

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

GREATER GLACIER DISCOVERED HERE OTRIVALS ALPS
LOCATORS OF TROPICAL VALLEY ANNOUNCE FINDING
AND EXPLORING WONDER COUNTRY AT THE HEAD OF PITT
LAKE.

Surpassing the greatest glaciers of the Swiss Alps and the Ural Mountains between Europe and Asia, comprising millions of tons of clear cut ice, magnificent towers, glittering expanses on which tremendous toboggan slides, miles in length might be laid; square miles of crystal landing fields for airplanes, flashing back the burning sun from myriad facets to burn the skin from their faces, what possibly may prove to be one of the wonder glaciers of the world has just been discovered and explored by a party of six hardened pioneers of the mountains, who returned to Vancouver this week after a month and a half penetrating the wilderness at the head of Pitt Lake.

Alfred Perry, George Platzer and his son George, Frank Perry and R.A. Brown of Grand Forks [not six but five people by my count] reached this city from the interior this week. They brought with them a six-weeks' record of achievement, which includes narrow escapes from falling thousands of tons of ice, cutting their way along narrow backbones of ice with incalculable depth below and the finding of a mountain of mineral that is declared to assay high in copper, with traces of gold.

No more than 50 to 60 miles from Vancouver, according to the story of George Platzer and Alfred Perry, at an altitude of from 7000 to 8000 feet, three to four days' pack from the confluence of Pitt River with Pitt Lake, is the beginning of the mammoth glacier, estimated to be nearly 30 miles in width and extending other limitless miles in the direction not yet explored.

Feeds three rivers

Feeder for the Pitt River through Seven Mile Creek, for the Lillooet, Stave River and Fire Lake, the glacier loomed above the party when, after leaving a boat at the mouth of Pitt River, they penetrated to Seven Mile Creek, so named for its distance from the mouth of the river, and followed this creek on a two-day pack to its headwaters.

A day's climb through the bush from this point carried them to timber line at about 6000 feet and spread before them was the glacier which Mr. Platzer, who has explored in both the Alps and the Ural Mountains declared to be incomparably more beautiful than any he has ever before seen. Below the

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timber line marks of the grizzly bear and of bighorn goats were found and farther in were many goats and countless groundhogs. Thirty of the groundhogs furnished the only meat the party consumed on their trip.

Hundreds have failed

The discovery was made in a country where during the last 20 years hundreds have sought to penetrate without success owing to the roughness of the approach. Once to the edge of the glacier, the going was much easier, but in one day the skin was burned from their faces from the fierce glare of the sun on the glaciers. Two men had a mild case of snow blindness.

“The glacier is about 25 miles back from Mt. Garibaldi, the nearest great peak. Ninety percent of the land is buried under ice. It took us 14 hours to cross the glacier, going about two to three miles an hour. Many places we had to cut steps, and in one place we cut our way across the spine, where we could look down at least 1,000 feet on one side with only the black depths on the other, so deep we couldn’t see the bottom.”

Lost in heavy fog

“Coming back we were lost for hours in a windless fog so thick we were afraid to move, and all the time the ice cracked and roared like heavy thunder under us. We had only been out of the fog and off the edge of the glacier about ten minutes, coming down towards timberline, when the lower edge of the glacier split with thousands of tons of ice piling in fearful havoc. Had we been a few minutes longer, I’m afraid we would have been buried under all that ice. I have never seen anything to compare with this glacier. Great castles and towers surround level expanses of many square miles, while at one place a natural toboggan slide, smooth as glass, is about five miles in length. It would be one of the greater tourist attractions in the world if trails were built and the glacier charted.”