



—D.R. Phillips Collection

The Atlantic Express – circa 1888

By Doug Phillips

Canadian Pacific Railway Train 2, *The Atlantic Express*, is seen taking on water at the Albert Canyon tank. In the distance can be seen the engine house for pusher engines used to assist freight trains up to Rogers Pass. The period is about September 1888, and the early snows can be seen on the mountain slopes. In this year, Train 2 operated over this part of the main line daily except Tuesdays.

The first two cars of Train 2 can be seen. The first is a combination car of the 329 series. There were about a dozen of these combination cars, which consisted of a baggage section, a post office and a compartment for express, built between 1883 and 1888.

The next car is a Colonist sleeping car, number 178, built in June 1884 for immigrant service. Originally this car was marked as an 'Emigrant' car until 1888.

Cars not seen would have been a 'Second-Class' coach, a 'First-Class' coach and a standard sleeping car. No dining car would be on this train, and one would not be added until early the next day when the train reached Canmore. If Train 2 was on time it would arrive at Albert Canyon at 12:33 pm. The next stop would be at the Glacier Hotel, where a meal stop would occur between 14:00 and 14:30. The conductor would advise from Albert Canyon the number of passengers who would require lunch during the 30-minute stop. ▀