

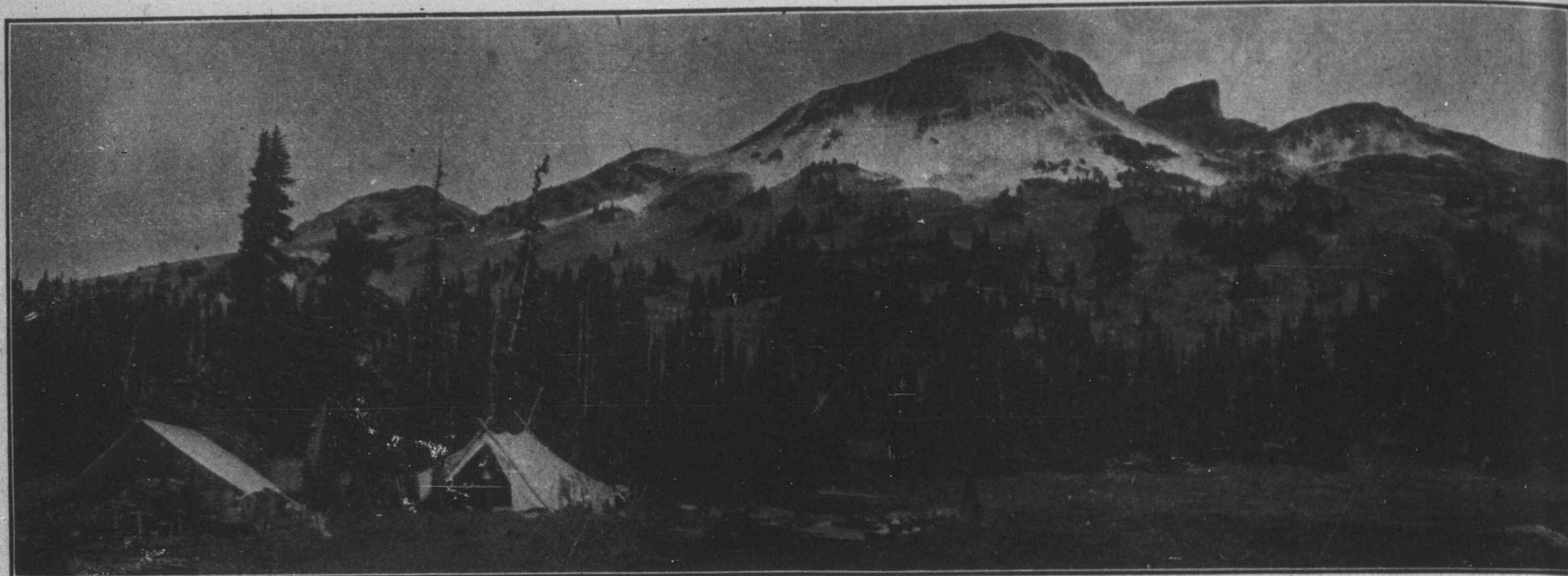


Photo by the late W. J. Gray

*Black Tusk Meadows*

What pictures unfold themselves on every side—a thousand pictures, and each so perfect in itself! To the north there rise the flower-carpeted slopes of the Black Tusk, then the ridge, and 800 feet above the ridge a peculiar black monolith. With an altitude of 7,350 feet, it is visible from every part of the compass, and on a clear day may even be seen from the north end of Bowen Island in Howe Sound. The "tusk" is composed of basalt with perpendicular columns which in places are quite isolated, but fast decomposing and falling to pieces. It is of volcanic origin, in fact the whole area is volcanic and is full of the most interesting phenomena, telling of a time of a comparatively recent date (geologically) when these peaks were wrapt in dark sulphurous clouds and streams of molten rock flowed down the slopes to the valleys below. At first glance it would seem impossible for any climber to scale its perpendicular sides, but on nearer view, deep fissures or alpine "chimneys" may be seen which offer a comparatively easy pathway, dangerous only because of falling stones. Mountain goat, ptarmigan, and marmot are frequently seen on its ridges, and at times even a wolf or bear.

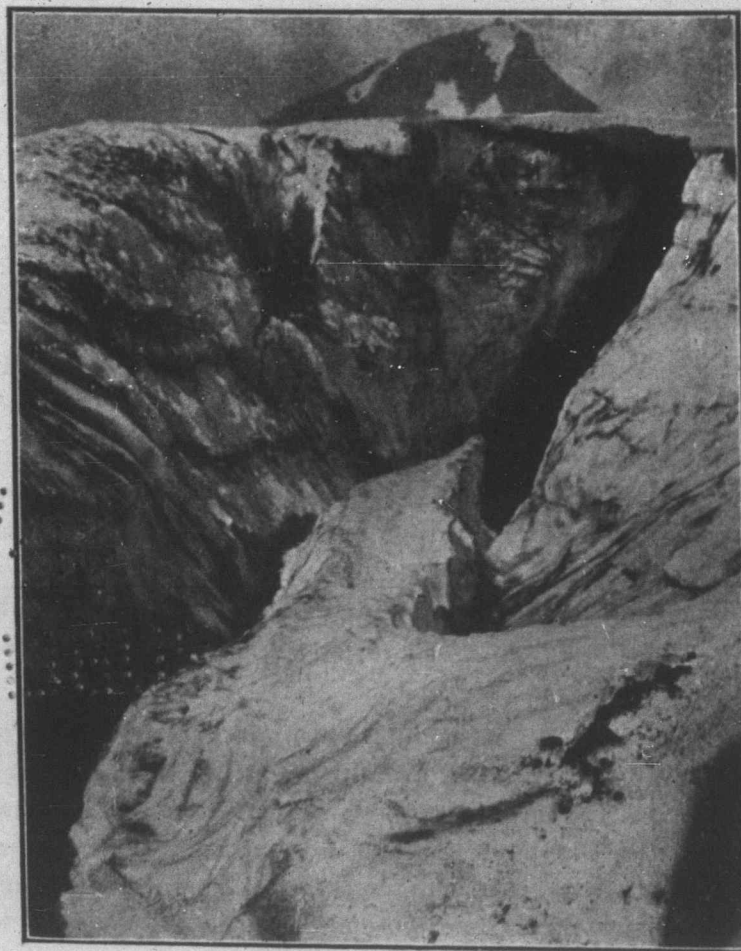
Wandering a little to the east of the Meadows, we reach a fine cascade, 200 feet high, which drains a hanging valley with ice-covered lakes. These lakes are fed by Helmet Glacier, which is divided into two parts by a ridge which at first sight looks like a glacial moraine, but which in reality is a volcanic crater, a tufa cone, 500 feet high. The crater at the summit is about 60 feet deep, and is generally filled with water and ice. On the south side, a stream from the glacier has left a section of the cone exposed, where the faulted layers of volcanic tufa may be clearly seen and easily examined.

Rising above Helmet Glacier to the south stands Panorama Ridge, and to the east Corrie Ridge. The view from the latter is most inspiring. Below is the perfect "V"-shaped valley, leading gradually up the slopes of Gentian Ridge, which lies at the foot of Castle Towers (8,000 feet), with a deeply crevassed glacier hanging on its side.

But we must not go too far afield. Returning to the Meadows we look southward, and there, 400 feet below us, is Garibaldi Lake. What a gem it is! Readers would probably smile if the writer should venture to compare it to Lake Louise or Loch Lomond or Derwentwater or Lake Lucerne, but no one who has ever seen Lake Garibaldi would smile at the comparison, for they well know that it is no mean rival to its better known sisters. It is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and 2 miles wide, fed chiefly by two extensive glaciers, the Sentinel and the Sphinx, which come to the water's edge. Like

all glacial lakes, its color is its chief charm, ever changing from bright emerald green to a deep turquoise blue as the shadows from cloud and mountain-peak play upon its surface. When no wind disturbs its calm, it forms a perfect mirror in which is reflected the amphitheatre of hills, glaciers and snowfields. I venture to predict that before twenty-five years pass it will be the chief scenic attraction of the lower mainland.

Rising from its southern shores is a wondrous panorama,—Castle Towers, Sphinx and Sentinel peaks, the Table, Red mountain, and above and beyond all, glorious Garibaldi. At one time an active volcano, but now peacefully clad in ice and snow, it stands as a majestic old giant. It has an altitude of 8,700 feet, which may seem rather small for a first-class peak, but it must be remembered that it rises practically from sea-level. If it were transferred to Lake Louise in the Rockies, it would tower above all the surrounding peaks; even Lefroy, Aberdeen and Hungabee would bow before it. Six splendid glaciers hang on its slopes—Lava, Pyramid, Garibaldi, Pitt, Sentinel and Warren glaciers. It may be climbed

*A Yawning Crevasse*