

Bernina and the Ortler districts are now brought up to date, and that it will now be much easier for those who desire to visit the delightful Bregaglia Group, for which the labours of Major E. L. Strutt, Dr. Claude Wilson and Signor Balabio have recently done so much, to arrange a programme satisfactorily.

The thanks of all mountaineers are due to the Rev. George Broke and his fellow-helpers for their self-denying toil.

THE PEAKS AND PASSES BETWEEN THE GRAN SERTZ AND THE COLLE DI LAUZON.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE peaks and passes on the great spur which runs N. from the Gran Paradiso are now fairly well known as far as the Gran Sertz, but the portion of the aforesaid great spur between the Gran Sertz and the Colle di Lauzon is very seldom visited and appears to be very little known. Moreover as will shortly be seen there is considerable confusion as to names, *e.g.* *Punta del Tuf*, which was once given to the highest point between the Gran Sertz and the Colle di Lauzon, is now attached to the point immediately to the N. of this highest point. It was probably due to this confusion that no ascent of this summit had been made up to last summer.

Having now visited all the points on the ridge (one of them three times), the present writer is in a position to set the matter straight.

The accompanying Map is founded on the new 'Carta del Gruppo del Gran Paradiso' published with the Bollettino of the C.A.I. for 1908—a beautiful piece of work for which all visitors to Cogne owe their grateful thanks to Signor Pio Paganini and the Italian Alpine Club.

(A.) On the New Map the peaks on the ridge to the North of the Gran Sertz are given thus :

1. *Cima di Leviona*, 3420 m.=11,220 ft.
(unnamed pass, 3339 m.=10,955 ft., for which the name
Colle di Leviona is proposed).
 2. *P. del Tuf*, 3392 m.=11,129 ft.
(*Passo del Tuf* 3260 m.=10,695 ft.)
 3. *P. Inferno*, 3392 m.=11,129 ft.
- These names I adopt in this paper.

(B.) In the Guide prepared for the 26th Congresso Alpino, 1894.
On the illustration (Tavola i.) of the peaks and passes from the

Cima di Leviona

Punta del Tuf.

Cresta del l'uf.



C. F. Bennett, photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.

THE CIMA DI LEVIONA AND PUNTA DEL TUF,
FROM ABOVE THE HAMLET OF VALNONTÉY.

Punte del Broglio to the Monte Ruje taken from the *Cima di Percia*
3182 m. = 10,432 ft.

1 appears as *Punta del Tuf*, 3420 m.=11,220 ft.

2 appears as *Punta Inferno*, 3392 m.=11,129 ft.

3 appears as *Punta del Lauzon*, 3392 m.=11,129 ft.

(C.) In the 'Guida delle Alpi Occidentali' by SS. Bobba and Vaccarone, vol. ii. (1896), on the illustration (opposite p. 96) from the same point (here, however, called Cima di Pertz) :

1 appears as *Punta del Tuf*, 3416 m.=11,208 ft.

2 appears as *Punta dell' Inferno*, 3384 m.=11,102 ft.

3 appears as *Punta del Lauzon*, 3392 m.=11,129 ft.

[The 'Climbers' Guide to the Mountains of Cogne,' by George Yeld and W. A. B. Coolidge (1893) mentions, p. 122, No. 1 as the *Punta del Tuf*, explaining that *Tuf* is no doubt a misprint for *Tuf*.

The 'New Ball' (Guide to the Western Alps) mentions, p. 315, No. 1 as the *Punta del Tuf* 3416 m.=11,208 ft. accessible in two hours by its rocky N.E. ridge.]

As to recorded ascents of these peaks :

1 was ascended (a) by Signor G. Bobba and Mr. G. Yeld with François and Sylvain Pession and Casimiro Thérissod on August 21, 1893 ('A.J.' xvi. pp. 567-8), mounting by the N.E. ridge and descending to the S. to the gap between 1 and 2, whence the Lauzon gl. on the E. was gained; (b) by Mr. G. Yeld with Benjamin Pession on August 1909 when the party traversed the peak from the King's Camp at Lauzon to Dégioz, descending by the W. ridge and passing over point 3262 m. = 10,702 ft. ; (c) by Rev. E. A. Aldridge and Messrs. G. W. Lloyd and G. Yeld, with Benjamin Pession on August 12, 1910. On this occasion the ascent was made almost entirely over snow to the col, and then by the W. ridge.

Of No. 2* no ascent is recorded till August 12, 1911, when Mr. G. Yeld, with Benjamin and Andrea Luigi Pession, ascended by the E. ridge and descended partly by the N. ridge and partly by the slopes under it to the Passo del Tuf.†

Of No. 3 the first ascent was made by Signor P. Paganini from the Col de Lauzon on July 28, 1881. Mr. Yeld's party of August 12, 1911, traversed this point from the Passo del Tuf to the Colle di Lauzon.

As to the cols between the Gran Sertz and Colle di Lauzon:—that between the Gran Sertz and No. 1 (the Cima di Leviona of the new map) was reached by Signor G. Bobba and Mr. G. Yeld's party of August 21, 1893, from the summit of No. 1, and the descent of the rock wall to the Lauzon side was effected with some risk owing to the

* Cf. description in Guida of 1896, p. 95.

† No traces of a previous party were found on the summit.

steep rocks being liable to be raked by stones. It might be called *Colle del Gran Sertz*, 3355 m. = 11,008 ft.

The col between 1 and 2 (its height is 3339 m. = 10,955 ft.) was reached by Mr. Yeld's party of August 1910 from the E. They descended a little way on the Degioz side. The name *Colle di Leviona* is suggested for it.

The col between 2 and 3 bears the name *Passo del Tuf*, 3260 m. = 10,695 ft. on the new map, a name which seems quite appropriate.

For the great outcrop of 'tuf' (yellow rock) to the N. of the *Passo del Tuf*, so conspicuous from the Lauzon pastures, the name *Cresta del Tuf* is suggested. This Cresta has two main points (apparently 3315 m. = 10,876 ft. (S. point) and 3328 m. = 10,918 ft. on Signor Paganini's original map), and from the E. looks like a separate peak as it approaches its neighbours in size.

The Col between the Cresta del Tuf and the Punta Inferno might be called *Passo del Tuf N.* As illustrating the remarkable confusion which prevails as to the names of these peaks I may mention that I bought at the village store in Cogne a postcard of the view looking west from the King's Camp in which the Punta del Tuf appears as the Grand Sertz, 3553 m., and the Cresta del Tuf as the Pointe du Tuf, 3416 m. This latter point (The Cresta) makes a brave show.

I will now tell briefly the story of the ascent of the Punta del Tuf:

Benjamin Pession was to have joined me at Cogne with his cousin Andrea Luigi Pession, hereafter known as André, as porter on the evening of August 9, 1911, but he was detained on the Italian side of the Matterhorn through no fault of his own, and the twain did not arrive till the night of the 10th, after a forced march. I had intended to have gone up to the King's Camp at Lauzon on the afternoon of the 10th, and to have assaulted the Punta del Tuf on the following day, but as Benjamin and André arrived very late on the 10th it was arranged that we should try to make the peak from Cogne the next morning.

August 11 was a beautiful day, and as the men were not quite ready when I wished to start I went on by myself leaving them to follow, as they knew the route and our destination perfectly well. I had got a good way above Valmontey when Benjamin overtook me and explained that André was waiting because the muleteer, into whose care he and André had given their 'sacs' when coming up from Aosta, had not yet arrived. This was exasperating, for we had been late in starting, and if André did not arrive quickly the day would be lost. Benjamin and I then went on to the King's Camp intending to wait there for André. Waiting proved rather tedious work, and eventually we lay down on the grass just above the large square level space in front of the buildings which form the King's Camp. I took the trouble to count the tufts of anemones (now, of course, out of flower) which were close by me; counting

Cima di Leviona

Punta del Tuf.

Cresta del Tuf.

Punta Inferno.



W. H. Gorer, photo.

Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.

VIEW OF THE PEAKS FROM THE CIMA DI LEVIONA TO THE PUNTA INFERNO,
WITH THE KING'S CAMP AT LAUZON IN THE FOREGROUND.

carelessly, I noted sixty-six, some of them really large tufts quite close by. In the grass, too, I noticed roots of *Ranunculus pyrenaicus*, and one little group of dwarf pink, almost red, *Aster alpinus*. By-and-by I got tired of lying down, pleasant though the sunshine was, and went down a short distance Cognewards. Quitting the path and descending to the torrent, I discovered a lovely little slope of turf, in part decidedly damp, starred with *Primula farinosa*—some of the plants being still in exceptionally fine bloom. The vanilla-scented orchis *Nigritella angustifolia*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Campanulas* (one beautiful clump of *pusilla* under a rock being specially charming), *Saxifrages*, with silvery rosettes of leaves, and asters, pink and blue, being the chief features of this beautiful little wild garden.

It was some time after noon when a boy came up from Cogne with provisions which the landlord of the Grivola had, with much forethought, sent up to us. 'But where is André?' we said to the boy. 'He is gone to Vieyes to look for his sac.' 'To look for his sac?' Then the boy unfolded to us the lamentable story of how below Vieyes, before reaching the bridge over the Grand Eiva, the mule, startled by some nocturnal terror, had turned round suddenly, and the 'chariot' and all its contents as well as the mule, had tumbled into what the boy called the 'canal,' a considerable strong-flowing stream by the road-side. The mule escaped unhurt, but the 'chariot' was wrecked. No sooner had the muleteer arrived at Cogne and told his mishap than André started at once to look for the 'sacs.' He was fortunate enough to find them in the 'canal.' His own contained, among other things, his climbing boots, and Benjamin's held six tins of sardines and various other provisions which I had bidden him buy at Aosta. When the boy had returned to Cogne, Benjamin and I discussed the situation at large. We had hoped to sleep in the room occupied by the *gardes de chasse* at the Camp, but neither of them was at home. So we decided that we would pass the night with the herdsmen at the Grand Lauzon chalets a few minutes below the Camp on the other side of the torrent. Accordingly as evening drew on we betook ourselves thither and when it was already growing dusk André joined us, weary and wayworn, but voluble on the subject of the foolish mule, the feckless driver and the saturated sacs. He had done a really hard day's work, so we retired to bed betimes.

The chief herdsman, a good-looking dark-featured man, was very hospitable. I had his bed, which proved comfortable, and Benjamin and André slept upon clean hay. We had bread and milk for breakfast, and started on our way at 4.25 a.m., when there was a bright moon, though we used the lantern for a short distance to make sure that we did not step into the artificially diverted stream that supplied the chalets with water, as the first bit of our way was in shadow. The accident to the 'sacs' served as a subject for much conversation and many harmless gibes; and whenever we passed near a stream,

SKETCH MAP
of the District between the
GRAN SERTZ AND THE COLLE DI LAUSON
Founded mainly on the map of the Gruppo del Gran Paradiso
published by the Italian Alpine Club.



Scale of Miles
0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1

a few inches deep, on our way down from the Colle di Lauzon, André was cautioned not to let his 'sac' fall into the water!

Our object was the Punta del Tuf of the New Map, 11,129 feet high, and, as I had pretty well convinced myself, 'encore vierge.' We had, in fact, a little orographical problem to solve, and there was a pleasurable excitement about our task, as I fancy this is almost, if not quite, the last *new* peak of over 11,000 feet amongst the mountains of Cogne. Benjamin chose a very good course over the Moraines, and we ascended our peak by a patch of snow to the right (N.) of its E. ridge (this we followed for about half its length) and then by the E. ridge itself. The climbing was not difficult. The S. side of the ridge was rich in flowers—though the N. side was bare. We then found a flowery couloir and reached the summit rocks more quickly than I expected. One of the most noticeable features about last August was the fewness of the flowers one met with on the pastures, owing doubtless to the hot summer, but on the Punta del Tuf, above 10,000 feet—and the same was the case on the Valeille side of the Tour St. André, up which we made a new route two days later—we found many rare and beautiful plants—*ranunculuses*, *saxifrages*, *gentians*, *cerastiums*, and, most beautiful of all, *Eritrichium nanum* in choice tufts.

We were on the summit at 8.47—having taken 3 hours 27 min. actual walking from the Lauzon chalets. No traces of previous visitors, as I had anticipated, were to be found.

There were a good many clouds. The Grivola looked very grim with only four small—two of them very small—patches of snow visible upon it. The Patri, our conquest of last year, pleased us much, especially as the N. peak had rather the advantage in appearance over his S. brother. The Herbetet was magnificent.

On the top 11,129 ft. six feet or so below the highest rock a *cerastium* and an *artemisia* were in flower. The Val Savaranche side of the mountain is a precipice. The descent to the Passo del Tuf was unpleasant owing to the rotten character of the rocks. We kept the N. ridge for some time, then traversed below it on the Lauzon side and then touched the ridge again. From the Passo del Tuf we went up a curious mass of yellow rock (tuf) with two heads, for which the name Cresta del Tuf seems suitable. As will be seen in two of the illustrations this mass both from the slope above Valnontey and from the King's Camp wears the appearance of a separate peak owing both to its height and to its bulk. It does not seem to have been previously visited by travellers, though very possibly the *gardes de chasse* and the beaters when the King is shooting at Lauzon or Val Savaranche know the ground near it. There is a slight dip between the two points of the Cresta.

From the end of the Cresta our peak had quite a look of the Gran Nomenon. On our way from the Cresta (the depression between it and the Punta Inferno I propose to call Passo del Tuf N.) we found several plants of *Geum reptans*, a fine tuft of

Androsace glacialis, and also *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, in flower. On the top of the Punta Inferno a crevice was full of *Campanula cenisia* showing more than a score of blossoms as fine as I have ever seen.

We were much inclined to think that the Punta Inferno was not so high as our protégé, the Punta del Tuf—but perhaps we were too well pleased with our morning's work. We were again surprised at the size of the Patri. We then went down to the Colle di Lauzon; close to the pass, which is of the considerable height of 10,831 feet, we found such flowers as *Geum reptans*, *Hutchinsia alpina*, *Linaria*, *Ranunculus glacialis*, *Chrysanthemum alpinum*, and *Campanula cenisia*.

We returned leisurely to Cogne, which was reached a few minutes after four in the afternoon.

For the illustrations I have to thank my friends, Messrs. C. F. Bennett and W. H. Gover. The view of the Gran Sertz* is the only one I have seen which shows the size of that mountain. In the other two illustrations the size of the Cresta del Tuf is apparent. The view with the King's Camp in the foreground shows the Passo del Tuf S. and the Passo del Tuf N. very clearly.

The Map is founded on the excellent new map of the Italian Alpine Club.

A NOTE ON THE BREGAGLIA NOMENCLATURE, AND ON THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE FERRO GROUP.

BY CLAUDE WILSON.

THE nomenclature of the Bregaglia Group has always been a source of vexatious trouble to those who have visited the district. In the old days the two names Largo and Trubinasca were among the very few that appeared on any map, and they were in neither case applied to the peaks to which they have always belonged; and, until quite recently, all maps and books have abounded in confusing errors. Still, by degrees, the majority of the chief peaks got definite names, though confusion still reigned among the Ferro peaks and in certain other areas. Then came the new sheet of the Siegfried Map, and some names which a few years ago seemed to have become stereotyped were changed back to what had been previously regarded as obsolete Romansch forms—Bacone and Cantone becoming Bacun and Cantun. But the Siegfried Map is the Swiss authority, and accordingly, in Major Strutt's 'Climber's Guide' (1910), these forms were adopted, and the Swiss rule disallowing all personal names for peaks and passes was respected. Unfortunately, in the new 'Guida'

* To the left of the Gran Sertz the two Erbetet (or Herbetet) passes are well seen.