

taking $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from hut to hut, seems to indicate that though the storm was a very bad one, it was not unprecedently so—similar storms have been experienced by many N.Z. mountaineers in the past. It is, of course, possible that the severe thunderstorm may have in some way stunned the party, but even so, it is obvious that no party should have left the hut in the face of a Nor'wester *and in rain*, with such scant clothing. The fault, in Mr. Harper's opinion, lies in the want of proper systems, as it seems to be no one's responsibility³ to overlook or advise travellers; otherwise it is unbelievable that the girls would have been allowed to go so unsuitably dressed—for even on a two-days' glacier trip, weather conditions may change so suddenly that emergency clothing should always be carried.

The young guide Blomfield (age 20), who perished, was amply qualified to conduct on such a simple expedition, but it is possible that in his short two seasons' experience he had never been in such a predicament, and familiarity with this hackneyed expedition may have made him fail to realize the risk of sudden bad weather—otherwise it is hard to imagine why he also was totally unprovided with suitable clothes. The fact that Hilgendorf, who was properly clothed, faced the same conditions without ill effects, seems to prove that inadequate clothing was responsible for the fatality.

[It remains to us to express the deep sympathy of the Alpine Club with our member Mr. Mannering and the relatives and friends of the young victims.—*Editor, 'A.J.'*]

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN NOTES.

GLACIER HOUSE IN THE SELKIRKS NOW DEMOLISHED.

GLACIER HOUSE, on the Illecillewaet river in the Selkirks, ceased to exist about November 22 last, when the contractor, Mr. H. McHugh of Calgary, completed the wrecking of the old rambling wooden hotel. All lumber, doors, windows, pipes, radiators, stoves, and other fittings worth removing were shipped away by train, and fire was set to all rubbish left. The ground was completely cleared and the site left as near as possible as it was before the small hotel was built in 1887, as the Canadian Pacific Railway refreshment room, there being no dining-cars on the trains at that time. The old hotel at Field was opened about the same time for the same purpose.

During last July the old mountaineers attending the camp of the Alpine Club of Canada at Rogers Pass watched the wrecking of the dear old mountain home with sorrow. The many happy seasons

³ See *N.Z. A.J.*, No. 15, pp. 352-4.

when Glacier was managed by the late Mrs. J. M. Young were also recalled with pleasure. Mrs. Young died in Vancouver City in April 1925.

Glacier House was closed to the public at the end of the 1925 season, so that, starting in 1887, the house had been open for 38 seasons for visitors to this secluded and narrow valley high up in the Selkirk Mountains. The season of 1916 was the last in which the trains passed by the hotel door. The Connaught tunnel was opened for traffic on December 6, 1916. In the next season a horse



Photo, F. V. Longstaff.]

SITE OF OLD 'GLACIER HOUSE.'

stage took on the transportation to the hotel from the new Glacier station many hundred feet below.

Mr. F. W. Godsal, of Victoria, B.C., formerly of Macleod, Alberta, was the oldest member of the Alpine Club of Canada in camp at Rogers Pass last July. It is interesting to note that his name occurs fourth on the list in the Visitors' Register at Glacier House and is entered on February 4, 1887. The last entry of the first book is on the eighth page from the end, July 31, 1904—Mr. F. M. Bell Smith, Toronto, the famous water-colour artist whose heart was in the mountains. All the four Visitors Books are being preserved in British Columbia.

The Department of the Interior has recently decided that the new transcontinental motor road is to avoid Glacier Park by following the Great Bend of the Columbia river where the snowfall is much less than over the Selkirks. This will enable this National Park

to be preserved as the one holiday Alpine area free from motor traffic.

It is the intention of the Canadian Pacific Railway Hotel Department to erect a modern stone mountain hotel of some 200 rooms as soon as possible. It will probably be rectangular and be placed on the flat ground where was the old lawn, so as to be clear of the forest fire hazard and economical to manage.

FREDERICK V. LONGSTAFF.

REVIEWS.

Alai! Alai! By Willi Rickmer Rickmers. Pp. 300, profusely illustrated. F. M. Brockhaus, Leipzig. 1930.

THIS most interesting book is a record of the work done by a combined German and Russian expedition in 1928 in exploring the Alai-Pamir, the principal mountain range of Russian Turkistan. The expedition consisted of twelve Germans under the leadership of the author, including four selected specially to be a climbing party, and a number of Russians who joined them from time to time. Although on previous occasions the author, who had made eight expeditions into Turkistan between 1894 and 1913, had been refused admission to this region, on this occasion the expedition was given every facility by the Russian authorities.

The expedition was planned with the object of carrying out a complete survey of a practically unexplored region, and mountaineering was looked on as merely incidental to this purpose. The interest of the book is mainly geographical and scientific and descriptions of climbs occupy only a small portion of it, although it records the ascent of four peaks from 6000 to 7000 m. and seventeen from 5000 to 6000 m., not to mention lesser heights ascended for the purpose of surveying.

These mountains are comprised in two groups: the main group at the head of the Fedchenko Glacier, which was found to be 75 kilometres in length and thus the longest glacier in the world; and the Transalai group to the N.E. including Mt. Kaufmann, 7130 m., the ascent of which was achieved by Allwein, Schneider and Wien, who thus nearly equalled Dr. Longstaff's record on Trisul. The expedition further discovered that Pik Garmo to the W. of the Fedchenko Glacier is actually higher than Mt. Kaufmann. An attempt on this mountain failed, but its height was calculated as being 7500 m.

The plan of operations was to concentrate on the head of the Tanimas river on the E. side of the main group. The huge glacier reported by a previous explorer to fill the upper part of the valley was found not to exist, but the valley was blocked by a large glacier flowing N. and S., called by the party the *Notgemeinschaft Glacier*.