

*The Passes of the Rocky Mountains Along the Alberta Boundary.*

By J. N. WALLACE. (Calgary: The Historical Society, 1927. Pp. 8.)

Students of the advance by land to the Pacific coast have found great difficulty in identifying the route across the Rocky Mountains taken by any explorer or trader. To them this little pamphlet will be a vade-mecum. The author, a highly qualified topographical engineer, was for two years one of the commissioners for determining the Alberta-British Columbia boundary. He is thus enabled from personal experience and observation to work out the line followed by the early travellers. Most readers will be surprised to learn that there are sixty passes, good, bad, and indifferent, across the Rockies on the Alberta border. Of these, however, only eight or nine were ever used by white or red man. And amongst them two stand out, pre-eminent, the Howse Pass and the Athabaska Pass, both, forever, associated with the name of David Thompson—the one giving the first line of entry into the Columbian country and the other the regular route of travel, for over fifty years, to and from that region. Mr. Wallace has collected and collated the scattered information concerning these different passes. In dealing with the travellers he has indicated the general line of their routes and the passes by which they crossed. With the aid of this pamphlet anyone can follow intelligently the voyage of the Great Governor of the Great Company. Mr. Wallace believes that both the immigrants of 1841 and Warre and Vavasour crossed by way of Whiteman pass. Those British officers merely say that they passed through a defile in the Rocky Mountains in about 50° 30' north latitude. Father De Smet used, says Wallace, the same pass. The author seems to think that there was something suspicious in the Jesuit's journey across the mountains at that time. Every one must have been struck with the knowledge which the father had of the purpose of the visit of these officers: see *Missions de l'Oregon*, Cand, 1848, p. 73. On the first page occur two strange slips of the pen: the name "Skeena" appears twice; on the first occasion the name should be "Nass" and on the second it should be "Stikine."

F. W. HOWAY.

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*The Romance of British Columbia.* By ARTHUR ANSTEY. (Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co., 1927. Pp. 216.)

This little volume is not, and does not pretend to be, a com-