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BALLANTYNES' MODES ARE SMART.

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being 2,130 feet above sea level. Facing the river, the township is backed up with rugged, bush-clad mountains, which, rising higher and higher as they go back, ultimately mingle with the perpetual snow and ice, which is the glory of the Southern Alps. From the Bealey the head waters of the Waimakariri can be easily reached by riding, and a short walk will take the tourist on to the Bealey Glacier, which is a fair sample of the New Zealand made article. The naturalist, to whom time is no object, provided he is gathering information and specimens, could put in a very profitable week at the Bealey, while the Alpine climber will find in close proximity to the township all the snow, ice, and rock-climbing for which the mountaineer's heart may fairly hanker. Leaving the Bealey township the Waimakariri River has to be forded, and in ordinary weather, though the shingle river-bed is some two miles across, this presents no difficulty, for the track is well kept and only a few shallow streams have to be crossed. But when the river is up the scene changes, the made track cannot be used, and the coach, preceded by a pilot horseman, has to pick its own ford through every stream. But in any case the river is a safe one, as the great width of its bed renders the finding of fords a fairly simple matter. Shortly after crossing the river the traveller becomes aware that he is getting into the true West Coast scenery, and the thick growth of tawhai and other trees, which border the pretty and hilly road which runs along the Bealey River, afford a grateful rest to the eye, and prepare one for what is coming later on. This portion of the road is distinctly pretty, and some eight miles after leaving the Bealey the passengers have a good view of The Devil's Punch Bowl, which is the natural basin of a magnificent cascade which thunders down an almost precipitous drop of 500 feet. From this point the rise to the top of Arthur's Pass (3,038 feet above sea level) is fairly rapid, and on approaching the summit some curious isolated rocks are strongly in evidence. Across the top itself the road is fairly level for about a mile, and runs through the debris of two ancient moraines, which give ample evidence of by-gone glacial action. The ground here, as might be expected, is of a swampy nature, and contains several small tarns in which the handsome Alpine lily grows in great profusion. The velvety sward of Alpine grasses teams with innumerable varieties of heaths, and the variety of native brooms and

BALLANTYNES' MODES ARE BECOMING.