

## ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA

*Fatal Avalanche at Lake Louise.* On March 26th, 1945, about five o'clock in the afternoon, nine skiers from the East, including Hermann Gadner, formerly of Obergürgl, Austria, and more recently ski instructor at St. Jovite, Quebec, were skiing on the N.E. slope of the long S.E. ridge of Mt. Richardson near Lake Louise, when a large avalanche engulfed most of the party and completely buried two. One of these, Mrs. Newman, had fortunately held up a ski pole. A small segment of the pole's basket visible above the snow was discovered in about ten minutes and shortly thereafter we succeeded in uncovering her head. She soon recovered consciousness and was removed from the snow unhurt.

An hour of systematic probing with the longest available poles failed to locate Gadner and it was only after reworking the most likely area with pole plus full arm length, a slow and difficult proceeding, that we finally found him in an almost upright position with head six feet below the surface.

Digging with skis and hands, his head was uncovered within about eighty minutes of burial. He had every appearance of being dead. For over an hour, Royal Little blew air into his lungs, while the rest of us tunneled to reach and release his feet from his skies, which were buried 12 ft. deep. Color was gradually returning, but he did not resume breathing.

Immediately after the accident, Mrs. Cabot skied to Mt. Temple Chalet for help. The first of the rescue party arrived about 7.45, just before Gadner was pulled from the snow. Toboggan and blankets came more than an hour later. In the meantime, Gadner, who was lightly clothed, was wrapped in available clothing and great effort was made to restore him to life; but it was all to no avail.

The slope on which the avalanche occurred was 25 to 30° and 400 to 500 ft. high. The snow on this N.E. exposure was settled powder over unconsolidated granular and averaged about three feet deep. Recognizing the hazard in the wide snow bowl flanking the ridge, the party was descending close to the rocky point at its eastern end and all were within a few yards of the edge of the avalanche, which slid simultaneously throughout a total width of more than half a mile.

THOMAS D. CABOT

*Foster Peak.* Flight-Lieut. J. S. T. Gibson contributes the following information on this and other climbs of 1942 (see *A.J.* 54, 399; where "Easter Pk." should be Foster Pk.). From Floe Lake crossed meadows and moraines, then the lower part of a small glacier followed by more screes, in an ascending traverse to a col at the N. side of the mountain (extreme right as seen from Floe Lake.) At col turn left and climb rocks: interesting and

intricate route without great difficulty, 800' to broken ground between lower and upper cliffs. Then up smooth slabs at easy angle, steepening as they approach upper cliff. The last bit before the upper cliff is a steep slab, climbed by a crack running up its face, to a knife-edge arête separated from the main face by a gulley 20' wide and 1000' deep. The arête connects with the main face, and another 800' of moderately difficult climbing leads to the ridge about 100' below the summit. Ascent from Floe Lake, 4 h.; descent by same route.

*Mt. Blakiston.* A cairn was found on the summit; no details of first ascent. From camp beside Blakiston Brook (6.30 A.M.) through trees by river cross and ascend side valley past a waterfall into a high corrie. Turn right above waterfall and proceed up grassy shoulder (until 9.20 A.M.) to point where grass gives way to rock. This is the ridge which is at the right-hand end of the mountain as seen from the Waterton Park road at the bottom of the valley. About 1000' of rock and scree now separates one from the summit ridge, which is reached without difficulty. A direct traverse along the summit ridge is prevented by a vertical step of about 200'. On left (S.) side, the face is vertical but on the right it slopes down at a fairly easy angle, and it is possible to descend and traverse around the vertical rocks. Thence up rocks and snow couloirs to the ridge about 300' below the summit, and from there zigzagging ledges and more snow couloirs to the summit, which is a narrow ridge with cornice on S. (June 8th).

In the neighborhood of Mt. Blakiston there are few other Canadian peaks worth climbing, many being rounded domes with pony trails to their summits.

*Climber's Guide to the Rocky Mountains of Canada.* Mr. M. P. Bridgland, formerly of the Dominion Land Survey of Canada and a member of our Club since 1903, has sent the editor a complete list of his many ascents, indicating changes in the guidebook (corrected edition, 1943), as follows: The Topographical Survey made first ascents of the following: Bonnet Mtn. (p. 50) in 1914; Wapiti Mtn. (p. 58) in 1918; Sheol (p. 81) in 1903; Wampum Pk. (p. 123) in 1919. Unnamed 10,174' (p. 131) is now Smoky Mtn. and was ascended in 1919. Conical Pk. (p. 164) and an unnamed peak 1.5 mi. S.E. of the latter were first ascended by the Topographical Survey in 1924; also Mt. Siffleur (p. 166). The Topographical Survey also made the following first ascents: unlisted Unnamed 10,054' (p. 167; 5 mi. S.E. of Mt. Coleman and on opposite side of Sunset Pass) in 1927; Unnamed 10,054' (p. 167; N.E. of Wildfowl Lakes) in 1927; Unnamed 10,264' (p. 216; E. of Job Pass) in 1928; Unnamed 9717' (p. 217; between forks of Brazeau River) in 1928. Unnamed 9500' (p. 217; ascended in