

'THE ENGLISH MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION, 1933.'

UNDER the above large-type heading in *Der Bergsteiger* of October 1932, p. 52, appears an editorial article of which we give an extract :

'The long and eagerly awaited new attack on Mt. Everest . . . is no longer a rumour or supposition, but a fact. In the early months of 1933, a British expedition under the direction of the Alpine Club and the Royal Geographical Society, and under the leadership of Mr. Hugh Ruttledge, will leave England to attempt the assault. . . .¹

'It is not too much to say that the entire civilized world will follow the expedition with the greatest expectations, but with especial interest will German mountaineers watch the fate of their British comrades.

'It is sad that on account of the lateness of the season, we must fear that the present German Himalayan expedition engaged in the siege of Nanga Parbat, although obtaining fine results, must return home without the sought-for consummation, the conquest of the first eight-thousander of the world.² It will, therefore, be a difficult test of the comradeship of German mountaineers to be obliged to see without bitterness how British mountaineers, relying to a great extent (*grossteils bauend*) on the last German Himalayan expeditions, are starting towards the highest mountain on earth, and may there carry off a possible double victory, the conquest of the first eight-thousander as well as the ascent of the world's greatest mountain. . . .'

This is doubtless well meant, but, in view of its wide circulation, we must enter a strong protest against the patronizing and highly inaccurate comments of our excellent contemporary. *Der Bergsteiger* appears to forget that there have been three previous expeditions to Mt. Everest—in 1921, 1922 and 1924.

¹ With the permission of the Mount Everest Committee, this news of a British expedition was transmitted by us to the Editor, before the *leadership* of the party had been communicated to the press.

² A stop-press telegram (*ibid.*) announces the receipt of a cable stating the failure of the expedition after the last attack on September 2. Perhaps Nanga Parbat is less 'easy' than *Der Bergsteiger* declared.

British surveyors and mountaineering parties have explored and climbed in the Karakoram and Himalaya for the last 70 years or more. During this period up to 1929, we know of only *one* German party, the Schlagintweits, which, in the 'sixties, accomplished anything. It seems likely, therefore, that the recent German Kangchenjunga and Nanga Parbat expeditions have 'relied to a great extent'—to an infinitely greater extent—on *British* Himalayan experiences.³

Moreover, a contemplated British expedition to Nanga Parbat in 1932 was withdrawn by its leader so as to leave the Germans a fair field. Further, we would ask *Der Bergsteiger* how far the German invasions of 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 would have progressed beyond Darjeeling or Srinagar, had they not 'relied to a great extent' on British assistance and British porters.

Herr Bauer has gracefully and thoroughly acknowledged this indebtedness both in his articles and in his book. The same tributes have been paid by Dr. Dyhrenfurth and Herr Merkl.

We will go further still, and state that British mountaineers have 'followed' Herr Bauer's heroic Kangchenjunga struggles with the keenest sympathy, that when he found himself compelled to retreat for the second time, we felt for his gallant party as we should have felt had it been a British expedition concerned. Finally, we would add that we are confident that German mountaineers will 'without bitterness' and with equal pleasure with ourselves, learn of the 1933 expedition's 'possible victory' *not* over an 'eight-thousander'—as such is an unworthy obsession without value of any kind—but over the 'world's greatest mountain,' be the height what it may.

E. L. STRUTT.

RETREAT OF THE ICE IN THE CANADIAN CORDILLERA.

By ARTHUR O. WHEELER.

IN 1885 the last spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a gold one, was driven by Sir Donald A. Smith, the late Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, at Craigellachie in the Gold Range. It was the signal for an inflow of explorers and scientists, come to spy out the innermost recesses of the Main and Selkirk Ranges of the Canadian Rockies. And well worthy they were of such explora-

³ It will be understood, of course, that British and German expeditions *only* are under discussion.