

Aug. 9

Dear Mr. Latham.

On re-reading your second letter I realize that most of the things I have mentioned are going into a separate report. They are, of course, already recorded and known. I can see how voluminous this one would be if you included everything - I didn't at first fully grasp your intentions -

You are right about the indifference of the Govt. to its parks until J.B.H. took over. I think 4 different departments dealt with phases of the work. + Forestry, which ostensibly was in charge - merely collected rents + issued leases.

We owe the park to the Hon. Frank Oliver an old westerner, who persuaded Sir Wilfrid to buy it.

Howard Douglas was really interested and did a lot, but it is said, he turned a blind eye to any game upachons by his friends.

Don't forget that J.B.H. inspired the invention of the first fire protection equipment. He called the whole staff, from the messenger up, and asked for ideas for a forest protection campaign.

Did you know that his very first action was getting rid of lumber contractors (who were illegally cutting green timber)? Howard Douglas seems to have known it.

highly intelligent, and could find their own food. I had one who had learned to eat anything - hard-boiled eggs, lettuce, salmon sandwiches, anything but bread + butter, with the butter side up.

Are you mentioning the Brewster dynasty? There was the father - the first outfitter, + three sons. Jim, Fred + Jack. - at least those were all I knew. Jim had the Banff business, Jack had the chalet at the Columbia Icefield, and before that outfitted + led the big tourist expeditions - the annual trip from Lake Louise to Jasper + Mt Robson - which took over 3 weeks - before the motor road was built. Fred had the Jasper outfitting.

In the early days they ran a trolley - ho from Banff to Lake Louise. There is a story that when Prince George (V) + Princess Mary visited Banff, they were driven in the trolley up Tunnel Mt. to see the view. Coming down they were driving very carefully when Mary asked if they couldn't go a little faster and they rolled into town at a great pace to delight.

I wonder if you have Ralph Edwards' book of 4 vols. pub^d by H.R. Larson. I have one but can't find it at moment. It's very interesting +

I find it will send it on if you don't mind
you have given a good deal of space to the rival
claims for discovery of the Bauff Hot Springs. But
it is interesting and has never been fully pub-
lished before. I enjoyed it, as I did your
account of the error "square miles" instead of
"miles square." A bit of humor civil servants
can especially appreciate.

I am returning the ms. under separate covers
(Thoughtful of you to send the stamps) and
these few suggestions by first-class mail. Again I
want to say I think you have done a fine job
so far + hope you can now get on with the
rest.

Dr. B. W.

Typographical.

- p. 10 - Vermilion pass - - should as he was. | yes!
- p. 20. - 2nd line from bottom - "since" ? | n
- p. 25 - "sanitary." was this meant to be salutary ? | o in C
- p. 54 Why repeat details of leases, etc.

Suggestions:

Could you make the divisions of the Rocky Mountains a little clearer? On p. 2 you say (par. beginning "less than") "the mountain region ... was relatively unknown. This would be true only of the central and southern regions - the Northern - say from House pass to the Yellowhead - was as you know - well-known and had been travelled for a hundred years and there had been a great deal written about it. Then on

p. 3 you refer to Sir Geo. Simpson's journey as our exploration of the "central Rockies", although his route was so far north, might ^{this} cause a little confusion? perhaps you think of the divisions differently.

P. 3. I haven't any reference books here but thought the Yellowhead Pass was known about 1800. It was called "Tete Jaune Pass" after Jasper House, who seems to have been in charge of the first (?) H.B. post on the Athabaska, about 1805. Simon Fraser following the conference of Mr. West partners at Ft. William in 1805 Simon Fraser + Thompson were sent to explore the mountain region + Fraser seems to have crossed (I can't check this) by the Yellowhead about 1806 or 1807. Later, of course, it was the travelled route to the Cariboo gold fields.

[One interesting party that crossed it was the expedition which was laying the telegraph cable around the world. They had got a few miles north of Hazelton, B.C. when the word came that the ^{live} ~~route~~ cable across the Atlantic had been successfully laid. The men immediately dropped everything + left. When I was at Hazelton there were still large piles of wire, etc. just as they were left.]

There are two periods you haven't mentioned which you might touch on - either in this chapter or later. The first is the Alpine Climbing Years. As soon as the Ry. was

9 August [1969]

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[new page]

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