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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
AND MONTHLY RECORD OF GEOGRAPHY.

Explorations in Alaska and North-west British Columbia.

By H. W. SETON-KARR.

(Read at the Evening Meeting, December 8th, 1890.)

Map, p. 136.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing this Society on our explorations of the Saint Elias glaciers in 1886, I have visited many countries enjoying more genial climates, but returned with renewed zest and freshness this summer to Alaska, with the aim of exploring an unknown portion of this sub-Arotio region and a new pass across the mountains of British Columbia, adjacent to the scene of my previous adventures with the New York *Times* expedition of that year.

Mount St. Elias stands isolated, but behind it I saw a galaxy of snow-peaks, a sea of glittering glaciers, a collection of huge pinnacles clothed from head to foot in ice and snow, amongst which I think it doubtful if anyone will ever penetrate for any long distance, owing to the difficulties of transport. In 1888 four members of the English Alpine Club—Messrs. E. H. and H. W. Topham, G. Broke, and W. Williams—ascended to a height of 11,000 feet on the south side of St. Elias, but failed to reach the summit.

I wished this year to ascertain how far this Canadian Switzerland extended inland, and whether there was a land route to Yakutat Bay, as the Indians had told us there was.

How far inland these ranges and glaciers extend yet remains to be discovered, and I will mention later on some reasons why the country in rear of these ranges should prove to be exceptionally remarkable.

This entirely unknown country measures about 400 miles in length and 200 miles in breadth, and the larger part is situated in British territory. I penetrated but a comparatively short distance into its outer rim, the difficulty, besides the natural obstacles met with, being the extortionate demands of the Indians—and their services are indispensable as pack-carriers.

Throughout this expedition we bore the British ensign, a habit which I recommend to explorers. Besides its moral effect, both upon our-
No. II.—FEB. 1891.]

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