

across it, until on reaching the head-snows of the Nordenskiöld Glacier it again cleared for us to select the best way down the main branch and its rather complicated series of ice-falls. A strong E. wind sprang up, and for several miles, with sails spread on the sledges, we were carried down at an almost uncontrollable speed, until the constantly occurring schrunds made more wary going desirable. The lower part of the Nordenskiöld Glacier seemed in an even worse state than in 1921—hummocks of the worst description abounding from the foot of the Mt. Terrier nunatak right down to the fiord, besides troublesome areas of crevasses through which to negotiate the sledges. We recognised, however, from certain features, such as dirt cones noted in roughly the same position in 1921, that the actual flow of the glacier had been extraordinarily slow. Our progress down the lower glacier was eventually seen by telescope from our awaiting sloop at the head of Klaas Billen Bay, and a party setting out up the glacier we had a memorable meeting fifteen minutes before the expiration of the appointed day.

In conclusion we wish to express our grateful thanks to those members of the Club who so generously granted us the necessary financial assistance without which it would have been impossible to carry out that part of the expedition above briefly described.

THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

Minutes of Meeting held May 5, 1923.

THE fifth Dinner of the Association was held on Saturday evening, May 5, 1923, at the Tennis and Racquet Club in Boston. The following members were present: Freeman Allen, Allston Burr, Charles E. Fay, J. W. A. Hickson, Howard Palmer, J. Duke Smith, H. B. de Villiers-Schwab, and William Williams; and Mr. Flichtner attended as guest.

Mr. William Williams announced his desire to retire from the chairmanship after two years' service. Professor Charles E. Fay was then unanimously elected Chairman, Mr. Allston Burr as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. H. B. de Villiers-Schwab re-elected as Secretary. There was some discussion as to whether, in view of the growing number of Canadian members, it would not be well to have a second Vice-Chairman, who would be

a Canadian. Eventually a decision was deferred until the next meeting.

Illustrating his talk with some excellent slides, Mr. Allston Burr read a very carefully prepared paper on Mont Blanc, setting forth the history of the mountain, and dwelling especially on the different routes of ascent and their variations.

After the lecture Mr. Howard Palmer showed a collection of very fine enlargements of the Canadian Rockies, including a number of Mt. Clemenceau.

The sixth Dinner will be held in New York early in December 1923.

H. B. DE VILLIERS-SCHWAB,
Hon. Sec.

11, Broadway, New York City.

OLD MEMORIES : THE COLUMBIA ICEFIELD.

By J. NORMAN COLLIE.

DR. MONROE THORINGTON is certainly to be congratulated on his visit to the Columbia district. It is remarkable that this splendid icefield has received so little attention, for rising out of it are two of the three highest mountains in the Canadian Rockies ; moreover, it is the source of those three great rivers, the Athabasca, the Saskatchewan, and the Columbia. Around it are many other splendid peaks, and numberless are the glaciers that flow from it, down to the pine-clad valleys below, and the camps, as Dr. Thorington says, 'one despairs in the telling of them, they are places to which one will return.'

It is now more than a quarter of a century ago since Woolley and I from the summit of Mt. Athabasca first discovered this lonely land. I had been hunting the peaks north, and ever northward from the Canadian Pacific Railway at Laggan, through a country about which we could find no information. In those days things were very different from now. There was a total lack of knowledge of where the few mountains that had been named by Dr. Hector exactly might be. Mts. Forbes, Lyell and Murchison were somewhere in the beyond, but how to get there was uncertain ; they were 'tucked away behind the foothills where the trails run out and stop.' Beyond were the mysterious lands, unknown and unexplored. In