

could see the old river bed, examined the back channel and now crawled into the entrance.

Procuring a light, he proceeded through a natural tunnel and descending 150 feet, reached the first landing. Advancing another 100 feet he was astonished to find himself in a vast chamber 150 feet wide, the dome appearing as though rounded and fashioned by skilled artisans. The scene was at once novel and impressive, but no symptoms of animal, game or insect life were noticeable, although the ceaseless roll and pounding of the subterranean channels could be



Whistler's Falls.

heard for a great distance. Naturally enough, Deutschman endeavoured to benefit by his discovery, but after making application for the right to control it, found that many impediments existed, more particularly a Dominion statute, reserving certain properties such as natural springs, caves, etc., in the interests of the general public. Deutschman was well advised and, to make assurance doubly sure, "located" mineral claims on the north slope of Cougar Creek, including the cave surface, and controlling the entrance, the posts being marked "Skookum" and "Drumlummon."

The Province of British Columbia is entitled to the minerals contained in what is known as the Twenty-Mile Railway Belt, and as Deutschman's claims were recorded and certificates issued, any disagreement between the Dominion and Provincial Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway would have led to rather

costly litigation. Happily this did not occur as a satisfactory understanding was arrived at.

Soon after the discovery of this cave a party left Glacier and Revelstoke, proceeding to the west slope of the Selkirks, reaching the head waters of Cougar Creek after a gradual ascent of less than 2,000 feet, and two miles and a half from Glacier Station, and approached a massive structure seemingly carved by the hand of man. Deutschman became alert, holding his rifle in readiness in case of grizzlies. He said, "We will cross the natural bridge." The roar and rumbling drowned any ordinary voice, as the visitors neared the bridge under which Cougar Creek flows for 350 feet. It is called "Gopher Bridge."

Far up, cascades seemingly emerging from the rugged bosom of Cougar Mountain, leap wildly over a series of bench rocks, flowing into the Creek. These cascades are known as "Whistler's Falls"—the "Whistler" being a species of prairie "gopher" but really a cross between the gopher and red squirrel. Crossing the east end of Gopher Bridge, a succession of bubbling streams, swelled by the melting of snow in the mountains, sparkle like rolls of silver when the sun's rays reach them; wave sweeps over wave, with picturesque effects, completing what is pronounced to be perfect mountain scenery. Seeking a point of vantage, a panorama, solemn, impressive and grand beyond imagination, bursts upon the view. Turning towards the northeast Mount Sir Donald (named after the present Lord Strathcona) looms high above its surrounding rivals. North and east the Great Glacier appears. Between Mount Sir Donald and Whistler's Falls stands Mount Cougar, while to the west Illecillewaet (pronounced "Ille-silly-wet") is seen southwest. From a point west of the caves, massive ice and snow laden peaks extend for miles—glimpses of Ross' Peak, abrupt pyramids, massive crags and stately monoliths are noticeable, until the observer, is appalled by the wierd grandeur of his surroundings.

At the east end of a second natural crossing, called Mill Bridge (about 240 feet in length), Cougar Creek drops into