

# An Alpine Playground



correspondent contributes the following article to a recent issue of the London Times:

The Rockies, properly so called, are the most unearthly of the earth's mountains. Seen from the western tilted rim of the Great Plains, they have the appearance of a line of wild beast's fangs broken and discolored. They are shreds and fragments of the Devonian and carboniferous strata thrust skyward at every possible angle. Some of these fragments, miles long and many thousands of feet in thickness, have been lifted perpendicularly, so that the stratification marked on the face of

lends a charm to the alpine meadows like that which adds so much to the pleasure of mountaineering in Switzerland. But in the Canadian alpine region the color-scheme is a tone or two lower; for example, purple takes the place of blue, and so on. Furthermore, the forms of the Canadian alpine flowers are less graceful, more fantastic.

It is only within recent years that the possibilities of this alpine playground have been explored. No Indian, no pioneer of the fur-trading days, none of the Scottish explorers, whose names are so frequent on the map of Western Canada (that map, like a cemetery, is full of cold hic jacets) seems to have ascended any of the well known summits of the

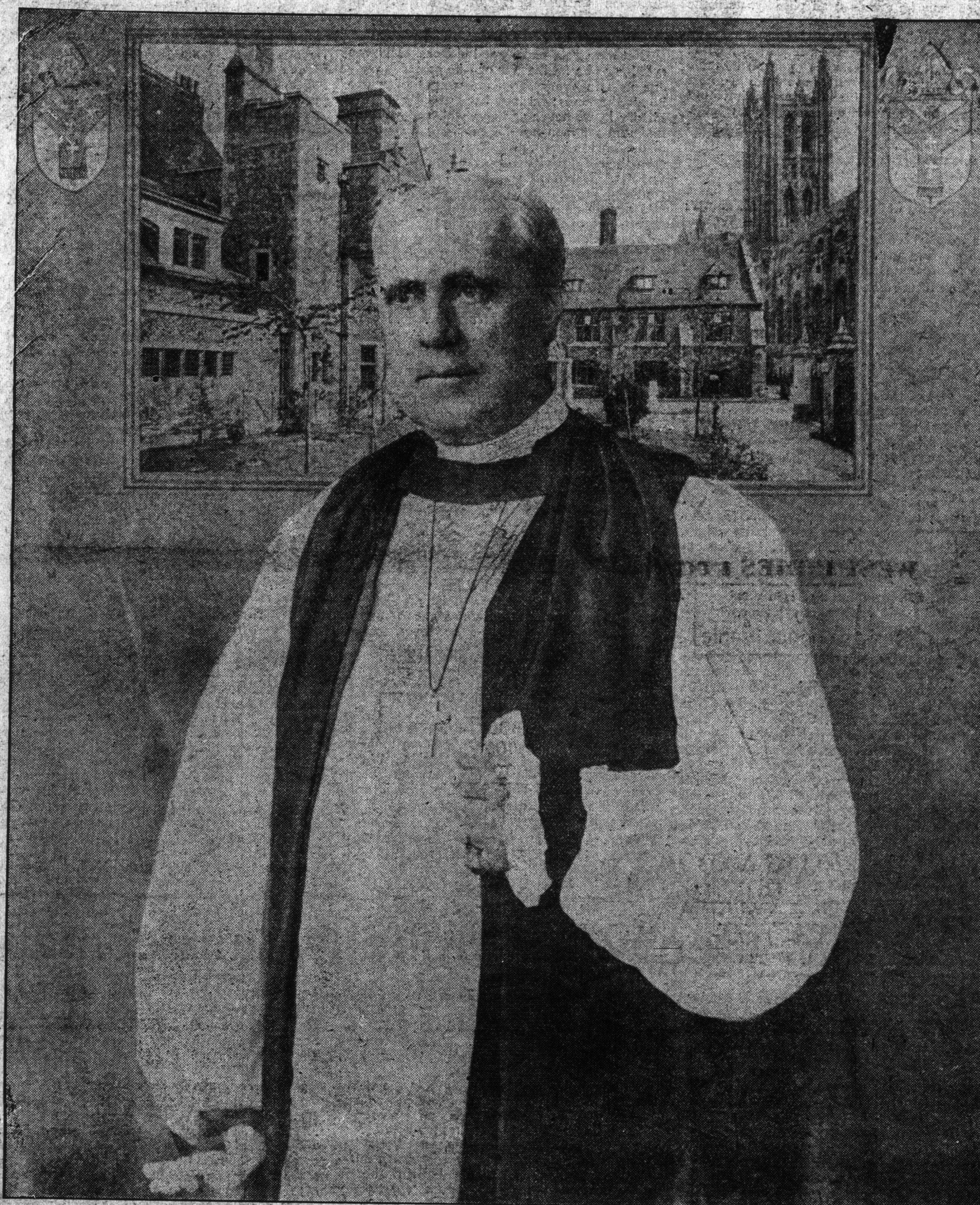
years before the organization of a Canadian branch of the American Alpine club had been discussed, and the executive of that society offered to change the title to "The Alpine Club of North America," in order to spare Canadian susceptibilities, and might even have been persuaded to alter their crest—an eagle with outspread wings above a snow-clad peak—for the same friendly reason. In the end, however, delegates met in Winnipeg at the time named, a purely Canadian society was established, and it was found that at least thirty Canadians were eligible for membership. The chief objects of the club are—(1) The exploration and scientific study of alpine regions in the Dominion; (2) the education of

constitution of the Alpine club of Canada is that which makes provision for an annual camp. In 1906 more than 100 persons, exclusive of guides, servants, and other camp-followers, went into camp on the wooded summit of the Yoho Pass. Last year 150 enthusiasts camped in Paradise Valley. This year Roger's Pass is the rendezvous, and a further increase in the numerical strength of the camp may be confidently expected. These gatherings are nothing less than colleges of mountaineering, whence the "graduating members" may obtain honorable degrees in all the branches of mountain-craft. They are admirably organized and managed, and those who attend are not called upon to indulge in "roughing it" in the pioneering sense of the term. The expenses are insignificant compared with the cost of individual mountaineering; the Canadian Pacific Railway company gives a return ticket for the station nearest the camp for a single fare, and the club management provides ponies for "packing" the visitor's belonging to the gathering place. Apart from the lessons given in snowcraft and crag-craft, a holiday in one of these summer camps, colleges en plein air, is well worth while. The climbers come from all parts of the Dominion, the characteristic geniality of Canadian open-air life pervades the community, and the veterans will do anything in their power to help and encourage the beginner. Hitherto the annual meeting of the club has been held by the grumbling flames (nothing else grumbles) of the log fires of these summer camps. But the club has made up its corporate mind to establish permanent headquarters at Banff, the capital of the "Switzerland of North America." Banff, with its herd of Buffalo, its uncanny cave—a closed mouth with white jagged teeth and sulphurous breath—and its haunted Lake Minnewanka, is too well known to require description. But, however convenient the club house there may be, the meetings held there will lack something of the charm of those which took place in camp. It should be added that serious accidents are not allowed to happen to the climbers resorting to the summer camps in the mountains. The necessity of carefulness in the smallest details—a curious carefulness is the lesson the Canadian wildernesses, the mountains in summer and the plains in winter, have gravely in the mind of every Canadian in search of adventures—is inculcated by practical object lessons, and nobody is allowed to overtax his or her strength. The membership of the club now much exceeds 300, and not a few are ladies who have conquered more than "lady's mountains." But no lady is allowed to climb if her health and physique are below the mark—a matter which is decided officially by the medical men in attendance at the camp. And, finally, it should be remembered that, in 20 years of climbing in the Rockies and Selkirk, only one life has been lost, while serious accidents have been almost unknown. As for minor accidents and other hardships, without them mountaineering in Canada or elsewhere would be devoid of fascination and merely a kind of uphill walking unworthy to be called a sport. In Canada's half of the North American Cordillera region, which has its peculiar dangers (for instance, rotten rocks), the mountaineer must learn by experiment, if he will not learn by the experience of others. But the Swiss guides in Canada are all trustworthy men. The only life sacrificed in the Rockies and Selkirk was lost before they were brought from Switzerland.

There are practically no "grazed pole" climbs in the Rockies, and the height of the loftiest peaks there falls far short of the highest Alps. In the past the heights of the more conspicuous peaks in Canada's Alpine region were much exaggerated. There is the story—probably untrue—of the railway official who went through to the coast and insisted that 1,000 ft. here and 1,500 ft. there should be added to the actual heights of the mountains seen from the observation car. "We cannot afford," he said, "to have any mountain under 10,000 ft. along our route." But difficulty rather than sheer height is the chief consideration for the mountaineer; and, if none of the known peaks are as lofty or as difficult as the most problematical Alps, yet there are few so easy as the very familiar and well trodden climbs in Switzerland. Moreover, the mountaineer who has passed out of his apprenticeship has ample scope for exploratory work in the Canadian Rockies, a mountainous belt hundreds of miles broad, and extending from the international boundary line, the 49th parallel of latitude, into the Yukon territory far beyond the Arctic circle.

"Although we know (says a competent authority) that thirteen lakes of marvellous color lie about the base of Mount Assiniboine, the Matterhorn of the Rockies; and that 100 miles north of the railway stretches a snowfield covering an area of 200 square miles at a mean elevation of 10,000 ft. above the sea, and sending down glaciers to every point of the compass; although we know that hanging Alpine meadows studded with Lysal's larch alternating with wintry passes of ice and snow are to be seen and loved for the climbing; yet we have only been playing at discovery."

For those who wish to work at discovery in this mountainous region, there is an illimitable scope, and expeditious to suit almost any purse might be arranged. The completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, which passes to the sea by the Yellowhead Pass in a series of low gradients—as originally surveyed, the Canadian Pacific was to have crossed the Rockies by that easy gateway—and was thought to avoid the fine scenery, which generally means costly engineering, will render accessible the loftiest peak in the Canadian Rockies and many other notable mountains. The new National park thus opened up may prove as interesting a climber's resort as that penetrated by the older transcontinental line.



THE PRIMATE OF ALL ENGLAND—THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY—AND HIS RESIDENCE AT CANTERBURY

these precipices, in the long, narrow snow-drifts or lines of claw-rooted pines, is as level as it was when the uplifting process had not yet begun. Others are tilted on edge, generally towards the east, in a steeply slanting position; others, again, have been bent and crumpled under prodigious side-stresses. The whole chaos is really a spectacle of the warfare of brute forces petrified in the very crisis of action and reaction. Compared with the Rockies, the Selkirk, which form the second wave in the British Columbian "sea of mountains," are classic in outline and civilized in their coloring. They rise from forest-clad bases in slow, graceful curves and lift diamond-crowned heads into a soft blue sky, warm and wet with the influences of the Pacific. The difference between the outer aspect of the Rockies and that of the Selkirk is more intimately repeated in the flora of their alpine meadows. The plants of the Rockies are hairy, wiry creatures, survivors of the fittest in the struggle against a severe winter and a stony aridity. They have not had the leisure to learn grace and acquire a lyric coloration. On the other hand, the flora of the Selkirk

Rockies and the Selkirk. A member of the original Alpine club was the first to climb and explore the Selkirk when the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway had rendered them accessible. The Rev. W. Spotswood Green, F.R.G.S., was the topographical pioneer of this fascinating range. He climbed Mount Bonney, Mount Abbott, and a spur of Mount Macdonald, failed to conquer the summit of Sir Donald, and explored several glaciers and snow passes, including the Illecillewaet glacier, the Lily glacier and pass, the Asulkan glacier, and the pass to Geikie glacier. This he did in 1888, eleven years before Swiss guides were brought in. Afterwards British and American climbers successfully attacked the many peaks to which the mountain-section of the only Canadian transcontinental railway gave access in the short summer seasons. But it was only the other day, so to speak, that a Canadian society was established for carrying on the work systematically.

The Alpine club of Canada was founded in March, 1906, largely as the result of the efforts of Mr. A. O. Wheeler, F.R.C.S., of the Dominion Topographical Survey. For some

the Canadian people in the knowledge of their mountains; (3) the encouragement of all forms of mountain-craft; (4) the preservation of the natural beauties of Canadian Alpine regions and of the flora and fauna found there; and (5) the interchange of literature with other organizations of a similar kind. The qualification for efficient membership requires either an ascent of at least 10,000 ft. above sea-level in any alpine region in any part of the world, or some contribution of scientific value to the literature of the Rockies and Selkirk. There are a number of honorary members, including the Right Hon. James Bryce, and several associate members, of whom Sir Sandford Fleming and "Ralph Connor" are the best known. Then there are subscribing members, whose function it is to contribute two dollars a year to the funds of the club and to receive its publications. Lastly, there are "graduating members," persons who wish to become efficient members, but are not yet qualified, the period of probation being limited to two years—a limitation which accentuates the keenness of these probationers.

Perhaps the most interesting clause in the

minutes. He is not afraid of plain speaking, and during his tenure of office has made some determined attacks on various social evils. He is a capable administrator, and has increased the number of clergy in his province, especially in the sparsely populated districts of Victoria, besides establishing Anglican grammar schools at various centres.

Dr. Barlow, the Bishop of Goulburn, another Australian prelate, has many interesting things to say about the work in New South Wales. His diocese is almost exactly the size of England; and one of his great difficulties is the need of clergy. They have no large town or centres. There are six or seven places with from 3,000 to 6,000 people, and the remainder are mostly spread all over the country in groups of 250 to 300 at about the same number of miles from one another.

Cricketing curates are as common as blackberries in autumn, but a cricketing bishop is surely a novelty. Such, however, is an apt description of the Right Rev. Cecil Wilson, D.D., Bishop of Melanesia. He was born in 1860, and educated at Tonbridge School, where he became captain of the cricket eleven. After studying medicine for a year at Jesus College, Cambridge, he decided to take orders, and subsequently served as curate of Portsea, and vicar of Moordown, near Bournemouth. 1894 was a red-letter year in his life, for it was in that year he was consecrated to the see of Melanesia; and, being a regular member of the Kent county eleven, under Lord Harris's captaincy, he that year played in the only county eleven which beat the Australians.

One interesting result of his connection was that during the Canterbury week the club sent round a circular amongst the people attending the cricket-matches, soliciting subscriptions towards the provision for him of a new missionary steamship—a very necessary equipment for a diocese of the extent and nature of Melanesia, which includes the Northern New Hebrides, the Banks Island, Torres Island, Santa Cruz, and the Solomon Islands. The see stretches 1,200 miles along the Pacific; and although the scenery and vegetation are magnificent, the region is dangerously malarial.

Nowhere have the results of missionary work been more wonderful than in Melanesia. About a thousand converts are baptised every year. There are several native clergymen, one of whom, the Rev. Clement Marau, built a church at Ulawa, Solomon Islands, constructed of slabs of coral. The lectern and steps of the altar were inlaid with mother-of-pearl. It took him five years to complete his task.

An idea of the conditions in Melanesia will be gained from the fact that climatic reasons necessitate Norfolk Island being made the headquarters of the mission, although it is 800 miles from the main groups. Schools have been established, at which 200 boys and girls are always under instruction. Each circuit-voyage of the mission-ship extends over 5,000 miles. During the hurricane season the ship harbors at Norfolk Island. About 20,000 people attend the schools, and go to prayers morning and evening. They are eager and quick to learn, and many of them know English. From the printing-presses in Norfolk Island publications are issued in twenty-five dialects.

From the diocese of Western Equatorial Africa comes Bishop Tugwell, who has worked in Africa since 1889, when he went out as Church Missionary Society secretary to Lagos. He is a man of great intellectual character and power, and warmly supported the Royal Niger Company in its efforts to deliver an oppressed people and to put down slavery and develop trade.

Missionary work is developing in all directions in the interior of Africa.

The native Church is self-supporting, and last year raised over £12,000. Industrial institutions, where useful trades are taught, have been opened at Abeokuta, towards the support of which the Abake of Abeokuta has made an annual grant of £100.

One of Bishop Tugwell's assistants is the Right Rev. Isaac Oluwole, D.D., who is also a delegate to the Congress. He was born at Abeokuta. His parents were converted a few years before his birth. He studied at Fourah Bay College, and obtained his Durham B.A. He was consecrated as assistant-bishop in the diocese of Western Equatorial Africa in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1893.

Uganda is one of the last places into which the Gospel has been introduced, for it was but thirty years ago that the first missionaries began working there. For nearly twenty years now has Dr. Tucker held the bishopric of Eastern Equatorial Africa. The diocese is about 1,500 miles long, and the same distance across; and this vast district contains, it is estimated, some 15,000,000 inhabitants.

The natives possess a marvellous ability to teach one another, and many know how to read who have never seen a white man, the number of those who read attached to the mission stations being calculated at 60,000.

Some of Bishop Tucker's personal visits involve journeys lasting a year. He estimates that he has travelled 20,000 miles—mainly on foot—across, steep, mountainous districts, by awe-inspiring lakes, and through dark, dreary forests. He has met the mannikins of whom Stanley spoke, the pigmy race in that dense and trackless forest through which no white man was ever known to pass before, and found them tractable, and was in great hopes of bringing them well under the ameliorating Christian influence.

Dr. Reginald Stephen Copleston, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, is a singularly gifted man. In 1875 he was ordained priest, admitted to the degree of D.D., and consecrated to the see of Colombo, celebrating his thirtieth birthday only two days prior to the last-named event.