

probably the highest summit in any of the Interior ranges, surpassing Mt. Sir Sandford in the northern Selkirks. The entire range is heavily glaciated and the valley levels are low, the party's base camp at the tongue of the Sand Creek glacier being 4440 ft. The topographical work of the expedition included the location of the glacial sources of the North Thompson, Canoe, McLennan, and Shuswap (Raushwap) rivers and of Kiwa and Sand creeks. Data were obtained for a topographic outline map of the range. Further particulars will appear later.

ALBRED A PK. (MT. MILTON).—On July 18, 1924, the same party made the first ascent of this peak, situated in the northern Gold Range about seven miles S.E. of Clemina station, C.N.R., British Columbia. The peak is conspicuous by reason of a large glacier on its N.W. face which is in view from the railway. The altitude was found to be approximately 10,050 ft., or 7300 ft. above the valley. Progress was made with some difficulty through the heavily timbered lower valleys to a camp on the N.E. side of the mountain, whence the ascent was made, in bad weather, by way of the N. glacier and E. ridge. Further particulars will appear later.

ALLEN CARPE.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIG. BLANCHE DE PEUTERET—PEUTERET ARÊTE—M. BLANC (4810 m. = 15,782 ft.). July 28 to August 2, 1923. Herr Alfred Horeschowsky, accompanied by Franz Piekieleko. July 28, left Courmayeur noon. Bivouac on glacier at about 3000 m. below the Dames Anglaises. July 29, bad weather—remained in bivouac. July 30, 1 A.M., left by moonlight and ascended the steep névé—mainly ice—of the Dames Anglaises. Through an ice-fall to the terrace. Crossing many deep, hard-frozen avalanche gullies we followed the terrace to the N.E. arête of the Aig. Blanche 4109 m., 6.30 A.M. Then over partly iced rocks to the summit 4190 m., 9.30—rested till 11.30. Descended to Col de Peuteret. The ice arête descends finally to the Col by a steep ice-wall requiring long and careful step-cutting 3950 m., 5.30 P.M. On the other side of the Col another ice-wall led to the rocks of the Peuteret arête. We recognised that these altered conditions were the result of the great stone avalanche [*v.* 'A.J.' xxxiii. 433], the névé arête connecting the Col with the rocks, together with the hanging glacier leading to the Brenva glacier, having completely broken away. The new ice-wall needed hard step-cutting. Then up iced rocks to the summit of the corner bastion (= Eckpfeiler) 4381 m., 7.30 P.M., where we

bivouacked for the third time. [There is a mistake here—Pt. 4381 is much farther up and could never be reached from the Col, including hard step-cutting, in 2 hours. It took us, in 1893, without any cutting, 1 hr. 58 m. actual going from the Col to Güssfeldt's bivouac, which is lower than 4381 m., and, with Daniel Maquignaz leading, our party would be considerably faster than the heavily laden guideless pair.—J. P. F.] July 31, left at 5 A.M., a sunny day. Over the five rock towers, which were in part much iced, and then over the névé arêtes, mostly iced. Continuous cutting. At 11 A.M. in the middle of the ice-wall (= Eiswand) dense clouds blotted out the view. After overcoming the ice-wall we reached the much-iced rocks at about four ropes' lengths below the summit cornice, which was cut through at 1.15. Fog and very cold N.W. gale. Summit of M. Blanc 2.45. The cold and gale did not allow us to study map and compass. We followed the trail in the direction of the Vallot hut, but hardly visible footmarks led us to the left, and in half an hour we reached steep rocks which we followed to a sheltered place. Here we looked at the map and recognised that we were on the Tournette arête. We followed this down, and at 7.30 P.M. were on the M. Blanc glacier. Mist, storm, and approaching night forbade us the way to the Sella hut, and so we spent on the adjoining rocks (3400 m.) a fourth shudderingly-lovely (= schaurig-schönes) bivouac. Thunderstorm and driving snow all night. We were protected from the worst by our tent canvas, and the provisions lasted out. August 1, descended through knee-deep snow and séracs. We reached the Sella hut at 9.30 A.M.—our clothes wet through—our stomachs very dry. The weather cleared at midday. Left at 5 P.M. for Courmayeur, reached at 1 A.M., August 2. (Ö.A.Z. March 1924.)

[This expedition is no doubt a great testimony to the powers and endurance of the party, but the risks taken were outrageous. If Mr. Horeschowsky continues like this he will not go on long, which would be regrettable. His attempt on N. face of Matterhorn was recorded in the last number. He also ascended, alone, the famous Pallavicini couloir of the Glockner, and on August 5 and 6, 1923, repeated, with his present companion Piekielko, the Young-H. O. Jones-Knubel 1911 expedition to the Col des Grandes Jorasses and over the Punta Margherita to the summit of the Grandes Jorasses. Of his technical competence there can be no question.—J. P. F.]

Bernese Oberland.

SCHMADRIJOCH (3311 m. = 10,863 ft.). July 6, 1924. Mrs. G. Hasler, with Fritz Amatter and Peter Bernet, jun.—Left Obersteinberg at 1 A.M.; followed Captain Farrar's route of August 31, 1923, over the two long rock islands (compare 'A.J.' xxxvi. 90). From there onward conditions quite different. The big couloir was deeply grooved by ice-falls from the Nollen. The day being young, rapid progress was made up one of the snow-ribs left between

two deep grooves, but after a gain of about 200 ft. snow became bad. The party then traversed into the rocks on the left (ascending) side of the couloir, which were marvellously rotten and not improved by a little fresh snow. These rocks were climbed until just below the level of the Nollen, when a steep icy gullet between them and the Nollen led to the upper plateau. Amatter here had the spare rope added to the 30-mètre rope in use, and cut up till the rope was out—a slow business, for he had to dig through rotten snow to reach the ice. Above this pitch all was plain sailing except for a schrund or two. (Col, 7.45 A.M.)

The S. side of the col provided rather more work. Where Captain Farrar saw terraced rocks which might go 'pretty well anywhere,' the July 1924 party found the edges only of those terraces sticking out of a tremendously steep snow wall. It was a case of face to the wall down a seemingly endless ladder. When the first rocks were reached they were struck at a steep slab. To save time the spare rope was used. A second snow wall led to a little gully which went easily, and after that a snow traverse eastward led one to easy slopes and the much-crevassed glacier.

Fafleralp was reached at 12.55 P.M.; Goppenstein, about 4 P.M.; Grindelwald (by car from Interlaken), 8.50 P.M.

Amatter as fine as ever, and young Peter Bernet a most promising young guide.

Bregaglia (Bernina, W. Wing) Group.

CIMA SANT' ANNA (PIZ BADILET)¹ (3169 m. = 10,397 ft.). *Lurani* map. July 19, 1924. Lt.-Colonel E. L. Strutt with Pierre Blanc. Left excellent new Badile (Gianetti) Club hut, 06.35; crossed N. Porcellizo Pass, 07.35, and descended (W. slope of Pass is dangerous after midday) rocks on right bank of snow couloir, then base of couloir itself to Codera glacier.² Up this glacier, due N., to base of slanting gully leading upwards to gap ('Forcola della Punta'), between Punta (Dente) di Trubinasca and C. Sant' Anna. Up this gully, very steep and unpleasant, to gap, 09.00. Then up W. arête, interesting, of Sant' Anna to summit, 10.15. Near views most sensational. Left 10.45, first a few steps along S. arête to small cairn (which party rebuilt). Then by flowery ledge leading diagonally downwards, S. to N. across smooth E. face; where

¹ See in general *A.J.* xxvii. 411-2. *Lurani's* 'summit' is about 5 ft. distant, horizontally, from Tanner's, and possibly a foot lower (!).

² There is an obvious misprint in *Climber's Guide*, Bernina, Part I. p. 47, where for time of descent of snow couloir, you should read 40 minutes instead of 10 minutes. Attention is drawn to the misprint here, because, curiously, the *Guida* and new S.A.C. *Bergell Guide* appear to suffer from the same compositor and repeat the error.

ledge ends abruptly, party turned upwards for some 20 ft., very steep. A narrow and vertical cleft or chimney now opens out leading straight down, perhaps (?) 700 ft. long. Down this chimney, difficult, over three 'overhangs' to base which touches W. Badile glacier, perhaps 100 ft. below depression between Sant' Anna and tooth to the E. ('Badiletto' of *Guida*). Glacier is here mere ribbon of ice leading steeply to the depression or frontier ridge. Ice attained, 12.50. (Wrong times accidentally written in Club hut book.) Slid down ribbon, easy, to open glacier, thence over snow and débris to Badile hut, 13.15. Weather and conditions perfect.³ Expedition most interesting, but *ascent* of chimney should not be attempted till it has effectively been 'swept' by *several* descending parties. Time was lost owing to party possessing no spare rope.

MONTE DISGRAZIA⁴ (3678 m. = 12,067 ft.). I. map. July 22, 1924. Lt.-Colonel E. L. Strutt with Pierre Blanc. Party left Masino at 13.45 on July 21, San Martino at 14.15, and attained, in magnificent weather but sweltering heat, the Passo di Remoluzza (c. 2800 m. = 9188 ft.) at 18.55. The Cecilia Club hut was reached at 19.20. [Hut in good condition, but pilfering has caused the blankets to be kept at Cattaeggio.] Party left hut at 04.15, reached Predarossa glacier in a few minutes, then bore E. towards base of *last* and highest tower of mountain's S.W. arête (Stewart's route lies farther S.⁵). Crossed bergschrund, wide and awkward, then mounted buttress, shown exactly E. of 'g' of [Predarossa] 'glacier' on Wilson map; first by crest of buttress, good broken rocks, then by snow gully, S., then by its true left bank, similar rocks—these deviations caused by the antics of a solitary chamois above. All this over new but relatively quite easy terrain, to crest of S.W. arête attained just S. of its highest tower. Weather now very cold and doubtful. Cassandra glacier face of mountain is everywhere possible but unattractive. After long halt, cut across steep ice under W. slope of above-mentioned tower and steered towards foot of first tower on S.E. arête of mountain, receiving another severe bombardment from chamois now on crest of this tower. Animal eventually descended and tore past party—within 10 yards. Up this first tower, very steep firm rocks, by its S.W. slope. Thence over crest of all 'the famed towers and gaps first traversed by Messrs. Still and Barlow in 1874,'⁶ very steep, but not difficult under our perfect

³ Chimney appears to be new. Count Bonacossa's ascent, *cf.* S.A.C. *Guide*, p. 162, lies to the N., on Swiss slope; it does not touch E. face till near commencement of 'flowery ledge.'

⁴ See in general, Dr. Wilson's article and admirable map, *A.J.* xxv. 232-6. The latter (1910) is still the only accurate one available. Count Lurani's map, of course, only includes the 'Masino' slope of the mountain.

⁵ *A.J.* xxiv. 686-7.

⁶ *A.J.* viii. 20; xxv. 235.

conditions—splendid climb—to summit, 09.40 (1¼ hour halts *en route*). Descent in worsening weather, 09.45, by N.W. arête and its S.W. slope to Cecilia hut (1¼ hour). Thence by Sasso Bisolo (or Predarossa) glen to Cattaeggio, reached 17.00, and Masino Bagni, 19.15, in drenching thunderstorm (many halts *en route*).

Most interesting expedition. Little to choose between Mello (Remoluzza Pass) and Bisolo routes. Path is now vile except last (upper) bit of Bisolo glen, recently reconstructed. Both slopes of Remoluzza Pass are composed of steep boulders and track has never existed—a few paint marks. Bisolo glen is dull Engadine-like scenery; Mello is magnificent. The tactics of several 'guideless' parties on ordinary route of Disgrazia passed all belief.

Ofen Pass (Bernina, E. Wing) Group.

CIMA DI PIAZZI ⁷ (3439 m. = 11,284 ft.). I. map. By the N. face. July 10, 1924. Lt.-Colonel E. L. Strutt with Pierre Blanc and a local porter. From Sta Catarina-in-Val Furva on July 9, by car by new Livigno road to Arnoga in Val Viola Bormina (1½ hr.), thence a descent of 1000 ft., and fording of Val Viola torrent necessary before ascent of almost impenetrable thickets enabled party to attain a faint track leading up the Cardonne glen to uppermost chalets on *left* bank of stream, where the night was spent, 2¼ hours. [Party should have stopped car at S. Carlo, some 1000 ft. below Arnoga, whence a convenient bridge and path lead to the Cardonne Alp.]

Start at 02.50 on July 10. Over steep grass and débris to W. Piazzzi glacier attained under Corni di Verva, thence up imposing glacier, steep in places, to the final snowy wall of the Cima di Piazzzi's N. face. Weather now very bad. Straight up this wall, some 1500 ft. in height, angle about 45°, keeping well to the W. of the snowy ridge or buttress dividing the two branches of the glacier. Summit of this wall (and of the mountain), attained at 07.00. In blizzard now raging, party unable to find S. arête, the easy way down. Proceeded eventually E. along top of wall, very sharp, till a *descent* brought them to cairn, whence easy rocky ridge leads S. Down this ridge to a conspicuous gap leading W. to Val Grosina, and E. towards Valtellina. Bearing E. over snow, débris, steep grass, and eventually a rough track, party arrived at Cepina in Valtellina about 13.00. Sta Catarina was attained by car later in the evening.

Our (excellent) porter, whose local knowledge to the S.W. of Bormio was nil, requested a total fee of 20 lire (!).

Expedition is very interesting, the N. face being exceedingly striking, but of no particular difficulty. [Times are very fast.]

⁷ See in general, Mr. Coolidge's admirable article, *A.J.* xix. 219-239.

Ascents appear to be most rare. Our route is approximately that of the first party, Dr. V. Ronchetti with L. Compagnoni, September 8, 1901,⁸ of which the route described in 'A.J.' xxi. 563-4, although starting from another and parallel glen, is but a variation in its upper part and lies just E. of the one described above.

It still appears impossible to procure a reasonably accurate map of the Italian slope of the Bernina, East Wing.⁹

The Selkirks (Canadian Alps).

MT. SIR DONALD (10,808 ft.), BY THE W. FACE. August 10, 1924. Mr. Val. A. Fynn, with Chr. Hässler.—Second Ascent.

'While in Vancouver a couple of weeks ago I was looking at a large photo of Sir Donald as seen from Mt. Abbott, and the idea occurred to me to try the W. face of the mountain, as it seemed feasible. Upon arrival here [Glacier House], Ernest Feuz told me that he had actually made the climb on September 4, 1923, with Mr. Paul McIntyre, then about nineteen, who is to be congratulated sincerely on opening up this interesting route.

'On August 10 I repeated the climb with Christian Hässler by practically the same route.

'We took 4 hours from hotel to foot of face (see *o* on photo). From there 2 hours 10 minutes to the summit. We left our boots at *o*, using scarpetti for the climb. The lower part of the climb is practically devoid of handholds, and one is obliged to rely on the friction of the scarpetti on the somewhat smooth, slabby rocks. The face is divided by a more or less horizontal belt of perpendicular cliffs which are, however, easily overcome towards the right by means of a convenient chimney. Thereafter the inclination diminishes and there are no more difficulties.

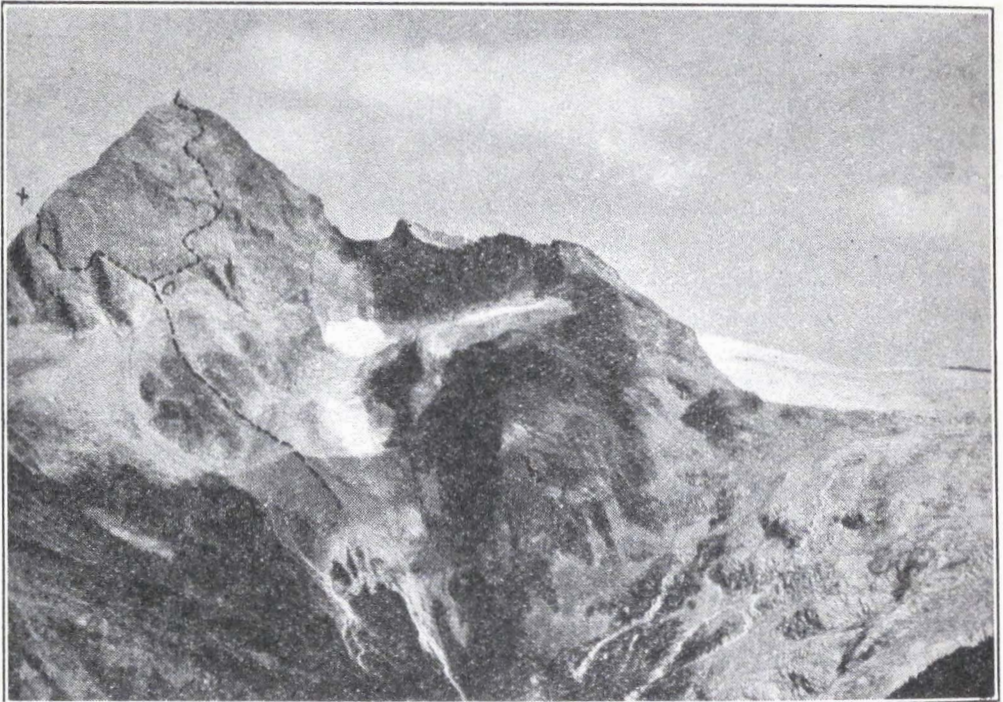
'The climb is safe in so far as falling stones are concerned, but only when there is no snow on the face. It should not be done early in the season. When in safe condition it is a fine climb, particularly when combined with the descent of the N.W. ridge and our subsequent traverse of the face.

⁸ Cf. *Le Alpi di Val Grosina*, by Dr. Corti and Signor Laeng, Brescia, 1909. A very useful little 'Climber's Guide' with a sketch map and illustrations.

⁹ It appears 'geographically' sound to compress the massif contained within the boundaries of Lake Como, Val Bregaglia, Upper and Lower Engadines (Inn Valley), Adda (and Valtellina) into one Group to be called the 'Bernina.' The Bregaglia and Ofen Pass Groups thus naturally fall respectively into the W. and E. Wings of the main or Bernina range.

Mr. Coolidge, whose opinion can be considered final in such matters, is strongly in favour of such grouping.

'Descending, we followed the N.N.W. ridge, but turned back into the W. face before reaching the col between Sir Donald and Uto Peak. We did this so as to avoid the scree and snow between the col and the point at which we had left our boots. This traverse required care at first but otherwise was not found difficult and we reached our boots in 2½ hours from the summit. I had made what I thought was the second ascent of Sir Donald by the N.N.W. ridge with A. M. Bartleet in 1909, but had not been on this ridge since, whereas Christian had climbed it a number of times more recently.



MT. SIR DONALD AND GLACIER, W. FACE FROM MT. ABBOTT.

In consequence, he suggested that he go down first, and this plan worked out very well and saved considerable time.

'I now understand that the first party which climbed Sir Donald from the col between it and Uto followed the ridge for about two-thirds of its length and then turned off to the right into the here easy W. (or is it really N.W.?) face and completed the ascent in this way, so that as a matter of fact Bartleet and I were the first to follow the N.N.W. ridge throughout.'

[Cf. also Mr. Howard Palmer's admirable volume, 'Mountaineering and Exploration in the Selkirks' (New York: Putnams, 1914), chap. v. and Appendix I. (notes on the Sir Donald range).]