

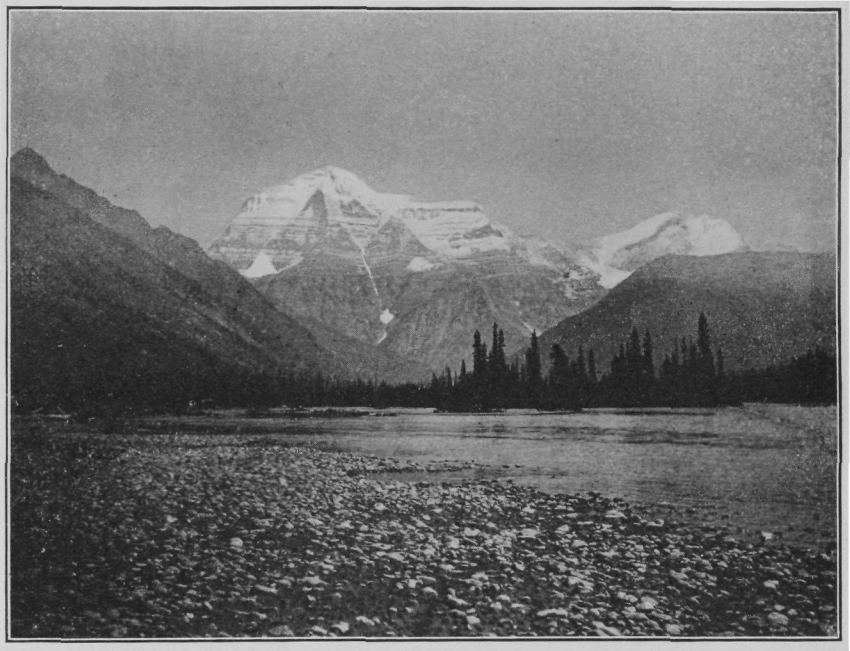
## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANADA

geologists, and the careful solution of the problems presented will be as valuable to science as to the mining industry.<sup>1</sup>

## FLORA AND FAUNA.

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**Arctic Zone.**—Canada, for the purpose of this sketch, may be roughly divided into three zones, the Arctic, the Canadian and the Transition, the Hudsonian zone being included in the first two, and the northern limit of trees serving to define the southern boundary of the Arctic zone. The great majority of the plants of the Arctic zone are circumpolar in their distribution, the species of the extreme north being practically identical with those of the same latitudes of Europe and Asia. The chief breeding grounds of nearly all the waders and of the larger game



MOUNT ROBSON, YELLOW HEAD PASS

birds, with the exception of the grouse family, are in the Arctic zone, though many stragglers nest further south. The ptarmigan is the only game bird inhabiting the region during the winter months. The characteristic mammals are the arctic fox and hare, the polar bear, the barren-ground caribou, the musk ox and the lemming.

<sup>1</sup> For detailed descriptions of the geology and mineral resources, etc., of Canada, the reader may be referred to the publications of the Geological Survey and the Mines Branch, Department of Mines; also to the reports of the Bureaux of Mines of the several provinces.