

couloir. From this point a groove, cut by snow avalanches, ran down the centre of the couloir, and, as it was now evening and safe, we tried this and found the bed of it better than the snow at the side, which was hard. We descended this by ropes' lengths, hitched, kicking steps for 2000 ft. It required care, for we came on ice from time to time. We arrived safely at the foot at 9.0, and found the schrund filled with avalanche snow. We were glad to be out, and now lit the lantern. The slopes below went all right and we trudged across the glacier to the Marinelli hut—10.20—twenty hours' hard work, but we were lucky not to be benighted.

We had now to get back to Pontresina, and after our long day we were not very early starters. It was 8 o'clock when we left the hut, intending merely to cross the Crast 'Agüzzasattel. It was hot and we did not hurry, and reached the Col at 12.30. There we rested for an hour and made tea. It had occurred to us both that, when we were so near, it was a pity not to go up the Bernina, so on we went, and at 4 o'clock stood on the summit. We stayed for half an hour to admire the magnificent view and a fine fogbow, then descended to the Boval hut and on to Morteratsch—8.40.

After our three days' hard work we felt we deserved the excellent dinner we got, and the luxury of a carriage to Pontresina.

## CANADIAN CLIMBING NOTES.

BY VAL. A. FYNN.

*Mt. Lefroy*,<sup>1</sup> 11,220 ft.

THE usual route<sup>2</sup> in ascending this mountain leads from Abbot Pass up the snow or ice slopes of the western face directly to the summit. These slopes are broken in places by very steep rocks. Sometimes, late in the season, it is preferable to traverse the face diagonally to the left or N. and reach the main ridge a little to the N. of the main peak. Another route, first taken by Rudolf Aemmer, some ten years ago, starts from the Victoria glacier and in the main follows the N. ridge of the mountain. This ridge forms the sky-line

<sup>1</sup> See Interprov. Boundary Comm. Atlas Sheet 15 (in Club Library).

<sup>2</sup> See upper illustration, *A.J.* xxxii., opp. 74.

as seen from the Château Hotel. The lower end breaks off sharply, falling to the Victoria glacier in a series of impossible-looking pitches. The approach to the upper slopes of the mountain from the Victoria glacier, as well as from the wide gorge which leads to Abbot Pass, is guarded by a practically perpendicular wall broken by a single deep-cut couloir. It is impossible to follow the bottom of this couloir all the way, since the upper quarter is devoid of snow or ice and overhanging. I understand that the first and only party took to the rocks on the left or E. side, thus gaining the snow or ice slopes above the perpendicular wall. These slopes are interrupted by steep, and mostly rotten, rock walls and ribs. When there is little snow the climber must struggle with scree and ice slopes which lead to the N. arête at a point where the latter becomes climbable.

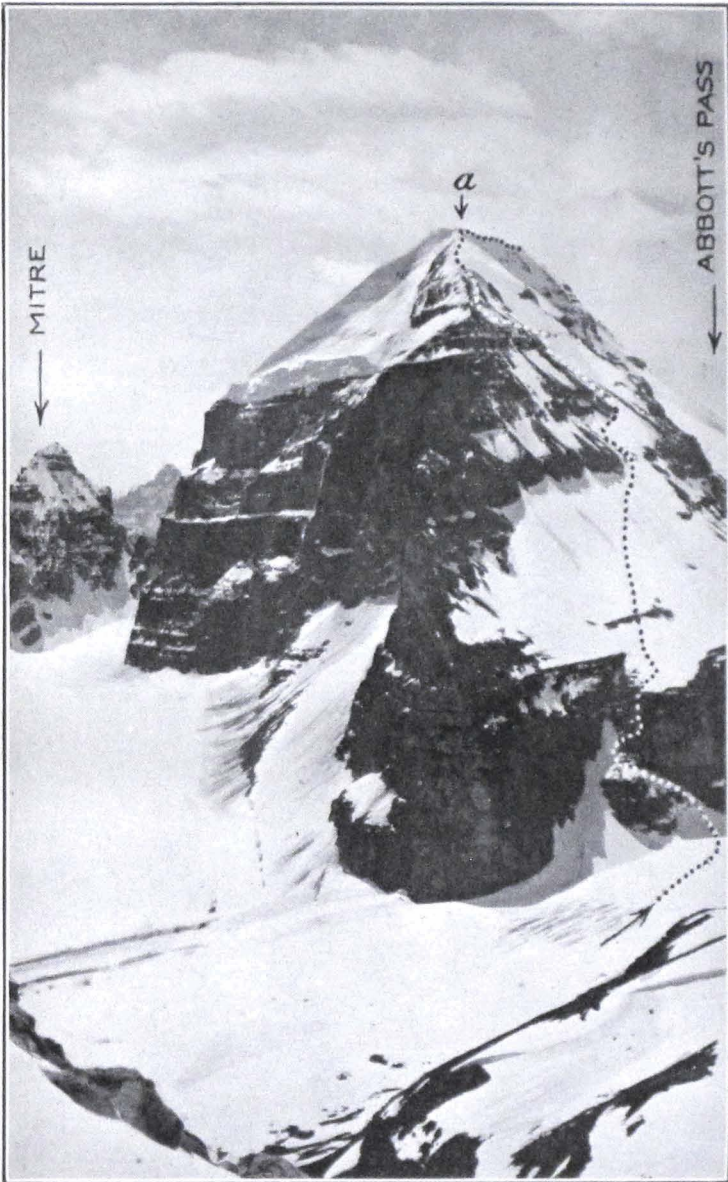
On July 31, 1920, W. C. Escher, S.A.C., of Zurich, and I left the Château at 3.5, reached Victoria glacier at 4.30 and the foot of the couloir at 5.10. This couloir is well shown on the photograph taken from the S. slopes of Mt. Whyte. To the right are some broken snow-covered rocks giving easy access to the middle of the couloir. At that point the wall on the right becomes extremely steep, but a little higher it is broken by a steep chimney, reached by utilising the snow in the main couloir. The chimney affords plenty of holds, although all are worn smooth. Near the top a tunnel leads off to the right, and one emerges on the snow slopes above the perpendicular wall through a large hole. Large quantities of water coming down the chimney made this part of the climb trying. There is no difficulty in reaching the ridge from any point above the wall referred to, particularly when there is plenty of snow on the slopes. The snow slopes were reached at 7.5, and after twenty-five minutes' rest we set foot on the N. ridge at 10.30, and reached the S. peak, after twenty-five minutes' halt, at 2.25 P.M. The weather was very warm but clear, and there was much ice on the ridge, requiring over two hours of step-cutting. Leaving the summit at 3 P.M., we retraced our steps along the nearly horizontal part of the ridge, and crossing the W. face diagonally made Abbot Pass at 7.20, and the hotel at 9.25.

*Mt. Quadra,*<sup>3</sup> 10,400 ft.

The same party left the chalet at Moraine Lake at 2.45 A.M. on August 5, took the trail into Consolation Valley and con-

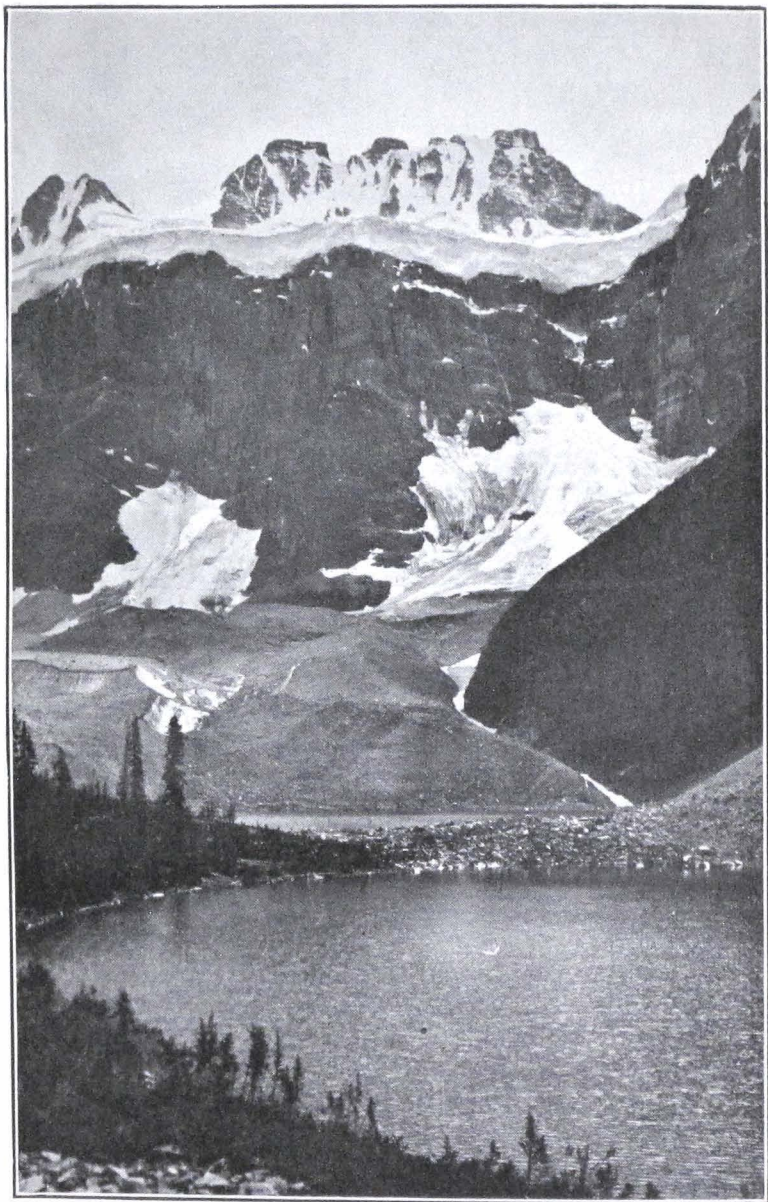
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<sup>3</sup> See note 1.



*Photo V. A. Fynn.*

MT. LEFROY.  
From S. slopes of Mt. Whyte.



*Photo V. A. Fynn.*

MT. BIDENT (left) AND MT. QUADRA (right).

tinued past the lake up to Consolation Pass, 8300 ft., which was reached at 6.45. Descending as little as possible, a buttress of Mt. Bident reaching S. in the direction of Boom Lake was circumvented and the glacier at the back of Mt. Quadra reached at 7.50. Giving thirty minutes to breakfast, the glacier was crossed to a Col on the S. ridge of Quadra. The W. side of this Col is one mass of fairly large and distressingly loose stones at a steep angle. Leaving the Col at 11, the summit was reached at 2.10 (second ascent) after an interesting scramble over the very rotten ridge. The weather was perfect, and a splendid view was enjoyed. Leaving at 2.45, the Col was reached at 5, the breakfast place at 5.55, and after thirty minutes' rest we made Consolation Pass at 7.10 and were back at Moraine Lake at 9.30. The amount of walking necessary to ascend Quadra, Bident, or Chimney Peak from Moraine Lake is out of all proportion to the length or quality of climbing to be had. The same is true of some of the Ten Peaks.<sup>4</sup> Any of the first six of the Ten Peaks can be reached from Moraine Lake, either via Consolation Pass or by means of a steep and often treacherous couloir between No. 3 and No. 4. This last approach is also very long, since fully five hours are needed to reach the top of the couloir in question, and falling stones may preclude a return by this route. A hut is badly needed somewhere back of this ridge, and the most central location appears to be W. of the ridge joining Mt. Quadra and Chimney Peak. Nos. 7 and 8 can only be reached from Prospector Valley, while Neptuak and No. 10 are accessible from Wenkchemna Pass, 8521 ft., about three hours' walk from Moraine.

*Mt. Freshfield,*<sup>5</sup> 10,945 ft.

On August 21, A. L. Mumm, C. B. Eddy, Moritz Inderbinnen, Rudolf Aemmer and I left a camp at the foot of Freshfield glacier at 3.25, followed the glacier for about seven miles to the foot of the peak, crossed to the S. of the eastern ridge by way of a low ice-covered saddle, and thus reached the upper snow and ice slopes facing Mt. Pilkington. These slopes were ascended to the foot of the final peak, and the latter reached over easy rocks at 1.50. Leaving at 2.40, the party retraced its steps and was back in camp at 7 p.m. The weather was perfect, and the view from the summit most interesting and very remarkable because of its extent. The Freshfield glacier

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<sup>4</sup> See note 1.

<sup>5</sup> See Interprov. Boundary Comm. Atlas Sheet 18, published with this JOURNAL. See illustrations, *A.J.* xxxiv. 388-9.

divides at the foot of the peak, the branch running S. in the direction of the Mummery peaks being about eight miles long; the N. branch which goes past the foot of Mt. Dent seems to be about six miles long. Mt. Pilkington is a very fine and rather difficult looking peak. The same is true of Mts. Mummery and Walker, although little of these can be seen because of Mt. Pilkington. The view into Bush Creek and out towards the Columbia is most fascinating. The Columbia icefield and the peaks surrounding it could not be seen very clearly because of smoke, but Mt. Forbes was very prominent and imposing.

FIRST MT. CLEMENCEAU EXPEDITION, JULY-AUGUST, 1922.

BY HENRY B. DE VILLIERS-SCHWAB.

FAR out on the Canadian National Railway, about thirty miles E. of the Continental Divide at the Yellowhead Pass, lies the little town of Jasper, now the administrative centre of Jasper National Park. Some sixty miles S., along the Athabasca River and its big tributary, the Chaba, lies magnificent Fortress Lake, its eastern extremity but a few hundred yards from the Chaba, and just across the line in British Columbia. Six and a-half miles away, its western end drains into turbulent Wood River, which, after flowing past the base of Mt. Serenity (10,573 ft.), first climbed by Messrs. Palmer, A.C., and Carpe, Am.A.C., in 1920, is joined by Clemenceau Creek and then flows away through a canyon into still wilder territory, eventually to join the Columbia River.

In this angle between Clemenceau Creek and Wood River, and seeming to block the end of the valley, stands Bras Croche (10,871 ft.), while farther back, towering above Clemenceau glacier, stands the majestic form of Mt. Clemenceau (12,001 ft.), bearing a striking resemblance to the well-known view of the Jungfrau from Interlaken.

This splendid peak is the fourth highest summit in all the Canadian Rockies, and is to-day its second highest unclimbed mountain.<sup>1</sup> To the few explorers who have seen it from a distance, among them Professor A. P. Coleman, A.C., and Mr. Walter D. Wilcox, Am.A.C., and to the few trappers and grizzly bear hunters who have penetrated to this Wood River

<sup>1</sup> The North Twin (12,085 ft.) is the highest.