A Canadian Pack Train Trip.

By Miss KATE GARDINER.

ATTRACTED by some unclimbed peaks south of Banff, Walter Feuz (one of the C.P.R. Swiss guides) and I set off from that mountain town on August 4, with Mr. George Harrison and his pack train, in high hopes of getting one or two first ascents in this region.

Mt. Assiniboine lay almost on our route, so we made up our minds to attempt that also, and after two and a half days' riding and camping pitched our tents at the far end of Sunburst Lake, in full view of this often called 'Canadian Matterhorn' (11,870 ft.).

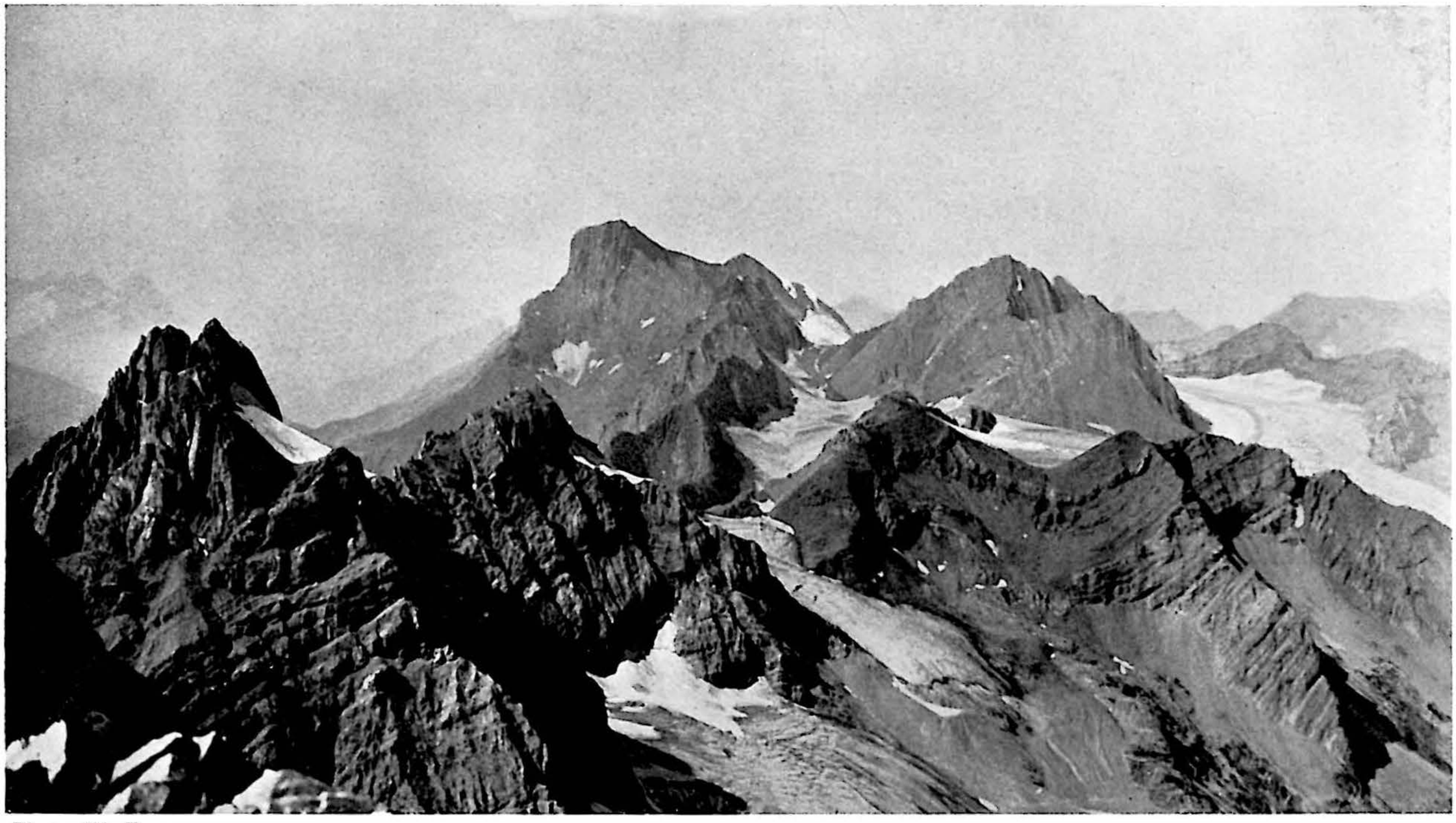
We ascended the mountain on August 7 by the N. ridge, a very enjoyable rock climb, and reached the top at 11.30. It was windy and cold, but we got a beautifully clear view from the snow corniche during the half-hour we spent up there, and then descended by the same route, gaining camp at 5.30 p.m.

Our next halting-place was on the shores of Marvel Lake, an entrancingly lovely spot, the mountains and forests mirrored in the water.

From there the trail in the direction of the two peaks we had next in view was so steep and rough that Mr. Harrison, Walter and I left the main camp in charge of the cook and Mr. Harrison's young brother-in-law Harry, and only taking two horses with us, started off to put up a fly camp in Aurora Creek.

Walter and I made the first ascent of Mt. Alcantara (9910 ft.) on August 11, *via* the S.E. ridge, leaving camp at 6 a.m. and gaining the summit at 11 o'clock. We were up there for an hour and got back to camp at 3.30. This was a fairly easy climb, although the mountain is very steep-looking from below.

Brusiloff (9990 ft.) on August 12, also a first ascent, was more formidable. We climbed to the N. ridge and there, traversing slightly to the left, went up a crack, which we fortunately found, on to the main ridge again; in that way overcoming the difficulty of a piece of rock which from lower down looked quite smooth and unscalable. After two hours more of good climbing we reached the top at 11 o'clock, where we found a wide corniched summit. Having spent an hour and a half there, we got back to Aurora Creek at 4 o'clock.



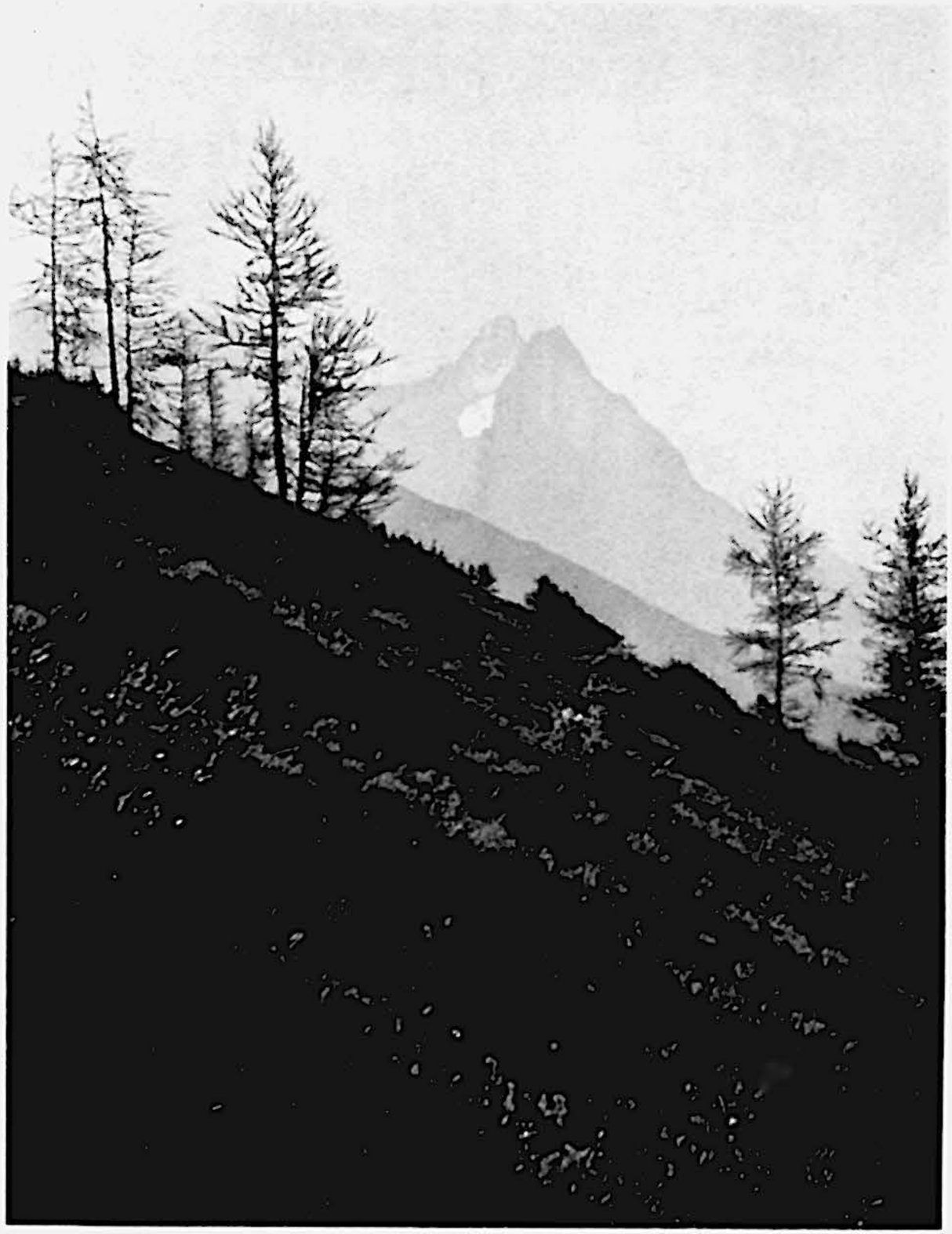
Photo, W. Feuz.

Mt. JOFFRE. From Mt. CADORNA.



Photo, W. Feuz.

Rocks Scaled in Ascent of
Mt. PRINCE EDWARD.



Photo, Miss Gardiner.

Mt. ABRUZZI.

The smoke from big forest fires in the Calgary direction unfortunately rather spoilt the views on both these ascents. The second evening of our stay at Aurora Creek a fine young grizzly bear came quite close to our camp fire to have a look at us, but was greatly alarmed and ran away when Mr. Harrison's dog barked at him. We saw many wild animals as we moved South: elk, moose, deer, mountain goats, porcupines and wolverines—they seemed quite unafraid and very curious as to who and what we were.

On retracing our footsteps to Marvel Lake, our next objective was some climbing in the Royal Group. On the way there, over Palliser Pass one gets fine views of Mt. Sir Douglas Haig (11,174 ft.), highest peak in the British Military Group, first ascended by Dr. Hickson and Edward Feuz on August 11, 1919. The country over the pass and in Palliser Valley was difficult to ride through on account of fallen logs. We found beautiful wild flowers and fruit everywhere on our way to Royal Creek, where we camped near the mountains, with Mts. Prince Albert, Edward and Henry towering above us.

Walter and Mr. Harrison cleared an elk trail to the foot of the mountains, and on August 17 Walter and I left camp at 5.30 to attempt the first ascent of Mt. Prince Henry (10,560 ft.). We climbed up a rock rib between Edward and Henry, a strenuous five hours, to the sharp S.E. ridge. From there it was a very good three hours' climb to the top. At one place we had to move along a sharp *à cheval* ridge for about an hour with sloping slabs on one side and a sheer drop on the other. From the summit we got a beautiful view of Mt. King George (11,226 ft.), the highest peak of the Royal Group, first ascended by the late Mr. V. A. Fynn and Rudolf Aemmer, August 10, 1919. We also looked carefully at Mt. Prince Edward from this point. The ascent of that mountain appeared, however, too difficult up the N. ridge, as the summit was overhanging; there seemed, though, to be a possible route from the S.W. side. Having gained the top of Mt. Prince Henry at 1.30 P.M. we spent an hour there and returned to camp by 8.15.

As the best way to ascend Mt. Prince Edward apparently was from the other side of the mountains, Mr. Harrison, Walter and I took a pack-horse and started off up the steep hill at the head of Royal Creek on August 20. The weather had been threatening and we were caught in a snowstorm, but the day fortunately improved later and we worked on round Mt. Queen Mary and Mt. Prince John, crossing three passes, and camped in a valley beyond Mt. Prince Henry.

On August 21 Walter and I were fortunate enough to make a successful first ascent of Mt. Prince Edward (10,590 ft.). Crossing over the lower W. ridge of Mt. Prince Henry and traversing the lower slopes of Mt. Prince Edward, we ascended to the W. ridge. From there the mountain was very precipitous. In one place, after having gone straight up for about 200 ft., we were obliged to make a difficult traverse on to the main ridge, crawling along a narrow ledge with only just room to get through on account of the overhanging top. Then we were on and off the ridge, sometimes climbing straight up and sometimes skirting bluffs, until we reached the snow ridge, about 40 minutes from the top. The final summit was good solid rock. Walter thoroughly explored it, looking down over the front for a possible line of ascent from the N.; but the rocks were smooth and overhanging for about 100 ft., and the way we had taken appeared to be the only one by which to approach the top. On the very summit we curiously enough found an eagle's feather. The view of the other peaks of the Royal Group was magnificent, Mt. King George dominating them all and many other far-off groups of mountains showing faintly through the smoke haze. This was perhaps the most difficult climb of our trip; we left camp at 6.15 A.M., were on the summit at 12 noon, and returned to camp by 6.40.

From the Royal Group we wended our way towards White River Valley, riding on through deep valleys and still forests with lofty mountains rising steeply on either side. A sudden rainstorm cleared the air, so going over Sylvan Pass we got a glorious view of the more distant peaks.

We put up our main camp down by the stream in White River Valley, and on August 25 Walter and I set off at 6.15 for the first ascent of Cadorna (10,280 ft.). We climbed up part of the W. arête, but found this route impossible, so crossed over to the S.W. face of the mountain and thereby gained the summit at 2 o'clock. The N.E. side of Cadorna is a precipice. On our return we descended the face of the mountain to a lake where Mr. Harrison met us with some horses, and after a good ride we got to camp at 8 o'clock.

South of the Royal Group the trails were in many places getting overgrown and difficult to clear, and on some of the side, trips we simply followed elk trails.

The most impressive mountain in White River Valley is Mt. Abruzzi (10,700 ft.), and to attempt this climb Walter and Mr. Harrison put up another small camp near a lake on the slopes of the mountain.

On August 28 Walter and I left camp at 6.30, hoping to find



Mt. PRINCE HENRY.



Photo, W. Feuz.

ALCANTARA.

this also a first ascent, as we had seen no cairn on the summit from Cadorna. We gained the S. ridge of the mountain about 9.30, by which we made our way to the top. During the ascent we got fine views of Mt. Joffre (11,316 ft.), a very majestic-looking mountain and the highest peak of the French Military Group. It was first ascended by Dr. Hickson and Edward Feuz in August 1919. There was some very good climbing on our peak's summit rocks; but as they rose steeply before us, rather to our dismay we suddenly came on an empty sardine tin, and what little hope we had left was finally dashed to the ground when, after a somewhat stiff climb, we found a tumbled-down cairn with a stick near it to which some remains of a flag were nailed. We resurrected the cairn and put the flagpole in position, speculating as to who had been there before us, and then laughingly decided that it was in any case a most pleasant climb and one very much worth while. Arriving at the top at 11.45, we left again at 1 o'clock, descending by the N.E. face beside the glacier and got back to camp by 4 P.M., in that way making a traverse of the mountain. The frozen mud, shale and ice made the going rather ugly during this steep descent.

On leaving White River Valley we gradually retraced our steps, coming in for a fearful thunderstorm crossing Palliser Pass and being detained at our camp site by a heavy snow-storm the following day.

Leaving the Assiniboine district on our left, we followed the trail down Spray River Valley, and two days later, on September 5, rode into Banff in serene weather with many a backward look at the unspeakable beauty of the high mountains with their fresh covering of snow.

[We beg to express our best thanks and congratulations to the daughter of our late distinguished and much regretted Vice-President.—*Editor*, 'A.J.']

KANGCHENJUNGA, 1929.

The Bavarian Attempt.[1]

IN January 1929 I decided to undertake an expedition to the Himalaya. The proposal was received with enthusiasm by the

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[1] The translation we owe mostly to Mr. E. O. Shebbeare, who joined the expedition for part of the time.—*Editor*.