

*Elliott & Fry*  
**Colonel Dudley Ryder**

Accompanied the Tibet Mission of 1903-4, and saw Mount Everest at a lesser distance than any other European. He is now Surveyor-General of India.

**The Duke of the Abruzzi**

The famous Italian mountaineer, who holds the record for the Himalayas and the whole world. In his attempt on Mount Godwin-Austen he climbed 24,600 ft.

*Ball*  
**Brig-Gen. Hon. C. G. Bruce**

Who is intimately associated with the projected attempt on Mount Everest. He accompanied Sir Martin Conway on his 1862 expedition up the Pioneer Peak.

*Elliott & Fry*  
**Dr. T. G. Longstaff**

An intrepid Himalayan mountaineer who climbed Mount Trisal, in the Garhwal Himalayas, after earlier attempts on Gurla Mandhata.

## The ATTEMPT to SCALE EVEREST (Part I.)

*Personalities of the Struggle; and Some Physical Difficulties which will Have to be Overcome*  
The Attack on the World's Mightiest Mountain

So many secrets have been wrested from Nature in recent years that there had seemed no virgin field left for man to explore. The proposal to send out a British expedition to the Himalayas to make the ascent of Mount Everest, the virgin peak as yet untrodden by man, is a timely reminder that there is yet scope for high adventures in the quest of the unknown.

### The Unconquered Peak

The conquest of the loftiest mountain on the earth will complete the sum of wonderful exploits which, within two or three decades, have given us definite knowledge of both the North Pole and the South, of the icebound Arctic and Antarctic continents, and have revealed the secrets of darkest Africa and furthest Amazon. The projected expedition, whatever its result, will certainly awaken public interest in a sphere of geographical exploration which deserves full attention.

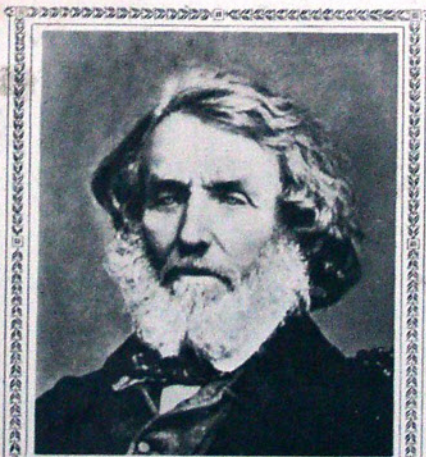
Mount Everest has two sponsors—the man who christened it, without having so much as set foot on its lowest slopes, and the man whose name it bears. It still awaits a conqueror. When the military engineers of old "John Company" were making their first geodetic measurements of India's vast regions the very existence of this king among mountains was unknown to Europeans at any rate. The virgin peak was named after Sir George Everest in 1856, and for sixty odd years it has remained a name—a mystery mountain, veiled in snow and sublime solitude.

### The Discovery of Everest

The story of Mount Everest really begins with the great trigonometrical survey of India originated by Colonel William Lambton and carried on by Sir George Everest and Sir Andrew Scott Waugh. It was Waugh—then a young officer of the Bengal Engineers, who had joined the Survey in 1832—who first discovered the loftiest of the Himalayan peaks and who named the snow-brow'd giant in honour of his old chief, Sir George Everest, whom he had succeeded in 1843 as Surveyor-General of India. Sir Andrew Waugh was descended, by the way, from Waugh of Shaw, the standard-bearer at Flodden Field. For years Waugh worked on his stupendous task, and although the outbreak of the Mutiny hindered its progress for a while, he completed the first great survey of the Himalayas, and fixed, as accurately as was then possible, the positions and the heights of seventy-nine mountains in that mighty range. The perilous nature of the operations may be realised from the fact that no fewer than forty European officers and assistants on Waugh's staff of 150 died from sickness or mishap, and were buried in the swampy forests.

### Explorations in the Himalayas

Until the height of Mount Everest was ascertained—recent measurements have raised the first official figure of 29,002 ft. to 29,141 ft.—geographers believed the Andes to be the loftiest mountain range on earth, and Chimborazo the world's highest peak—a circumstance which probably accounts for the indifference of Whymper and other famous climbers of an earlier day, to the Himalayas. When Graham climbed nearly to the summit of Kabru (24,015 ft.), south-west of Kangchenjunga, in 1883 he formed the opinion that in the further Himalayas were peaks surpassing



**The late Sir George Everest**

Born in Breconshire in 1790; he became a military engineer in E.I.C. service, and Surveyor-General of India.

even Everest in height. In 1892 Sir Martin Conway, accompanied by Lieutenant (now Brigadier-General) the Hon. C. G. Bruce and two Gurkhas, climbed a nameless mountain, which he christened Pioneer-Peak (22,600 ft.), in the Karakoram Mountains. Three years later the late Mr. A. F. Mummery and his party met with disaster while climbing Nanga Parbat (26,269 ft.), the adventurers being overwhelmed, it is supposed, by an avalanche. In 1899 Dr. Hunter Workman and his wife began that series of remarkable exploits in the Himalayan snows which have won them wide fame as explorers in high altitudes. Mrs. Fanny Bullock Workman established a world's record

for women-climbers by her ascent of 23,300 ft. on one of the Nun Kun peaks, while Dr. Workman himself reached a height of 23,392 ft.

### Dr. Longstaff and the Duke of the Abruzzi

A still greater record was set up in 1907 by Dr. T. G. Longstaff, who ascended Mount Trisal (23,406 ft.), in the Garhwal Himalayas, after an earlier attempt on Gurla Mandhata, where he twice reached a height of 22,000 ft., but was beaten by the treacherous snow and the peril of avalanches. All records in mountain-climbing were beaten, however, by the memorable exploit of the Duke of the Abruzzi, who made a bold and well-equipped effort to scale Mount Godwin-Austen (28,278 ft.)—a peak second only to Everest in height and grandeur and inaccessibility, and named after Colonel H. H. Godwin-Austen, a distinguished Anglo-Indian, who received geographical honours for his own work on the Himalayas. The royal explorer failed to reach the summit. Bad weather proved too much for him. But he achieved the wonderful height of 24,600 ft.—so far the world's highest climb.

### Colonel Ryder's Approach to Everest

All these attacks on the Himalayas have been preliminary to the ultimate conquest of Mount Everest. Successive explorers have cast longing eyes on the virgin peak, but none has ever penetrated within 50 miles of it. Colonel C. H. Dudley Ryder—Sir Andrew Waugh's successor of to-day in the post of Surveyor-General of India—is the only European who has looked on Everest at a distance of no more than 60 miles. The Duke of the Abruzzi tried hard, it is said, to induce the Indian Government to permit him to attempt the ascent of Everest, but without avail.

### Preparations for the Attempt

Political, even more than physical, difficulties barred the project. Now that the political obstacles have been overcome, there remain immense physical difficulties, both of approach and ascent. It is clear from the statement of Sir Francis Younghusband, President of the Royal Geographical Society, that Mount Everest is to be approached from the Tibet side, a route which offers, it is believed, greater possibilities of success than any other. General Bruce, who has thirty years' experience of the Himalayas, regards the northern ridge as by far the most promising part yet seen, but all the approaches will first be explored by a reconnaissance party, which will probably set out in three months' time. Next year the main climbing expedition will be sent out, organised and officered by the Alpine Club, and equipped with all that science can provide for the successful conquest of the topmost pinnacle of the earth.

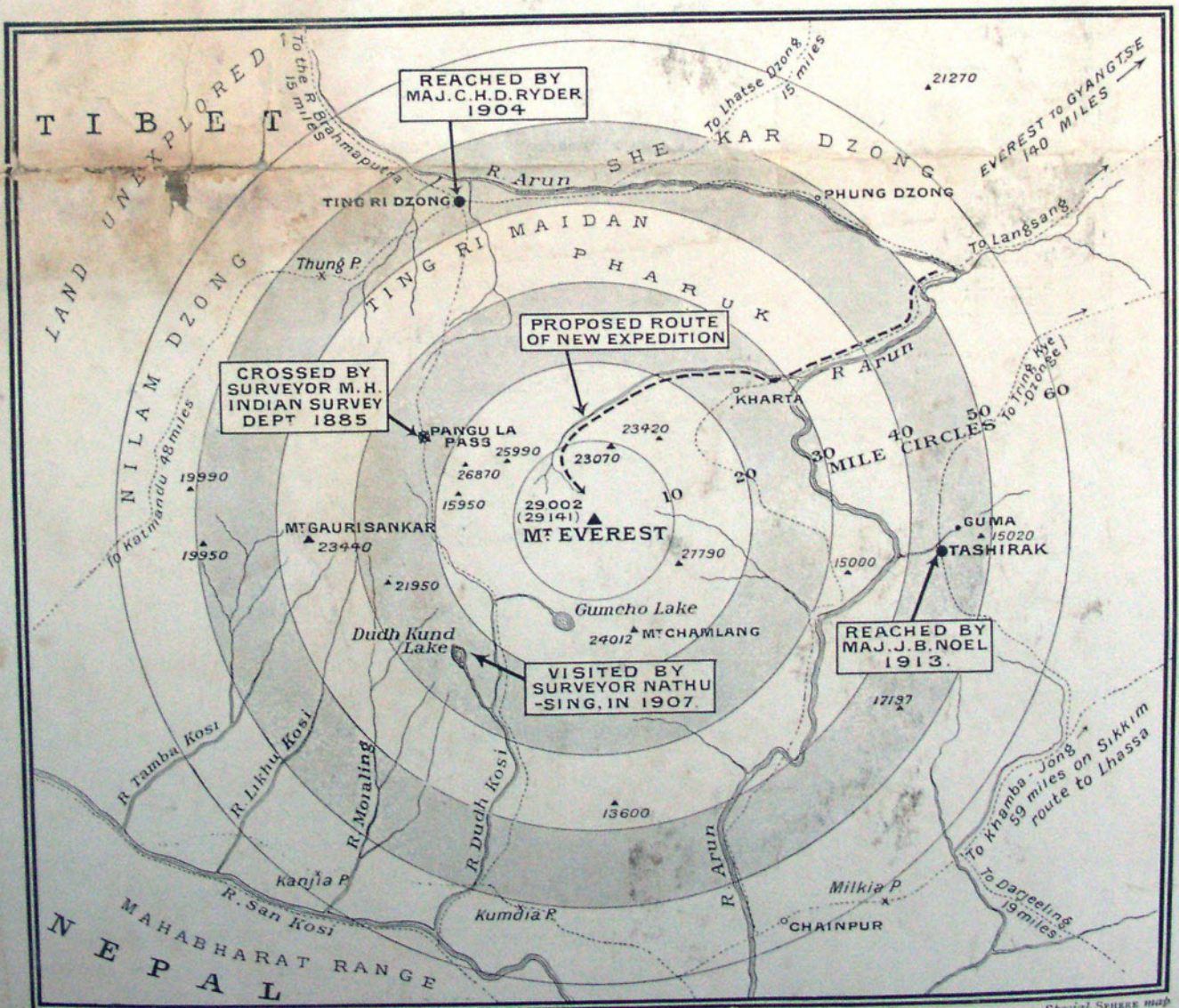


# The Nearest Approaches to MOUNT EVEREST.



View of Kangchenjunga as Seen from Darjeeling—A Picture Taken by Mr. Burlington Smith of Darjeeling

Kangchenjunga is over 28,000 ft. in height in the mightiest chain of the Himalaya range. It lies between Sikkim and Nepal, and is some 60 miles only from Darjeeling. From Kangchenjunga to Everest the distance is about 90 miles. This picture, taken by Mr. Burlington Smith of Darjeeling, shows the mist-wreathed top of the mighty mountain—one of the three highest in the Himalayas

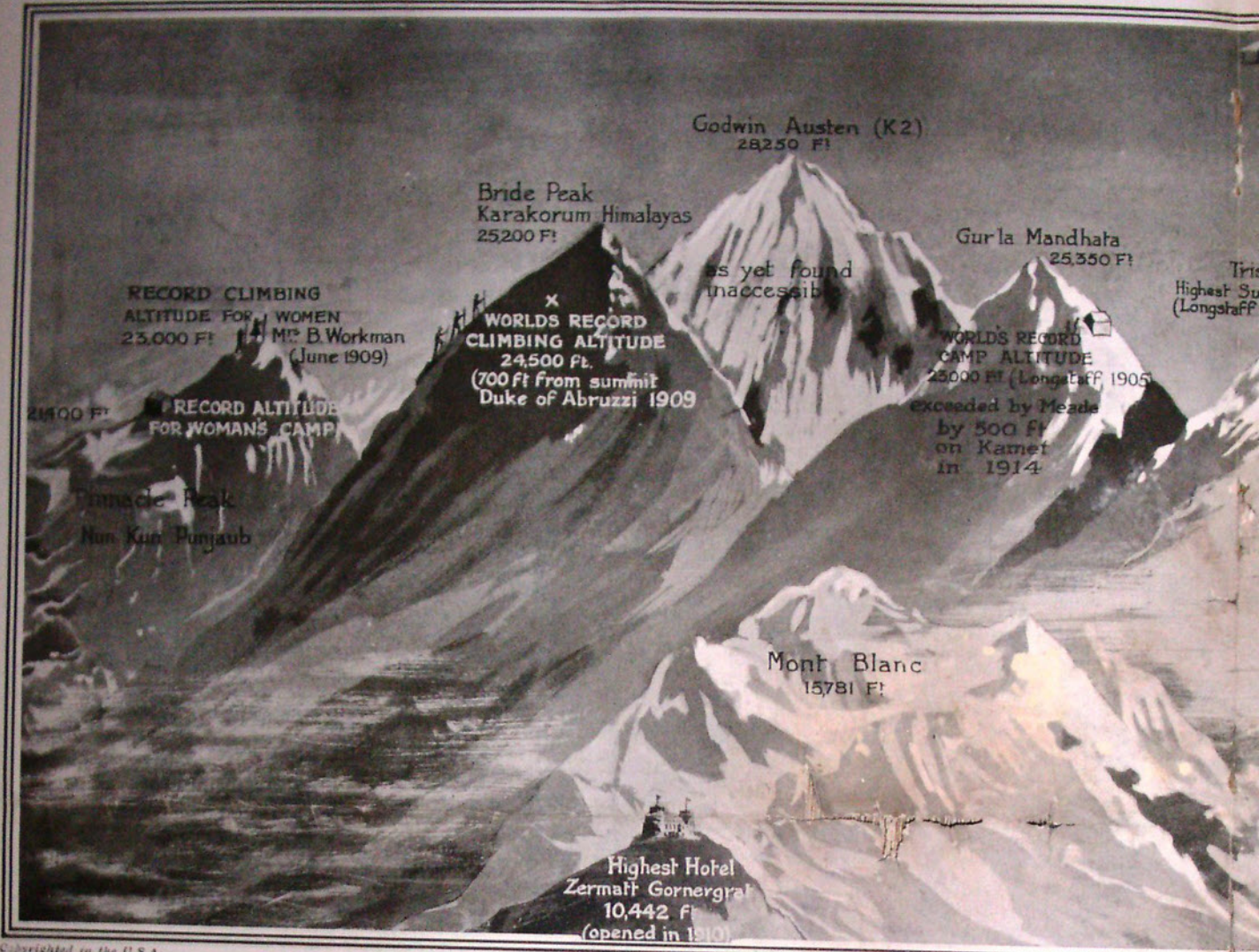


The Nearest Approaches to the Unscaled Mountain—The Two European and the Two Native Expeditions

That Mount Everest itself has never yet been closely approached by any European is a fact well brought out in the above map. The nearest approaches were made by Major Ryder in 1904 and Major Noel in 1913, who both got within 45 miles of the mountain. Two other explorers—native surveyors under the Indian Government—have got within about 25 miles. Apart from these attempts Mount Everest has successfully resisted all close approaches. In the map the concentric circles show 10-mile distances from the peak of Everest



# THE ATTEMPT TO CLIMB EVEREST : WHAT the



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Mount Everest itself, curious as it may sound, has never yet been climbed or attempted by Indian mountaineers. This peak, the loftiest in the world, is 29,141 feet high, and was named after Sir George Everest (1790-1860), a former Surveyor-General of India. The peaks which surround Everest within a radius of, roughly, 800 miles have at

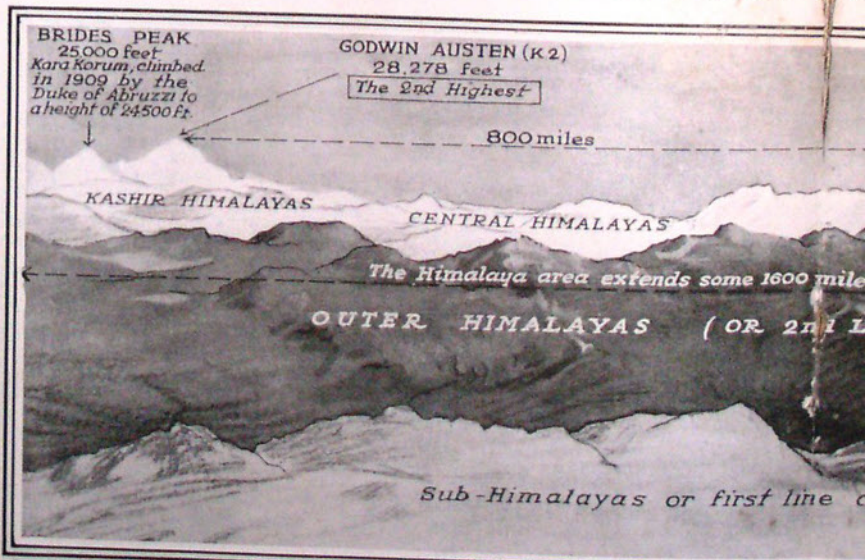
## Mount Everest, and the Group of Himalayan Peaks Surrounding

various times been scaled, or partially scaled; of these the Bride's Peak, which is 800 miles away from Everest itself, was climbed to within 700 feet of its summit by the Duke of the Abruzzi in 1909, and this is still the world's record for mountain climbing. In the same year, on another peak, Mrs. B. Workman also established the record



The Base Town at the Foot of the Himalayas

Darjeeling is a sanitary station in the Lower Himalayas, and is the nearest base town to Mount Everest. This picture shows a portion of the centre of the town, with the band stand and the observatory hill



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## The Vastness of the Problem of the Exploration of

The Himalayas are not a single mountain range, but a system of parallel ranges, lying for the most part obliquely to the general direction of the system. These ranges extend for a distance of some 1,600 miles, with an average breadth of about 200 miles, fronting the Gangetic plain like a huge wall. In the Himalayas proper there are two main axes, one of which contains the great snow-capped peaks, and the other, or northern axis, serves as the watershed between the Indian and Tibetan river systems. The southern chain contains the loftiest peaks in the world, culminating in the mighty

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# the NEW EXPEDITION WILL HAVE to ACHIEVE.—I.



DRAWN BY G. BRON

## ounding it, Compared with some Notable European Mountains

climbing altitude for women—23,000 feet—on Pinnacle Peak. The other attempts on mountains within a wide range of Mount Everest are also shown in the above diagram. Kangchenjunga, the sister peak to Mount Everest, and only 1,000 feet lower, has also remained inaccessible hitherto. Compared with Mont Blanc, the highest European

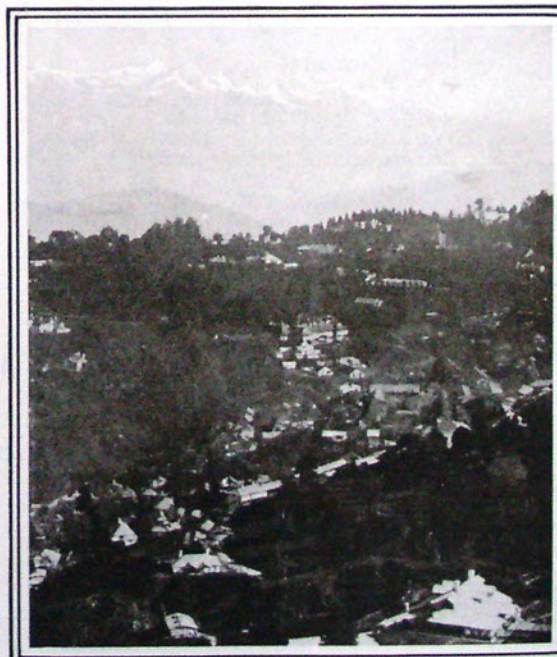
mountain, Mount Everest towers high above it, whilst Ben Nevis and Snowdon fade into insignificance alongside the mighty Indian summit. A point not often quite grasped is that no mountaineer has ever come within reach of Everest by many miles. The notable climbs in the Himalayas have been carried out on peaks far distant.



DRAWN BY G. BRON

## oration of Mount Everest Diagrammatically shown

and virgin Mount Everest, with Mount Godwin Austen as the second, and Kangchenjunga as the third highest peaks. Kabru was ascended by Graham in 1883 to nearly 24,000 feet, and it was the belief of this intrepid mountaineer that included in the range are peaks even higher than Everest itself. The deep valleys between the various mountain ranges contain stupendous glaciers which will have to be crossed by any expedition making the attack on Mount Everest. Here are to be found the sources of the Ganges, the Indus, and the Bramaputra, and many other mighty rivers.



## A Distant View of the Snow-capped Himalayas

Darjeeling lies in the foreground amidst the lower spurs of the great mountain range. The town itself is over 7,000 feet above sea-level, and northwards from it stretch the mountain ranges leading up to Everest.