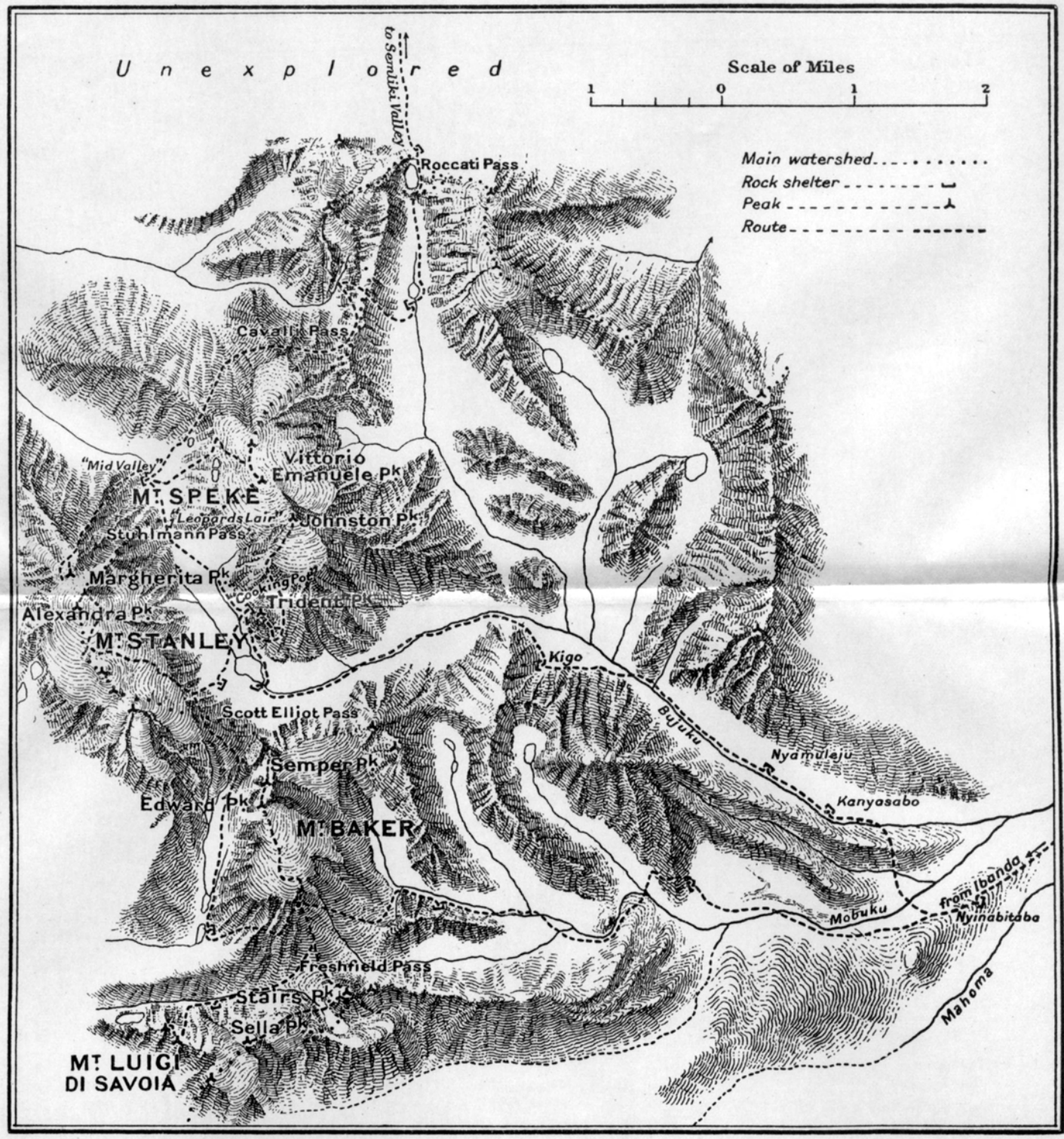

Unexplored
to Semliki Valley
Scale of Miles
1 0 1 2
Main watershed
Rock shelter
Peak
Route
Roccati Pass
Cavalli Pass
"Mid Valley"
Vittorio Emanuele Pk
Mt. SPEKE
"Leopards Lair"
Johnston Pk
Stuhlmann Pass
Margherita Pk
Cooking Pot
Trident Pk
Alexandra Pk
Mt. STANLEY
Kigo
Bujuku
Scott Elliot Pass
Semper Pk
Nyamuleju
Edward Pk
Kanyasabo
Mt. BAKER
from Ibanda
Mobuku
Nyinabitaba
Freshfield Pass
Stairs Pk
Sella Pk
Mahoma
Mt. LUIGI DI SAVOIA

Kostandakos, July 20, 1920 (whose name Kurz found at the summit); F. K. Kuhn, Aug. 3, 1921; Winona Bailey, Seattle, U.S.A., Aug. 23, 1922; St. Kotsios, 1925; L. R. Frazeur, Chicago and Haliburton, N.Y., U.S.A. (no dates). The last five of these names, together with the words 'Pic Vénisélos,' we found inscribed on rocks at the summit. In 1923 Helmut Scheffel ('Eine antike Opferstätte auf dem Olymp,' *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Athenische Abteilung*, Band XXXXVII., 1922 (pub. 1924)) records an ascent to the summit for the purpose of archæological exploration. C. Jacot-Guillarmod (Bulletin de la Soc. Neuchâteloise de Geog., 1924) gives some account of the geology of the Olympus district.

C. M. Sleeman.

Ruwenzori.

By G. N. HUMPHREYS.

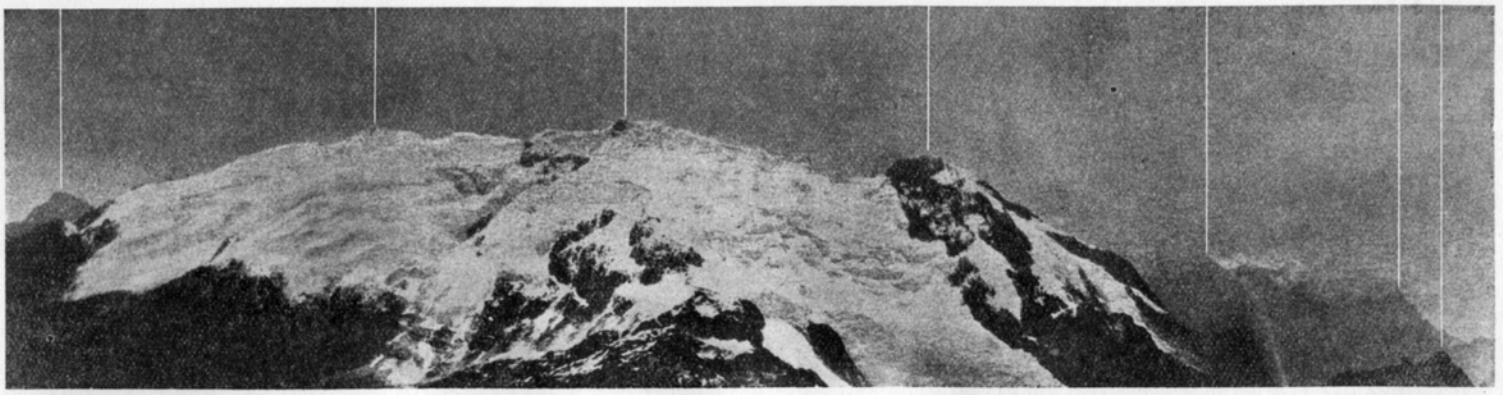
(Read before the Alpine Club, February 1, 1927.)

SINCE the expedition of H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi in 1906 until last year no fresh ground had been covered in the Ruwenzori[1] range and no peak climbed. In 1926, however, two small expeditions to the range were able to break new ground.

The first expedition left Fort Portal on January 30, and returned, nine days overdue, on March 9; it was jointly undertaken by D. Stedman Davies, Uganda Civil Service, E. H. Armitage and the writer. By the date arranged for the start of the expedition there had been collected at Fort Portal seventy outfits, consisting each of sweater, vest, shorts and blanket; also fifty extra blankets and fifteen sets of boots and stockings. In addition to this, food for the Europeans had been collected ready packed in convenient loads, and arrangements had been made for loads of millet flour to be ready at Ibanda for the native members of the expedition. The porters engaged at Fort Portal were replaced at Ibanda by Bakonjo and Batoro porters, and the expedition set out from Ibanda the day after its arrival there.

From the start it was clear that the porters collected at

[1] See, in general, *A.J.* **23,** 386–92, with map facing 392.



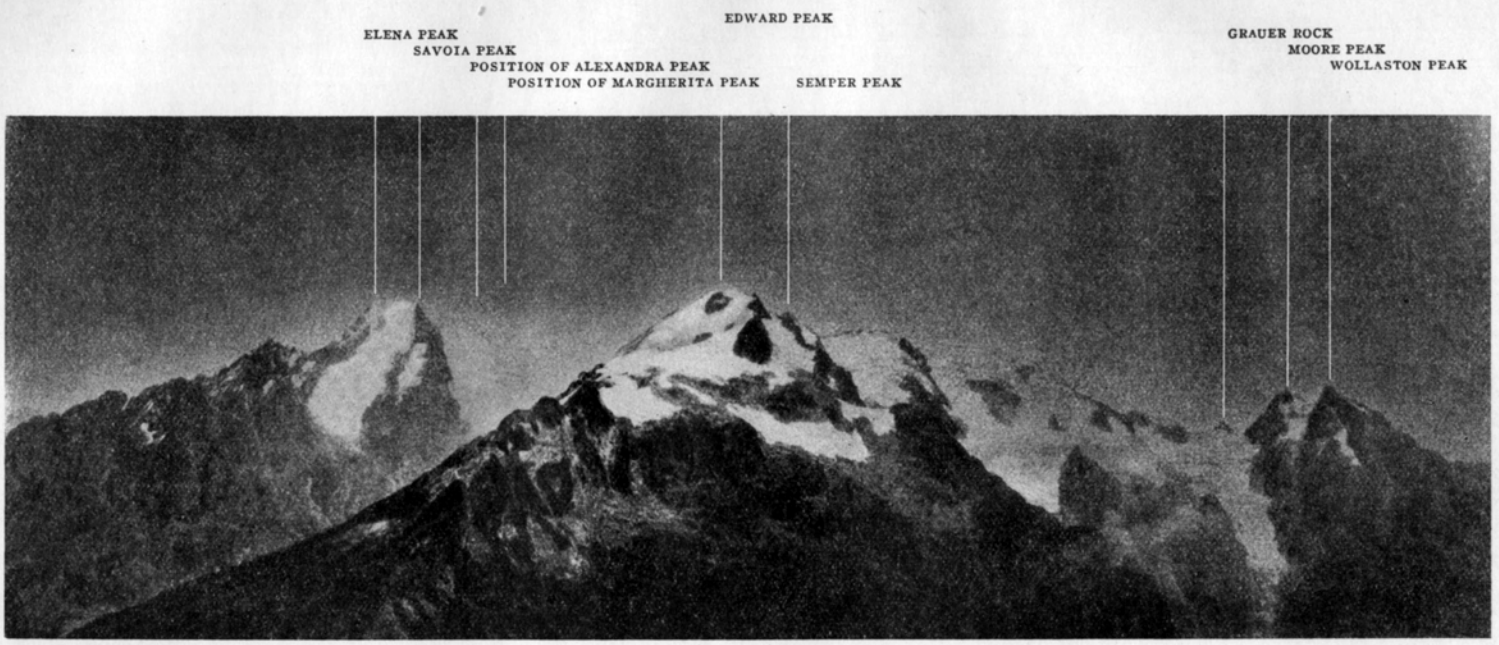
Phot. G. N. Humphreys.

MT. SPEKE WITH MT. EMIN AND PORTAL PEAKS IN DISTANCE, FROM BELOW SNOWLINE ON S.E. RIDGE OF MT. STANLEY.



Phot. G. N. Humphreys.

MT. STANLEY WITH MT. BAKER IN DISTANCE, FROM N.W. RIDGE OF MT. SPEKE.



Phot. G. N. Humphreys.

MT. BAKER WITH MT. STANLEY IN DISTANCE, FROM STAIRS PEAK, MT. LUIGI DI SAVOIA.

Ibanda, although an exceedingly hardy set of men and accustomed to the valleys of the range which are their hunting-ground for hyrax, were out of hand and ready to desert at a moment's notice. This was partly due to the fact that it was known that the expedition hoped to penetrate beyond the limit of recent expeditions and partly to the fact that a recent expedition which ascended the Bujuku valley and returned by the Mobuku had encountered a snow-storm while crossing the Scott-Elliot Pass, with the result that four natives died of exposure.

The first night after leaving Ibanda was spent at Mihunga (Bihunga), the nearest inhabited spot to the snows and the headquarters of the British Museum expedition of 1905 and 1906; and the following three nights at the rock-shelters Nyinabitaba (Nakitawa), Kanyasabo and Kigo. It had been intended to spend the second night at the rock-shelter Nyamuleju, but the porters claimed that this shelter was haunted, and on arrival at Kanyasabo refused to go further that day. Nyamuleju, which was passed the next morning, showed signs of previous but not recent use; it was not however possible to obtain from the porters the reason for its abandonment. At Kigo the men refused to go on unless they were given outfits, although it was not customary to provide more than blankets for porters going only to the snows and back, and clothes had been brought sufficient only for such porters as it was intended to keep at the camp which was to be established near Stuhlmann Pass. It thus became necessary to leave a part of the stores at Kigo and to arrange that the fifty 'blanket men' should carry provisions between a base camp near Ibanda and Kigo, and that some of the seventy 'outfit men' should be sent back to Kigo for stores when they were required.

On the fourth day the expedition reached Bujuku rock-shelter, which was the last shelter known to the porters. Beyond this, at the foot of Mt. Speke, S. of Stuhlmann Pass, a rock-shelter was found in which were two unbroken native cooking pots but no sign of recent habitation. Beyond the pass, at the foot of Mt. Speke, the expedition discovered a shelter which showed signs of long and recent use by a leopard but not of human habitation. In the middle of the valley running N.W. from the pass another shelter was found which showed no signs of previous occupation. Climbs during this expedition were made from one or other of these three shelters. It had been intended to establish high camps as near as possible

to the snow-line, and the boots and stockings had been provided for such porters as should carry tents and provisions to the higher level, but the porters being out of hand this was not possible. The disadvantage of making climbs from the valley was that it was only before dawn that the peaks were clearly visible. The necessity, moreover, of starting each day from the valley added considerably to the discomfort of climbing. The lower slopes of the mountains are covered with moss, under which is a layer of mud, and within a few minutes of leaving camp every climber was wet through.

The first objective of the expedition was the discovery of a route to the Twin Peaks of Mt. Stanley by one of the N. ridges. The easiest way to the highest peaks is from the S., but the N. slopes, being unexplored, were of greater potential interest. Below the N.W. shoulder of Margherita one ridge runs N.N.W. and another N.N.E. An ascent was made of this latter ridge to the foot of the N.W. shoulder of Margherita, where a precipice was encountered. Later the expedition crossed both ridges, reached the precipitous W. wall of the N.W. shoulder and descended to Alexandra glacier, which flows N.W. from the col between the Twin Peaks. This glacier offered an undoubted way to the highest peaks, but for such an ascent a camp should be established near the glacier W. of Margherita, and this was not possible in the circumstances of the expedition. No way was found up Margherita Peak between this glacier and the main N.E. ridge, which continues to Stuhlmann Pass and is part of the main divide of the range; but all climbs were made in almost continuous mist with only occasional glimpses which might show a possible route ahead, and a path may yet be found by some future expedition.

On the rare occasions when Mt. Speke had been visible from the slopes of Stanley the mountain showed two main peaks with a high ridge between them and a considerably lower peak to the S. The centre peak only had been climbed by the Duke of the Abruzzi, who named it Vittorio Emanuele; the name Johnston had been given to the lowest of the three peaks. The objective of the expedition now was to ascend the N.W. ridge to the peak at the N. and traverse the high ridge to Emanuele Peak. Twice the attempt failed on account of dense mist and heavy falls of snow which obliterated the steps which had been cut up to the high ridge. The third attempt was successful; no snow fell this day and the mist thinned sufficiently for occasional glimpses to be obtained in one direction or another. From the peak at the N., from Emanuele and from the ridge

between these peaks it appeared that the N. peak was slightly higher than Emanuele. At neither peak, however, was the visibility good enough for observations to be taken.

These climbs had been made from Leopard's-lair and Mid-valley shelters and the expedition now moved camp to Cooking-pot shelter, in order to attempt an ascent of Margherita by the N.E. ridge. Unfortunately, it was not possible to leave the porters to change camp without supervision, and the day employed for this purpose was the only fine day the expedition experienced while within reach of the snows, the weather being perfectly clear until the late afternoon, when it rained.

Attempts to reach the summit by the N.E. ridge were made during four days in continuous mist and frequent rain or snow; the party reached a point where a wide cleft in the ridge was plugged or arched over by snow, but mist, which prevented a view of more than a few feet ahead, stopped further progress.

Only five days now remained for climbing, and as the weather showed no sign of improving, these were devoted to attempts on the highest peaks by the route discovered by the Italian expedition up the S.E. ridge. Stanley plateau was reached without difficulty, and each day was spent on the snow-field waiting for the mist to thin sufficiently to show the direction of the Twin Peaks. It was not until the end of the fifth day, when the expedition was returning, that the peaks became visible through the mist.

The main divide of the range runs through the snow mountains Emin, Speke, Stanley, Baker and Luigi di Savoia. The passes between these mountains are Roccati, Cavalli, Stuhlmann, Scott-Elliot and Freshfield. Of these the first two had not been crossed; moreover, no expedition to the snows had crossed the range. The largest unknown area in the range lay to the N.W of the snow peaks. The objective of the expedition was now to cross these two passes and complete the crossing of the range through the unknown area.

After the first day the porters refused to go further, and it was necessary to abandon equipment such as tents and blankets and for each European to be content with what could be carried in a rucksack. Food taken was barely sufficient for four days, but owing to unforeseen difficulties on the way down the mountains, it became necessary to make this last for eight days. At the last moment six natives, carrying only their own food and blankets, followed the other members of the expedition. The total time taken on the journey from Stuhlmann Pass to

the foot of the range was nine and a half days, of which eight and a half were through unexplored country. Just S. of Roccati Pass a small lake was discovered. The lake shown in the sketch map illustrating the expedition of the Duke of the Abruzzi as being just N. of Roccati Pass was found to be in a small continental basin. N. of this pass two lakes were found, larger than lakes previously discovered in the range. Further N. a treeless plateau was crossed, the sole vegetation being two species of alchemilla growing 3 ft. high. N.W. of this plateau the valleys narrowed down to deep gorges, and for two days it was necessary to wade waist deep down a glacial stream at the bottom of a canyon. Emerging finally on to the track which skirts the W. foothills of the range, the expedition returned to Fort Portal over the Bwamba Pass, which crosses the N. spur of the range.

During the expedition clear weather was only experienced during two days, and on only one day was there a complete absence of rain and snow.

The second expedition was jointly undertaken in July by E. H. Armitage, by R. T. Wickham and N. F. Andrews of the Uganda Civil Service, and the writer. At the last moment the expedition was joined by J. Oliver, who took charge of the porters.

The porters who had deserted the February expedition were anxious for re-engagement and now gave no trouble, partly because the six natives who had crossed the range had been well paid, while the deserters had received nothing, and partly because the successful crossing of the range and the absence of casualties on the previous expedition had completely restored their confidence.

The same route was followed as by the February expedition. A camp was established for the porters at Cooking-pot rock-shelter, and on the same day a high camp was made on a suitable site which had been located during the previous expedition. This was a piece of level ground at about 15,000 ft. on the S.E. ridge of Stanley. At a lower level, S.W. of the ridge, the site of the camp of the Duke of the Abruzzi could be made out by an artificial arrangement of stones and by some firewood.

The S.E. ridge provides an easy route to Stanley plateau, and this was followed each day. On the snowfield, however, no progress could be made except when a fleeting glimpse of the peaks indicated the direction. Fortunately the falls of snow were not sufficiently heavy to obliterate entirely the tracks of the previous day, and for this reason it was always possible, despite the mist, to reach the limit of the previous day's journey



Phot. G. N. Humphreys.

Icicles hanging from highest cornice of Margherita Peak, Mt. Stanley.



Phot. J. Oliver.

MARGHERITA AND ALEXANDRA PEAKS from Stanley Plateau, Mt. Stanley.

and there to await a thinning of the mist which might allow further progress. Margherita Peak was eventually reached by crossing Margherita glacier and ascending the N.E. ridge. A corniche just below this ridge and a more formidable corniche just below and N. of the summit were the only technical difficulties encountered. It would appear that the second corniche was avoided by the Duke's expedition, which reached the summit from the S. The highest point of the range was reached on July 19, just twenty years and a day after its previous ascent.

From Margherita the col between the two peaks was reached and Alexandra ascended by the steep slope leading from the col to the summit. The highest point of this peak is on a corniche which with overhanging rock forms the roof of a large cave, which might provide, in an emergency, a valuable refuge.

The next objective of the expedition was Johnston Peak, the third highest and as yet unclimbed peak of Mt. Speke. A high camp was established on the S.W. ridge, and an ascent made of an isolated rocky peak, S. of Johnston Peak, known to the expedition as Trident Peak from the shape of the summit. The next day, July 22, Johnston Peak was ascended without difficulty, except from dense mist and heavy falls of snow. The ascent was repeated on three following days in the unfulfilled hope of obtaining a view to the E. in order to determine the position of a peak which had been seen N. of Kigo rock-shelter and apparently E. of Speke.

Scott-Elliot Pass was next crossed by a route which, though it required an ascent to 15,000 ft., was easier for the porters than the route followed by previous expeditions. A camp was now established on Freshfield Pass, whence ascents were made of peaks Edward and Semper of Mt. Baker and Stairs and Sella of Mt. Luigi di Savoia. On these peaks cairns were found, and in those on Mt. Baker were records of the ascents of the Italian expedition.

The expedition returned to Ibanda by the Mobuku valley, visiting Moore glacier on the way. During the expedition the sun was only seen on one occasion for half an hour; rain or snow fell every day. During both expeditions fine weather prevailed at Fort Portal, and from the experience gained on these and other expeditions, it would appear that there is no relation between weather in the range and that of the surrounding country. Fine spells of weather have been experienced by previous expeditions, but it has yet to be shown that these are more likely to occur in one season than another.