

Ruwenzori

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ground-level, as opposed to the temporary molecular displacement in the region over which the disturbance is propagated as wave-motion. The extreme violence of the disturbance, as evidenced by the nature of the destruction of the buildings at Palo Alta, and the narrow localization of this extreme violence, are phenomena which characterize the epicentral region, taken in conjunction with the reported production of a surface fault in the Red hills close by, point to the conclusion that the centre of this earthquake lay under dry land to the south and south-eastward of San Francisco, and not under the sea.

There is another aspect of this earthquake which we hope will find a historian. The story of San Francisco during the weeks which followed the earthquake is not only full of the usual tales of heroism and cowardice, of self-restraint and licence, which repeat themselves when the social system becomes disorganized, but is also full of interest for the sociologist, and therefore also for the geographer. We have seen how a large and highly civilized community has, by the sudden destruction of the whole machinery of that civilization, been temporarily driven to the primitive methods of forced labour and artificial regulation of prices, and the history of the fall and rapid resurrection of the city of San Francisco, as a social organization, will form one of the most interesting and instructive episodes in the history of the world if it is fortunate enough to find its historian.

R. D. O.

RUWENZORI.

THE following note and letter are taken from the May number of the *Alpine Journal*:—

On February 16 Messrs. A. F. R. Wollaston, R. B. Woosnam, and R. E. Dent, starting from Bujongolo (12,660 feet), reached the foot of the Mubuku glacier in two hours. They followed the edge of the glacier to 13,560 feet, then turned away to the rocks on the right, up a steep gully full of loose stones, water, and moss, to about 14,000 feet, then sharp back horizontally on to the glacier near the beginning of the icefall. Thence, keeping near to the base of the rocks on the right (true left of the glacier), by an easy slope to the watershed at a point called by Herr Grauer "King Edward's rock."* Herr Grauer reached the same point on January 18, 1906, by a somewhat different route. View down into the Congo side mostly obscured by clouds. Rocks between 13,500 feet and 14,000 feet not difficult, but dangerous, owing to loose stones and water. Numerous avalanches falling from Duwoni peak, on the right; can be mostly avoided by keeping towards the middle of the glacier. Time from Bujongolo to the ridge in wet weather, five and a half hours.

On February 17 Messrs. A. F. R. Wollaston and R. B. Woosnam, starting from Bujongolo, left the Mubuku valley half a mile above the camp, following the first stream that comes in from the left. Over a low hill into the valley coming from the Kiyanja glacier. Three hours through trackless swamp and moss and

* 15,100 feet by aneroid, 14,956 feet by boiling-point thermometer.

bushes of everlasting flowers. Crossed the stream coming from Kiyanja glacier, about 13,500 feet. Thence up a steep gully to the left (west), and on to loose boulders and scree at 14,000 feet. Turning north, good granite rocks were reached at 14,800 feet, which led to the glacier on the south-west side of the mountain at 15,500 feet. Thence up over easy ice and snow to Kiyanja peak—16,125 feet aneroid, 16,000 feet by boiling-point thermometer. The last three hours in dense fog, which misled the party to the lower of the two tops of the peak. At the moment of starting to descend, the true top, a snow-mound connected with the point reached by a short snow *arête*, was seen to be, perhaps, 150 feet higher. There seem to be no higher peaks than this on the Uganda side of the range, but at least three on the Congo side—one north-west, about 16,800 feet, and two to the north (? Saddle mountain), perhaps 17,000 feet. Rocks easy and good going. Moss and bog at the foot of the mountain very heavy and tiring. Time from Bujongolo to the summit, about six hours.

A. F. R. W.

A private letter from Mr. Woosnam adds some interesting details as to an earlier expedition.

“Ruwenzori, February 2, 1906.

“... I have been away with Cruthers for a ten days' expedition up to the snow, and missed the mail. It is absolutely the most extraordinary country up high that you can think of. Look at Sir H. Johnston's photographs of high ground; they are good. I have now been to the exact places and seen the same things, and taken photographs of them. Most extraordinary, but a photograph can't give any idea of such a place, nor any description on paper. I will tell you all. It is beautiful, and terrible, and delightful, and yet horrible. The extraordinary vegetation—forest, then bamboos, then giant heather and bog, all hanging with long grey lichen, masses and yards of it, and half covered up in soft deep moss and what R. calls 'rot of ages' (right too), and the great tall thin posts of lobelias, taking many years to grow and die (I am sending you good dry seed of them); then higher, at 12,500 feet, only moss and lobelias and huge trees of groundsel left, and then the lobelias go, and only groundsel and moss and everlasting flowers, and at last only moss and glacier and snow, and, highest of all, rock.

“We have got some glorious new birds from high up, just below the glacier—most surprising and unexpected birds and animals. It was a little cold, but not very; but we had remarkably fine weather, *no rain* and little mist.

“We did a surprising thing. We also reached the watershed, the same point reached by Grauer and the missionaries, and this is how it came about: The first morning after we got up and camped at 12,500 feet, being a fine day, we started early to walk up to the glacier, to have a look at it and see what birds were there. There were very few birds here—in fact, few above 10,000 feet. When we got to the foot of the glacier, we took the spoor of Grauer's party, which was still quite fresh, and followed it up the rocks on the right (the true left) of the glacier. We soon came to a place which is described in Sir H. Johnston's book * as a 'tunnel.' Here we found no less than seven ropes hanging down, of different sizes. It is not really a difficult place to climb, so we took most of the rope back to camp with us on our return. The place is not a tunnel cut by water through the rock at all, but a great flat stone fallen across or lying across a water-worn crack or channel. After we had gone up about 500 or 600 feet we lost all traces of Grauer's party at

* 'The Uganda Protectorate,' vol. 1, p. 184.

a point where they had left a tin with their names the first day. We knew that they had gone up the rocks higher than this before getting on to the snow, but the glacier looked to me to be quite climbable if a few steps were cut in it; but C. wanted to keep to the rocks, so he went to try the rock, whilst I tried to get up the glacier; and, with the help of my hunting-knife, I cut about forty or fifty steps in the ice and got up on to the middle of the glacier. By this time C. had got as far as he could go in the rocks, and came back to where I had got on to the glacier, and tried to follow me up, but failed here also. I was so afraid of mist coming on and spoiling the view from the top—for I could see now that, unless there was a crevasse, I could easily walk right up—that I could not go back to show him the way. So I just walked right up the snow to a black rock on the ridge; and when I got there (it was hard work breathing) I found I had got to Grauer's highest point (my aneroid read 15,100 feet), and found a tin with the three names (Grauer, Maddox, and Tegart); so I put my card into the tin too, with a rifle-cartridge.

"I had a fairly good view over to the Congo side, and took some photos (the first that have ever been taken, as it was misty when they were here). They called this rock 'King Edward's rock.' There is a little lake down below on the Congo side, probably unknown. I could not, of course, see very far, as there were more hills beyond, but lower, and undoubtedly I was on the watershed. I might have gone on to a higher ridge on one side, but I was a bit tired with the altitude, and wanted to get back to C., as we had a long way to get back to camp before dark, so decided to turn back. I came down pretty fast, sliding over the snow, and sliding or falling down most of the glacier, for the steps I had cut had melted nearly away. I found C., and we had some lunch and returned safely to camp. My opinion is this: that there is no point on Ruwenzori higher than 17,500 feet; that the highest point is bare rock, not snow; and that on a *fine* day it is not hard to climb to the top, but on a rainy and misty day it must be awful. We were lucky, and had fine dry weather. My aneroid read 15,100 feet, but that is about 150 feet too high, for Grauer took the same point by boiling-point and made it 14,956 feet."—R. B. W.

Mr. D. Freshfield adds the following note:—

"Mr. Wollaston, it will be noted, has, as I foresaw, conclusively disproved Mr. Tegart's suggestion that Herr Grauer's rock is higher than Sir H. Johnston's Kiyanja. With regard to the lofty peaks on 'the Congo side' of the range noticed by Mr. Wollaston, it is quite possible that the double summit, of which I had a distant view from Butiti, may lie (like the Orteler) near, but off, the watershed, and not be identical with Johnston's and Wollaston's Duwoni. But the photogravure and panoramic plate of the range from the west, published by Dr. Stuhlmann, show no detached and lofty spurs running out towards the Semliki. There are obviously plenty of topographical questions left for investigation by the British Museum party and the Duke of the Abruzzi's Expedition. I regret to hear that there is trouble with the natives in the district at present administered by the Congo State on the western side of the mountain, which may probably hinder exploration.

"D. W. F."

DR. SVEN HEDIN IN PERSIA.

WE give the following extracts from a letter from Dr. Sven Hedin, dated Seistan, April 14:—

When I decided to take the route out *viâ* Turkish Armenia, Persia, Seistan, and Baluchistan, it was only that I should not miss the opportunity of seeing