

## THE ALBERTELLA FAUNA.

The *Albertella* fauna has had an interesting history. It was first discovered in 1905 by Mr. C. D. Walcott<sup>1</sup> in a shale 75 feet above a quartzitic sandstone on Gordon creek, 6 miles from the south fork of Flathead river, Ovando quadrangle (U.S. Geol. Survey), Powell county, Montana. In 1907, drift blocks up to several tons in weight were discovered on the south slope of Mount Bosworth about 500 feet northwest of the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway between Hector and Stephen, British Columbia.<sup>2</sup> The duplication between these drift blocks and the original locality in Montana is nearly perfect, specimens from the two localities containing at least four identical species and being almost interchangeable. At the time the drift blocks were discovered their horizon in the section could not be located and subsequent attempts have likewise proven futile. The fossiliferous shale carrying the *Albertella* fauna, an assemblage of more than a dozen species, is at least 4 feet thick, yet the only trace of its presence in the measured sections is a fragment of one specimen referred to the genus from which the fauna derives its name. On Mount Stephen, 8 miles away, the beds with which the *Albertella* fauna is correlated, and which themselves contain fragments referable to the genus, are overlain and underlain by *Olenellus*, and the *Albertella* fauna was, therefore, assigned to the Lower Cambrian.<sup>3</sup>

In a recent publication Walcott<sup>4</sup> mentions finding the *Albertella* fauna in the Mount Robson region of British Columbia, 150 miles north of the main line of the Canadian Pacific. Curiously enough the fauna was there also found in drift blocks, though their horizon was located in the measured section. It is described as occurring 550 feet above the top of the Lower Cambrian in the Chetang limestone, yet the apparently contradictory statement is made<sup>5</sup> that it "occurs at about the same horizon in the Mount Bosworth section" where it has been referred to the Lower Cambrian. A large part of the discussion of the basal

<sup>1</sup> Mon. U. S. Geol. Survey, vol. 51, Pt. I, p. 168, locality 4v.

<sup>2</sup> Idem, p. 197, locality 35c.

<sup>3</sup> Walcott: Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 53, No. 5, 1909, pp. 203 and 214

<sup>4</sup> Smithsonian Misc. Coll. vol. 57, No. 12, 1913, p. 338.

<sup>5</sup> Idem.