

Protestant city as Edinburgh we find six out of twenty-five members of the Education Authority, which governs all schools. Roman priests, two of whom are dignitaries of that Church, adroit and able, and carrying great weight even amongst those who are pledged to Protestantism.

In view of these dangers one almost

fears that the negotiating Churches have moved too late.

It is not too much to say that Protestantism may soon be in the position of fighting for her very existence. It looks very like as if she were now fighting with her back to the wall.

The need for Union is imperative. Union will come. The voice of dissent

will be small and negligible.

That is the abiding impression brought home by this assembly. For above the clamours of long-drawn out debate, a higher voice has been heard, a call certainly, a challenge if you will, "One fold; one Shepherd," and one dare add, "Unity of Command" against the array of evil and error.

## Sir James Outram—and Mountaineering

(By Arthur P. Woollacott.)

An enthusiastic Vancouver audience some time ago listened with intense interest to Sir James Outram's modest but graphic recital of some famous first ascents of peaks in the Rockies and Selkirks.

In the annals of mountaineering it would be difficult to find an alpinist with more scalps to his credit than Sir James, who in the space of a few summers, merely by way of recreation, made twenty ascents of peaks over ten thousand feet and a dozen more of points slightly below that altitude. It has been his pleasure to journey along the ridge-pole of the continent from the grand rocky obelisk of Mt. Assiniboine, often referred to as the Matterhorn of America, to the dazzling snow-crowned heights of Mt. Columbus, a distance of about two hundred miles.

His greatest achievement was the conquest on Sept. 3, 1901, of Mt. Assiniboine, which up to that time had foiled the efforts of several parties.

Sir James is an enthusiastic lover of nature with a poetic and artistic appreciation which serves to give an added distinction to a mountaineering narrative, which without such touches of the beautiful would still be remarkably absorbing.

To attempt to sublimate the glory of the mountains in a few phrases is to attempt the impossible. Switzerland has charm, variety and accessibility in its favor, but for tremendous effects of elevation, extent, wild desolation, and rugged immensity it is necessary to go to the Himalayas or the Andes. The mountain climber, however, whose chief ambition it is to make a first ascent must look to America as a field for his activities, and the Canadian section of the Rockies with its ranges and peaks on such a grandly extended scale offers opportunities that will not be exhausted for decades to come.

For real alpine characteristics one must go away from the trodden trails of the tourist to the culminating point of alpine grandeur that is to be found in the vicinity of the great Columbia snow-field which covers two hundred square miles and is ten thousand feet above sea-level. From this remnant of the glacial age streams empty finally into the Arctic, the Pacific, and the Atlantic.

Mountaineering in Canada may be said to have had its birth in 1888, when Rev. W. S. Green and H. Swanzy, of the Alpine Club, headed the roll of climbers, and awakened interest in the great peaks of the province. Later Huber and Sulzer, of the Swiss Alpine Club, made the first ascent of Mt. Sir Donald, one of the most prominent peaks in the Selkirks. The lecturer remarked that the pioneering work in Canada was largely done by members of the English Alpine Club and American alpinists.

Sir James took his hearers on an exploratory trip up the now famous Yoho valley, over the Ottetail ranges, and round about the Columbia ice-field, illustrating his descriptions by splendid photos taken by himself, often under the most difficult conditions.

When Sir James decided to devote some time to mountain work, he selected Cascade Mountain, near Banff, as his training ground, and from the summit he obtained his first distant view of Mt. Assiniboine, twenty miles to the south.

This peak at the time was attracting a great deal of attention because of its resemblance to the Matterhorn, and was becoming generally known through excellent photographs of it, and because of the difficulties that were encountered in the attempt to scale its heights; and it was probably while climbing Cascade Mountain that Sir James first conceived the ambitious plan to master the difficult peak.

This mighty monolith was first named by Dr. G. M. Dawson, of the Dominion Geological Survey, after the tribe of Indians of that name. In appearance it is a massive pyramid forming a conspicuous landmark standing out 1500 feet above all its neighbors.

Messrs. Barrett and Wilcox, with the famous guide Bill Peyto of Banff, were the first to make a circuit of the mountain, and obtained much valuable information.

Messrs. Wilcox, Bryant and Steele made the first attempt in 1899, and at 10,000 feet two of the party lost their hold and started sliding down to death. One of them, however, slung his ice-axe into a crevice and thus arrested their downward course, which otherwise would have terminated fatally.

The Walling brothers tried next, and failed. Wilcox and Bryant made a second attempt with two guides, but when within 1000 feet of the summit the avalanching aspect of the snow and the lateness of the hour forced them to return.

On Sir James' memorable ascent he took with him the Swiss guides Hasler and Bohren, and Peyto and Sinclair as packers, ascending easily to a pretty little lake, where the first camp was made at 7200 feet. The night was disturbed by the crash of ice and rocks from the glacier nearby. Three thousand feet above that glacier the stupendous pyramid of the carboniferous age towered in all its unique glory. Like one of the mighty works of Egypt, many times multiplied and weathered into massive bands and steps, snow and ice strewn, stood the crown of Mt. Assiniboine, truly a sight to whet the appetite of the most ambitious climber. A marked peculiarity of its stratification was observed in the colored bands of brilliant red and yellow streaks that encircled the mountain. In places erosion of these colored strata produced fantastic spires and pinnacles radiant in the glowing sunshine.

At 6 a.m. Sir James, Hasler, Bohren and Peyto started out with two days' provisions, following up the glacier and zig-zagging to avoid the crevasses, until a narrow pass was reached at nine, at a height of 2400 feet above their camp. Clouds and drizzle with sleet obscured their surroundings, and it became necessary to make little rock piles to serve as guides on their return journey.