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DEUTSCHMAN CAVE

THE MARVELLOUS CAVERNS OF THE SELKIRKS

Story of the Recent Discoveries near Glacier, B.C., with Illustrations taken Specially For This Article.

By BRUCE BENNET.



CHAS. H. DEUTSCHMAN, Of Revelstoke, Discoverer of the Caves.

fragrance filling the valley. Rivulets come dashing down from the snow and ice, which still cling to the mountain tops, affording satisfying draughts to the thirsty traveller. At the head of the valley, there was some snow, as it was only the latter end of May, but this will have disappeared under the warmth of the summer sun. Early rises the next morning behind a scene which may only be obtained in the higher altitudes, where the atmosphere is brilliantly clear. The snows of the peaks seemed as silver in the radiance of the beams of dawn, a splendid array of towering crags stretching in all directions. Beyond Glacier house, was Sir Donald, the king of peaks, with its 16,000 feet of height; Mount Abbott, familiar to those who have stopped off and climbed its slopes; the glacier; and nearer, and directly opposite, Mount Bonney, while close at hand was Ross Peak—all forming a sky-scene of great range, brown and grey and white, and below the green of the grassy declivity valley. Admiration was spontaneous.

The whole party explored the first entrance, progress being facilitated by short ladders which had been constructed by the guide and placed in position. A small stream runs through the cavern, a small branch of the river which dashes down the slope and which, before its gorges was turned, flowed through the limestone formation and hollowed out the vast chambers in the interior of the mountain. Entrance was easy, the opening being into a large auditorium with arched roof. The cave is a series of chambers, with large entrances, the cell-



ICE WHERE THE RIVER LEAVES THE GLACIER; TURBULENT WATER IS FOAMING UNDERNAT

were fast melting, and prettily reflected the light of the lanterns. About 400 feet is a gigantic chamber, an immense hollow right in the heart of the hill. This is about 100 feet in height, with a varying width of from 120 to 200 feet, with immense columns standing out in relief from the granite walls, and here and there a stalactite, where the fine has been through openings in the ceiling. The walls sparkle with the quartz crystals, and myriads of miniature lights are reflected from the darkness.

Another outlet or inlet of the cavern developed one of the greatest wonders of all. After proceeding a couple of hundred feet, and descending half that distance a deep well was encountered. By throwing a large stone down, the depth was ascertained to be nearly 300 feet, and far below in the depths of the cavern, the river, which rushed through the canyon outside, could be heard



DEUTSCHMAN, FORDE, AYRES AND DOUGLAS.

water rumbles away below, and the drop is sheer down 150 feet. The cold winds from the mountain top prevented the water's ice from being sufficiently melted to allow the party to make its way in, but the engineers discovered what might appropriately be termed ice crystals, a very unusual and exceedingly pretty frost formation. These were in solid blocks a little over an inch thick, and adhered to the side of the cave. The surface looked like a miniature giant's casaway, the cubical sections being un-

rumbling. All through the caves the murmurs of waters give an indescribable charm to the wild solitudes.

"The whole mountain is honeycombed," was the opinion expressed by Mr. Ayres, the Dominion government engineer, after the examination had been completed. "The perennial snows and glaciers of the farther heights have furnished abundant water through numberless years, and the limestone has been washed and pored into all these fantastic and interesting shapes. The cave, or caves, are of immense magnitude, and surpass anything of the kind I have ever seen. It is difficult to say just where they end, and further exploration should discover even greater chambers and more colossal caverns than what we have seen."

Natural bridges extend over the canyon at a height of 100 feet or more, and were evidently formed by the water in the first stages of its great undertaking in carving the limestone. As one comes up the railway from Revelstoke, a peculiar blue limestone juts out, standing, as it were, as one of the sentries to the entrance of the valley. This extends back to the base of the granite peaks, except where it has been broken by the power of the sliding rock-sides or crushing snow avalanches. Over this mass of soft rock the river once ran, and gradually wore a channel which is now deeply subterranean. It winds and drops in the heart of the mountain, forming the great caverns, and leaving majestic columns, perfect arches, raftered domes, granite bridges, little ledges—all in shapes grotesque, fantastic and artistic.

W. S. AYRES, Consulting and Mechanical Engineer, Who Reported for the Government.

AT THE head of a beautiful valley in the mountains of British Columbia, which have made the Canadian transcontinental railway the best scenic route in the world, have been found extensive subterranean caverns, which, until another name is suggested, will be known after the discoverer, and called

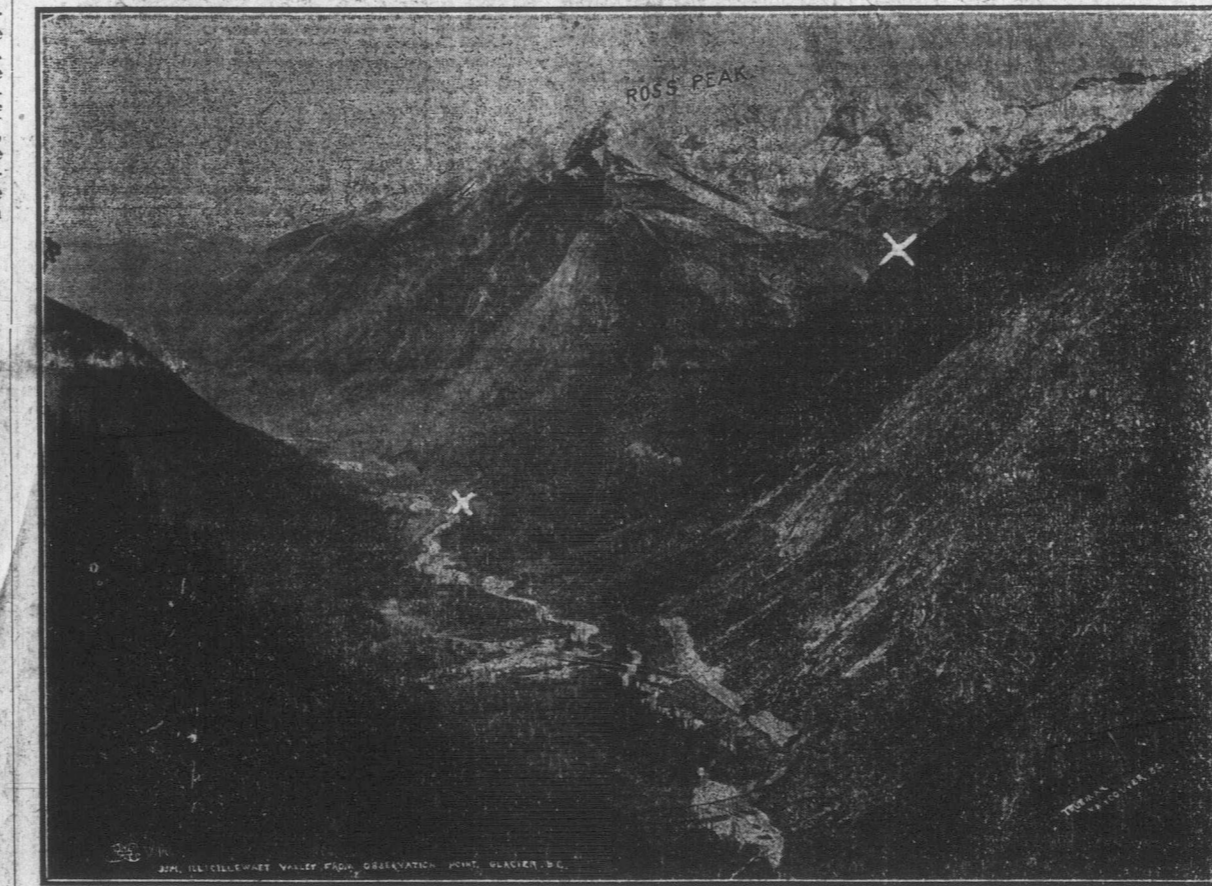
in the same valley which was recommended to the railway company as the place for a mountain chalet, by Mr. A. Wheeler, the engineer who made the topographical survey of the Selkirk, because of the very attractive beauty of the scene. With a southerly aspect, some of the famous giant peaks of the whole range and the great glacier grandly rise immediately opposite, and the soft green of the valley, dotted with



FIRST EXPLORING PARTY WITH CORRESPONDENT SWISS GUIDE IN REAR, DISCOVERER IN CENTRE, TAKEN AT THE CAMP.

"Deutschman's Cave." The particular location is about six miles from the world-famed Alsenum glacier, on the C. P. R., in between two of the rocky ridges of the majestic Selkirk range, and lying at the foot of one of the myriad snow-capped peaks which give such an air of grandeur to the mountain scenery. The cave is, by a most fortunate coincidence,

thousands of rare mountain flowers, stretching downward to the railway track, which is in view, form a picture, with the verdure of the grass, the darker lines of the forest, the blue of the ice, and the dazzling white of the summit snow, unequalled in the artistic eye. The finding of the cave, like many another discovery was made by one of



VALLEY OF ILLEGELBWAET RIVER, JUST WEST OF THE FAMOUS SELKIRK LOOPS. CROSS SHOWS WHERE THE VALLEY OF THE CAVES TERMINATES AT THE RAILWAY, AND THE OTHER ON THE MOUNTAIN SHOWS THE LOCATION OF THE NEW WONDER.

those nomads of the mountains, hunters and prospectors, and took place last fall. Mr. Charles Deutschman, of Revelstoke, while hunting bears ran across one of the entrances, which he explored for some considerable distance. Subsequently, he located other entrances, leading to different parts, all of which are connected far underground. The world hardly realizes what it owes to the men who, with a pack on their back, a gun and a prospector's hammer, climb into almost inaccessible regions, and return after many months' time with a knowledge of discoveries which have aroused the interest of the world. Its curiosity and wonder. Such men found the Klondike's hidden gold; located the treasures, in fact, of the mountains which form the backbone of the whole American continent; led the way for civilization into the vast territory of the West, between the Mississippi river and the Great Lakes and the Pacific ocean; they are in fact the advance guards of the nations, the discoverers of the world. Solitudes have charms for them, and their hardy physiques are led by the increasing fascination. Charles Deutschman is one such man. The mountains hold few secrets from him, even to the great Mackenzie river basin. His first exploration of the cavern, single-handed as he was, is one of the testimonials to his hardihood and courage.

The discovery of the cave took place last fall, and as the winter precluded the possibility of exploring its recesses, it was not until a few weeks ago that the first party ascended the slope with Mr. Deutschman as guide. Among those who went up were Mr. Howard Douglas, superintendent of National Parks, Banff, who acted in the interests of the Dominion government, and was assisted by Mr. W. S. Ayres, consulting engineer, who has forwarded a report of the trip to Ottawa, in accordance with instructions. Mr. J. P. Forde, resident engineer at Revelstoke of the Canadian Pacific railway, who attended in his official capa-

city; A. Johnson, of the Revelstoke Herald; R. E. Benson, photographer of Fremont's studio; Revelstoke; A. McAlpine, postmaster; C. B. MacDonald, of the Canada Drug & Book Company; C. M. Field, of Messrs. Sibbald & Field; W. Smythe, J. Burns, George Lemke, city electrician; R. H. Rogers and James Lappan, all of Revelstoke; and R. B. Bennett, of the News-Advertiser, Vancouver. Mr. Ford reported to the company immediately upon his return, recommending that an appropriation of \$1,200 be made for the construction of a trail, and \$200 or \$300 to build ladders, etc., to facilitate exploration and sight-seeing. Mr. Ayres, who has travelled America and Europe, pronounced the cavern as something far surpassing anything he ever saw, and thinks that complete investigation will reveal a cave of great magnitude and attractive interest. The climb to the 1,900 foot elevation was through acres of flowers, principal of which was the dog-tooth violet, the

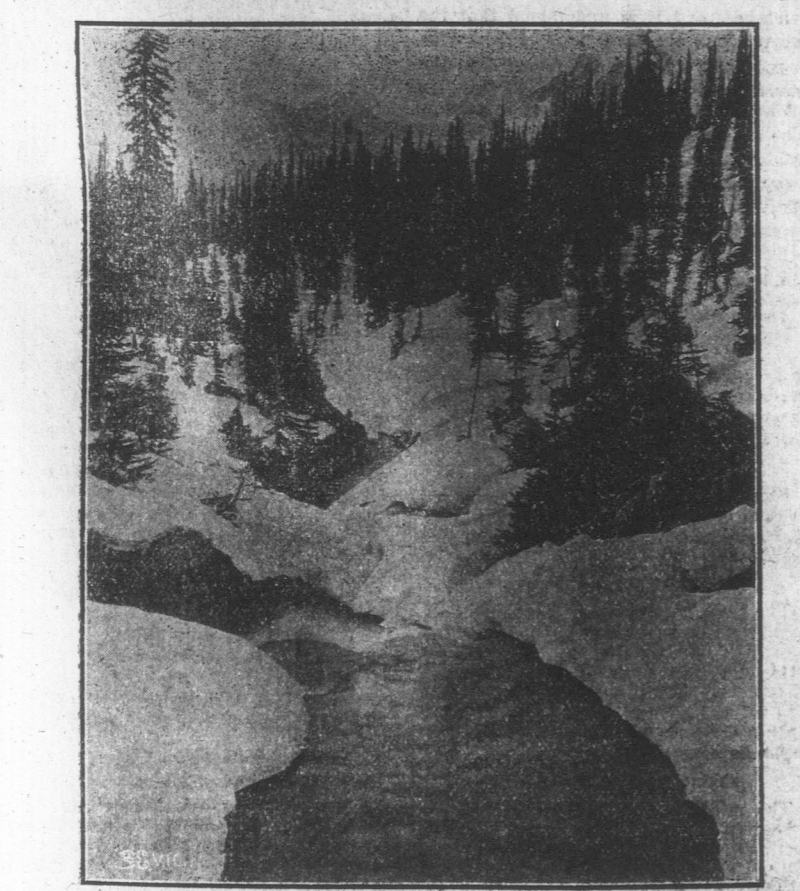


HOWARD DOUGLAS, Superintendent Rocky Mountain Park of Canada.

and a natural bridge a short distance in the place where other streams in ages past, had worn two other passages through the mountain. Vast bowls of water are all that are left at the foot of the places where waterfalls tumbled and gorged out the rock. None are deep, however, and slim like ledges afforded an easy method of progress. After proceeding between two and three hundred feet and descending about 100 feet or more, large icicles were encountered. These



PARK SUPT. DOUGLAS, Taken at the Camp.



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about nine miles more or
of commencement.
WALTER FORDE,
JOHN J. DOUGAN,
E. H. FORREST.
ion, May 1st, 1905.

REGISTRY ACT."
of an Application for a
the Certificate of Title to
Highland District.
by given that it is my in-
piration of one month
publication hereof to issue
a Certificate of Title issued
per Act on the 13th
d numbered 321c.
S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registry-General.
Office,
B. C., July 3rd, 1905.

by given that, 90 days after
to apply to the Chief Com-
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the following described land:
the Coast District, Range
at a stake at the northwest
marked W. D. McIntosh, con-
ing west 40 chains, thence
to the northern boundary
the east 40 chains along the
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of commencement, com-
more or less.
W. D. M'INTOSH, JR.
1905.

ely given that, sixty days
intend to apply to the Chief
ands and Works to pur-
following described land:
southeast corner post, ex-
star, near Porter's Landing,
nce north 40 chains, thence
thence south to the lake
following the lake shore to
commencement, and contains
or less.

toria, B. C., 19th May, 1905.
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school building in Victoria
11,000 for the extension of
lighting plant.