

to add the Zmutt arête to his book was gratified a few days later, though I think his pride was a little mortified by his having to play the passenger rather than the guide, and though his hand gave him many a painful twinge. For the traverse of the Rothhorn, however, he insisted on taking the lead again. We parted at Sion soon after. A most cheery companion, an excellent climber, and a man of remarkable pluck, I hope I may yet have a chance of accomplishing with Martin Pralong some of the many climbs we had fixed up before our programme was cut short by that shameless rock on the Aiguilles Rouges—not so short, though, as it well might have been. I only hope that before this account is in print his summer's earnings will not have been wholly swallowed up in a pending action for grievous assault and battery committed upon another guide with whom, at the time of the last cantonal elections, he had a serious difference of opinion on the subject of denominational teaching in the schools.

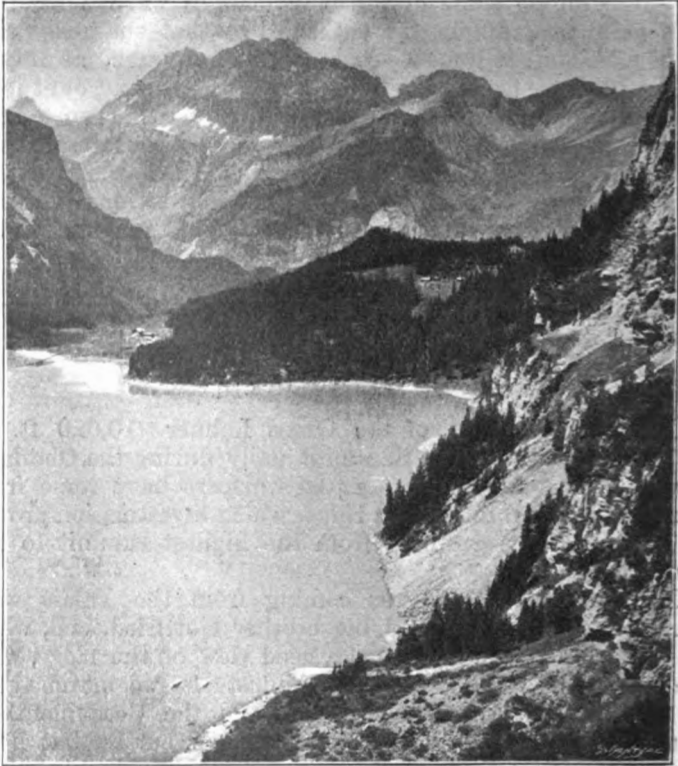
THE TRAVERSE OF THE GROSS LOHNER.

By W. R. CAESAR.

THE highest point of the Gross Lohner (10,020 ft.) is ascended from the S. almost daily during the Oberland season, but for several years past whispers have come from Kandersteg of an untrodden ridge, which investigation proved to be the range running from the highest summit to the Bonderkrinden.

Last year (1906) I was coming from the Valais with Abraham Müller, jun., and his brother Gottfried, and, while crossing the Gemmi, we had a good view of the ridge, with the result that on the next day—August 21—we marched off at 8.15 A.M. up the Kanderstrasse and the Ueschenthal. Some people object to roads on principle, but at that hour a sharp walk on an even surface sets the machinery of muscles running smoothly, and seems to me to have advantages over spasmodic movements on moraine or scree. After 3 hrs. we reached the foot of the rocks on the E. flank of the ridge and near the most northerly patch of snow seen in the photograph taken from above the Oeschinen See. The snow patches showed traces of falling stones, and one or two sniping shots were fired down the couloirs on either side of our breakfast place. After our meal we set off again at 6.55 A.M. There is a seeming choice of several broad couloirs,

but, to avoid difficulties on the loose face below point No. 5, it is desirable to take one about a hundred yards to the N. of that summit and almost exactly opposite the Gellihorn. Stones fell at times, but quick progress can be made, and edging a little to the right, we struck the ridge at 8.45 a.m. immediately to the left or S. of a pointed gendarme and about 200 ft. lower than point No. 5.



GROSS LOHNER FROM ABOVE THE ÜSCHINEN SEE.

The arête is not tempting. It is rather steep and very rotten, and we descended on the western side by a couloir filled with new snow, made a short traverse, and then went straight up to point No. 5 (11 a.m.). After replenishing the inner man—no smoking yet—we continued at 11.30 along the ridge, but met with difficulties at once. The friable rocks everywhere broke away, and we were forced from the crest



Photo by F. H. Caesar.

Swan Electric Engraving Co.,

GROSS LOHNER, FROM THE WEST.

two or three times, and traversed on the western side for short distances.

During these traverses we encountered new snow, which to some extent plastered loose stones together, but on the whole it was an uncertain blessing. After a short time there would be an inquiry, answered by, 'Back to the ridge.' A small chimney on the eastern side was interesting, and we found in it several good handholds, but as a rule they were bad, and it goes without saying that each one of them had to be tested carefully, and frequently there was only a choice of evils. In some places rocks were piled loosely together, and one could not help thinking of the immortal 'seven maids with seven brooms,' roped together, I suppose. We three cleared away quantities where opportunity offered, but there are plenty for other sweepers. Abraham attacked one little gendarme with his axe, to try to reach something solid, but pieces came off and such a hole was made that, for safety's sake, we upset our top-heavy 'policeman.' He fell with a crash and, bursting into a thousand fragments, dashed down like a cataract, gathering innumerable contributions. Perhaps I should add that no one awaited him below. At another spot we crept through a rectangular hole about 4 ft. by 3 ft., something like the arches on the Cornish coast.

We arrived at point No. 4 at 1.5 P.M., and were surprised to find another distinct summit between us and No. 2—that is to say, we had not expected to find four marked gaps along the ridge. After building a stoneman on point No. 4 we continued to No. 3, keeping to the crest and under conditions similar to those already met with. For about 35 ft. there is a wall of loose stones about 15 in. wide, and on this as well as on several small gendarmes we spread our weight as much as possible, often crawling on hands and knees. We came across the tracks of chamois here. Point No. 3 was gained at 1.25 P.M., and then our difficulties came to an end. The ridge broadens and falls considerably and then rises to point No. 2 (1.40 P.M.). At 2.55 P.M. we proceeded to No. 1—the highest summit—which we reached at 3.55 P.M., and we returned by the ordinary route to Kandersteg, arriving at 8 P.M. It was an interesting scramble, because holds were no more easy to find than on harder but smoother slabs in other districts, and though the rocks were rotten I do not think a careful party incurs more than the ordinary risks. It only remains to add that 80 ft. of rope was ample.