

# GARIBALDI PARK:

The New Canadian Playground in British Columbia—Part II.

By Rev. A. H. Sovereign, M.A., B.D., Member of Alpine Club of Canada.



(Photo by A. H. Sovereign)

(Enlargement by Camera & Arts)

## MOUNT GARIBALDI THROUGH THE MISTS

We awake bright and early, breakfast is quickly prepared, packs are again adjusted and by six o'clock, we form in line and begin the real climb up the mountain trail. This is the real test, but slowly and surely we climb upward, passing first the rock-slide, then the lake-dotted plateau of the First Meadows, until noon finds us in the centre of the Park at our camping ground on the Black Tusk Meadows. What an undreamed panorama of mountain scenery surrounds us! As we look about us and above us, we unconsciously feel the vastness of our new surroundings and with it the realization of the smallness of all that is human. Little things become smaller and we wonder at the insignificance of the worries and cares of the valleys. The mind is touched with the spirit of infinity; the soul feels the presence of the Infinite. We are moved by a strange silence—the silence of the eternal hills. Yet in the silence there is music, for the mountain streams on every side form a deep-toned organ with a predominant minor note, broken only by the echoing thunder of the avalanches as they break away from their rocky fastnesses and hurl themselves down to the valleys far below. The soul expands in this new glory of the out-of-doors; dull care flees away; a truer perspective is given to life. Unconsciously in this new and vast cathedral, we bow in worship.

Then from our musings we turn to work. Packs are emptied, food collected, tents are pitched, a stove is built and soon the whole party is quite ready for the evening meal. Have you ever measured the appetites of mountaineers who have carried sixty pounds twelve miles up a trail which ends at an altitude of 5000 feet? One member who had run the gauntlet of the various courses and had received his sixth generous helping of dessert was heard to say, when some climber made a remark as to the wonderful capacity of the human frame—"Oh, do not worry,—you should see me eat

when I regain my health." But the shadows are deepening and the last rays of the setting sun are just touching the snow on the highest peaks; the camp-fire is lighted and in its glow and warmth, the little party relate stories of other journeys and sing the mountain songs—alone, among the great hills. Then slowly and reluctantly, one by one, we leave the glowing logs, away to our tents and fir-boughed beds—tents which answer to the suggestive names of "The Corral," "The Morgue," "The Belle-tent" and "The Kennel."

Day quickly succeeds day and every near-by peak is climbed and every valley explored.

What pictures unfold themselves on every side—a thousand pictures, and each so perfect in itself! To the north there rise the flower-carpeted slopes of the Black Tusk, then the ridge, and 800 feet above the ridge a peculiar black monolith. With an altitude of 7,350 feet, it is visible from every part of the compass, and on a clear day may even be seen from the north end of Bowen Island in Howe Sound. The "tusk" is composed of basalt with perpendicular columns which in places are quite isolated, but fast decomposing and falling to pieces. It is of volcanic origin, in fact the whole area is volcanic and is full of the most interesting phenomena, telling of a time of a comparatively recent date (geologically) when these peaks were wrapt in dark sulphurous clouds and streams of molten rock flowed down the slopes to the valleys below. At first glance it would seem impossible for any climber to scale its perpendicular sides, but on nearer view, deep fissures or alpine "chimneys" may be seen which offer a comparatively easy pathway, dangerous only because of falling stones. Mountain goats, ptarmigan and marmot are frequently seen on its ridges, and at times even a wolf or bear.

Wandering a little to the east of the Meadows, we reach a fine cascade, 200 feet high, which drains a hang-