA lines diverge, either to Vancouver or Prince Rupert. Just west of the station is the Fraser River, source of which is located not far from here. At this point you can almost jump across the river, but if you will observe the next day at New Westminster the outlet is over a mile wide. In 1793 this river was discovered by Sir Alexander Mackenzie but it was not until 1808 that Simon Fraser explored it to the mouth and for him the river was named. It is the longest river entirely within British Columbia and flows 790 miles from its source in the mountains to the sea.

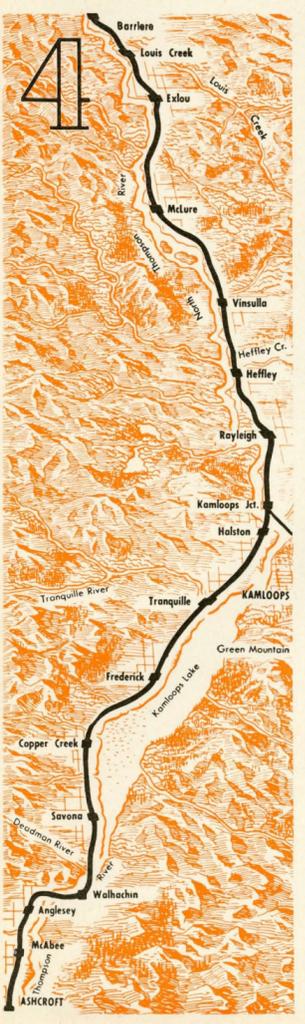
MOUNT ROBSON (Alt. 3,150) At Mile 52, we view Mount Robson, loftiest peak in the Canadian Rockies, 12,972 feet. Its neighbor is Mount Resplendent, 11,240 feet. Mount Robson dominates a provincial park which offers excellent hunting for grizzly and black bear, moose, elk and caribou. Hunting parties go in through Mount Robson station where guides and outfitters are located.

CANOE RIVER (Alt. 2,723) 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.

ALBRED A (Alt. 2,867) Here is 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.

PYRAMID FALLS (Alt. 2,304) Pyramid Falls, at Mile 113.7, drop 300 feet into a wide bowl so close to the railway that the spray wets the train when the river is at its greatest height.

BLUE RIVER (Alt. 2,237) Blue River is the gateway to Wells Gray Provincial Park—a lake and mountain park with many attractions for the camera enthusiast, the lover of nature, the fisherman, or the big-game hunter.



WOLFENDEN (Alt. 2,169) Near Wolfenden the entrance to the Thompson Canyon may be seen.

MESSITER (Alt. 2,079) At Mile 12.3 and Mile 13.5 we see Little Hell's Gate on the Thompson River, outlet of an eight-mile canyon. In 1863 the leading rafts carrying a party on their way to the Cariboo gold fields were drawn into the canyon and many drowned. This is a good trout fishing country (Rainbow, Dolly Varden and Kamloops) and accommodation can be had at lodges at Clearwater and Little Fort.

WIRE CACHE (Alt. 1894) At Wire Cache a ferry crosses the North Thompson. The name originates with an early overland telegraph project that was planned to reach Alaska.

BIRCH ISLAND (Alt. 1,386) Near Birch Island the North Thompson is again crossed.

CLEARWATER (Alt. 1,329) The Clearwater River joins the North Thompson here. This stream is noted for its excellent Dolly Varden 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. Clearwater is another entrance to Wells Gray Provincial Park.

HEFFLEY (Alt. 1,182) The region between Heffley and Savona, where the North Thompson is spanned, is excellent agricultural country.

RAYLEIGH (Alt. 1,176) In the vicinity of Rayleigh are large deposits of bituminous coal of excellent quality.

KAMLOOPS JUNCTION (Alt. 1,153) The City of Kamloops, a short distance away, is a major centre located on the Trans-Canada Highway and start of the new Yellowhead Highway. It is bounded by the North and South Thompson Rivers which divide the city. Here, in 1812, a trading post was established at the confluence which was called "Cumeloups" (the meeting of waters) by the Indians. It is an important fruit and vegetable centre and tourist vacation mecca.



TRANQUILLE (Alt. 1,183) Near here the train passes through the longest CN tunnel (2,827 feet) to the west of which Kamloops Lake is followed for 20 miles.

ASHCROFT (Alt. 992) Ashcroft is the gateway to the 6,000 square miles of the Cariboo District. It is famous for its potatoes. From Mile 51 to Mile 54.7 the river has worn through the bedrock and the "Black Canyon" is followed.

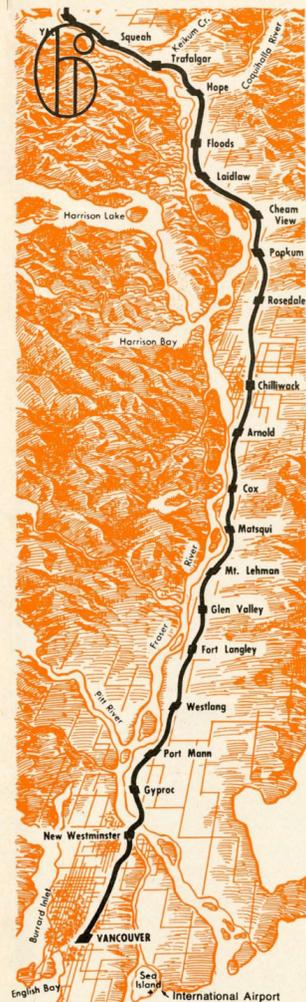
SPENCE'S BRIDGE (Alt. 742) Although situated in a dry belt, with the aid of irrigation this region produces excellent crops. The old wagon road, now a modern highway, to the Cariboo District passes through the town which is the distributing centre for the mining and ranching areas back in the hills. Here is what is thought to be an extinct volcano, "Arthur's Seat". In 1905 the face of the seat broke away, damming the Thompson River and destroying 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. The distinction continues for about two miles when all trace of the Thompson is lost. West of Lytton the Fraser is spanned twice.

BOSTON BAR (Alt. 453) This is a railway divisional point. 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.

GORGE (Alt. 388) At Mile 7.3 "Hell's Gate" can be seen, where the river boils through a canyon only 100 feet wide. Fish ways are visible on both sides of the river. During the rush to the Cariboo gold fields in 1858, seven white men were murdered by a band of Indians near this spot.

YALE (Alt. 218) Here in 1861 construction was started by British Engineers on the Cariboo Road, which followed the left bank of the river. Site of one of the richest claims staked on the Fraser River.



HOPE (Alt. 157) Here, in 1856, the first discovery of gold was made on the Fraser. More than 10,000 miners were in the Valley of the Fraser during the rush.

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

FORT LANGLEY (Alt. 23) A trading post was established here in 1827. Sir James Douglas was sworn in as the first Governor of the newly created colony of British Columbia at this point in 1858.

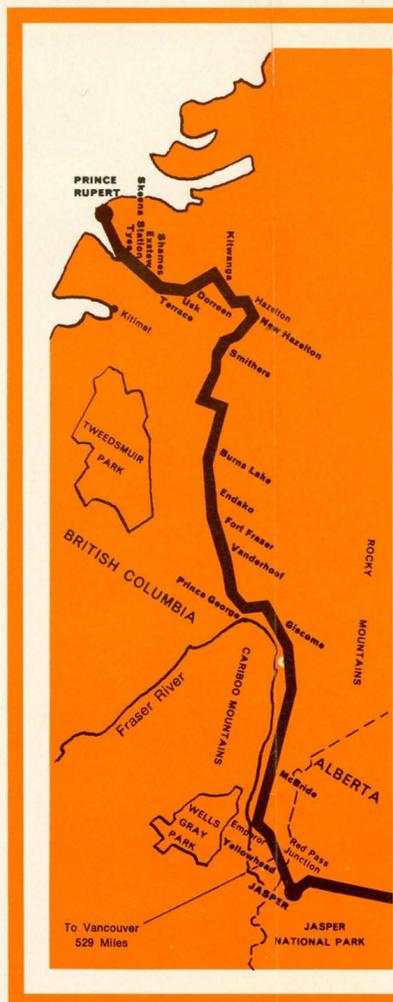
NEW WESTMINSTER (Alt. 34) Often called the Royal City, New Westminster has a splendid fresh water harbor on the Fraser River. It is an important commercial centre, with canning factories and many lumber and shingle mills. It is the home of the Fraser River salmon canning industry. A mile long railway bridge spans the Fraser River here.

VANCOUVER (Alt. 14) Canada's Pacific Coast principal year-round seaport and its third largest city. Situated on Burrard Inlet, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This bustling, modern, well-planned metropolis of over a million people occupies only relatively small land area, but the surrounding beaches, soaring mountains, the blue Pacific, and the deep fjord of Burrard Inlet combine to create what has often been praised as one of the most breath-taking settings.

Until quite late in the 19th Century, Vancouver remained virgin territory, inhabited only by Coast Indians. A small British colony settled here in 1865, but it was not until twenty years later, when the railroad made Vancouver its western terminus, that the population could be called substantial. The opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, however, gave Vancouver vital and immediate importance. By the way of Vancouver and the Panama Canal, prairie grain could be shipped to Europe more cheaply than through eastern ports. Today Vancouver's deep and wide harbour is one of the busiest in the world. Vancouver's major function is trade, industry, transportation and tourism.

Vancouver has many fine hotels. Located in the centre of the business, financial and entertainment district, including CN's Hotel Vancouver (Hilton operated). A delightful blend of the scenic and the sophisticated, Vancouver affords a wide variety of contrasts for the visitor—the stillness of the forest among the lofty Douglas firs in 1,000-acre Stanley Park, the newness of the sparkling apartment buildings soaring high above Marine Drive, the magic of a flaming Pacific sunset, the exotic charm of Chinatown—second largest Chinese community in North America. The beautiful gardens, the elegant restaurants, the fine shops, the distinctive architecture—they're all part of the Vancouver scene.

Vancouver is the gateway to many world-wide destinations, including the Orient and Alaska. Luxury cruise liners make regular trips from Vancouver to Alaska from April through to early October with intriguing ports of call. More than 2,000 miles of scenery so spectacular you won't believe it until you see the pictures you took.



From Jasper you climb the Yellowhead Pass toward Yellowhead, on the border between Alberta and British Columbia. You pass Yellowhead Lake, with Mt. Fitzwilliam and the Seven Sisters in the distance, and Moose Lake before arriving at Red Pass Junction.

EMPEROR (Alt. 3,115) You have a perfect view of Mount Robson. You will pass through timber country noted for its game fish and its big game—moose, caribou, elk, mountain goat, sheep, black bear and grizzlies—then across the high bridge over Cottonwood Creek.

MCBRIDE (Alt. 2,368) Lumbering and fur centre. Located on a pleasant plateau, surrounded by high mountains.

GISCOME (Alt. 1,964) Important lumber town which was once a strategic point on the fur traders' portage between the Fraser and Peace Rivers.

PRINCE GEORGE (Alt. 1,869) After crossing a half-mile long bridge across the Fraser River you enter Prince George. The largest city in north-central British Columbia, home of major pulp mills and other industries. Prince George was established by Simon Fraser, the fur trader and explorer who made the town the starting point of his exploration of the Fraser River to its mouth. It was also visited by Sir Alexander Mackenzie on the historic first overland trip to the Pacific in 1793. The railroad follows the Nechako River as it travels west to Vanderhoof, then passes through Fort Fraser and skirts Fraser Lake for 13 miles. This country is noted for its many lakes, minerals, timber and mixed farming resources.

ENDAKO (Alt. 2,246) Beginning of the Endako River Valley which you will follow for the next 90 miles. Here is located a large molybdenum mine.

BURNS LAKE (Alt. 2,312) Is the northern gateway for Tweedsmuir Park, 5,000 square miles of lakes, mountains and rivers in a beautiful background.

ROSE LAKE (Alt. 2,367) The line descends steadily and just after Barrett crosses the Bulkley River which it follows for 90 miles.

SMITHERS (Alt. 1,642) You can see Hudson Bay Mountain (9,000 feet) on the right, noted for gold and other minerals, with its colors and glaciers reflected in the waters of Lake Kathlyn. A centre of dairy, fruit and grain country. You will have a wonderful view of the famous Bulkley Canyon and Gate as your train skirts the canyon 300 feet above the river boiling between the narrow walls. The Gate is a cleft in a solid dyke of rock, 150 feet high and eight feet thick. Near here you will pass through CN's second longest tunnel—2,069 feet.

Jasper to Prince Rupert

NEW HAZELTON (Alt. 1,030) Which is overshadowed by Rocher Debouille (Alt. 6,962) and below it is Temlaham, the Indian Garden of Eden. Hazelton, which is located 300 feet below the railway line, was established as a trading post at the head of steamboat navigation on the Skeena River, second longest river in British Columbia—335 miles long. The VIA line will follow the Skeena River from here to the Coast. Near Kitwanga, a picturesque Indian village famous for its totem poles, you can see Weeskinisht Mountain (Seven Sisters). After leaving Dorreen you will see Mount Sir Robert and Borden Glacier, named after the Prime Minister of Canada during the 1914-18 war. After leaving Usk you skirt Kitislas Canyon, whose raging waters and saw-toothed rocks, some 25 feet high, wrecked Hudson's Bay Company steamers in pioneer days.

TERRACE (Alt. 223) Famous for its strawberries, is a centre of the principal fruit growing area of north-central British Columbia. It is also becoming well-known as an ideal vacation area, and nearby is Skogland HotSprings resort. A short distance from here, at the head of Douglas Channel, is Kitimat, site of the huge aluminium smelter owned by the Aluminum Company of Canada. Continuing west you see Split Mountain near Shames, pass through Exstew, cross the Exchamisks River, through Salvus and then cross the Skeena River. After passing 1,500 foot Emanon Falls you see Gibraltar Mountain, opposite the town of Kwinitssa and later the Khataada Mountains near Skeena Station. You cross the Khyex River and enter the town of Tye on the banks of the Skeena River, now three miles wide. You pass through Port Edward, site of several salmon canneries, the Columbia Cellulose Mill and a large U.S. army base during the Second World War.

PRINCE RUPERT (Alt. 19) You cross a steel bridge to Kaien Island, site of the City of Prince Rupert, the terminus of VIA's northern line from the east. Prince Rupert is a thriving city of more than 17,000 people. An important fishing centre and principal port of supply for the lumbering, pulp and mining industries of Northern British Columbia. There are five major cold storage plants, one of which is largest in the world, devoted exclusively to handling fish. Seven canneries and three reduction plants, Prince Rupert is known as the halibut capital. The harbour, sheltered by islands to the west, is one of the best on the continent and played a strategic role in the Second World War. It is the home port of CN's aqua-trains—rail car-ferry barges which carry freight cars between Prince Rupert and Whittier, Alaska. The city is also a port of call for the Alaska State Ferries which operates regularly between Prince Rupert and Alaskan ports, also northern terminals for the B.C. Ferries' "Queen of Prince Rupert" plying between here and Kelsey Bay. From nearby Digby Island, airlines operate services to all major centres.