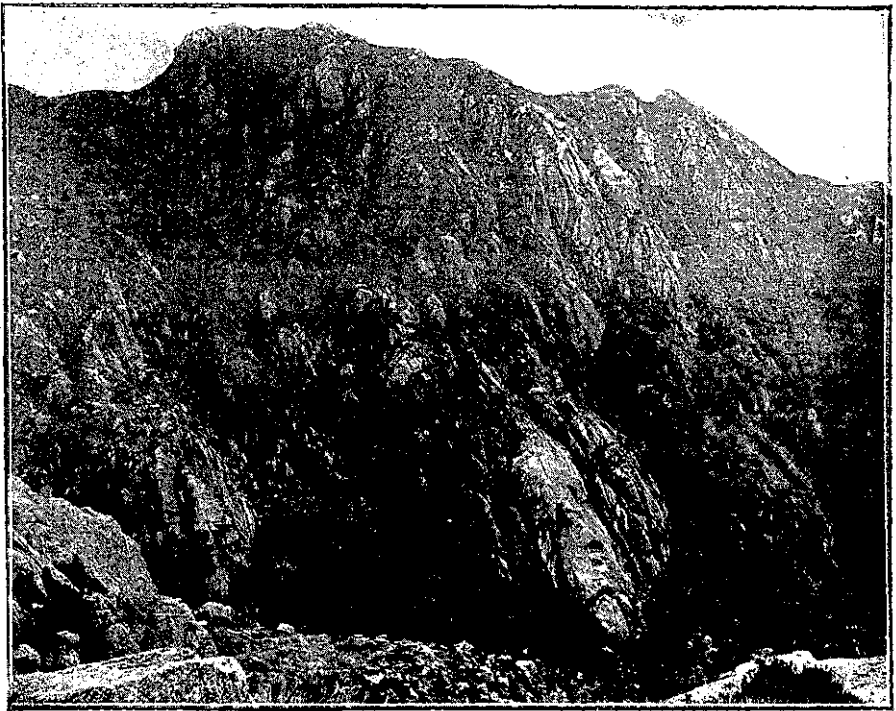


glimmering, and the kakas were heralding its approach with their harsh clamour. We set out on our climb in excellent spirits, and when we reached the point from where the Inangahua Valley could usually be seen, a strange view was presented to us. The whole valley was filled with billowy mist, out of which a few of the highest mountain-tops rose like islands in a vast sea. The fog-banks extended in wave-like succession far as the eye

Spear-grasses have to be reckoned with on this line of country, and the Government Botanist, in writing to me on the subject, expressed his surprise at the curious varieties growing on our West Coast mountains, which are quite unknown on the East. After crossing one high point, a narrow razor-backed saddle led us to the next, and on several occasions we climbed four or five peaks, ranging in height from between four and five thousand feet,



Bluff on Dividing Range.

could reach, motionless, and enveloping all the lowlands as with a white woollen pall. By ten o'clock the sun had dispelled this accumulated vapour, and the morning became brilliantly clear. We travelled as far as the ten mile peg, crossing some rock-strewn bluffs, which so far are unsurveyed and nameless. The track has been made for twenty-two miles, and when finished will reach the Victoria Range, near Reefton.

before getting back to camp. It was all granite country, with stray patches of micaceous schist, and was well watered, although as we had struck the record summer for fine weather known to the coast, the mountain herbage was beginning to show signs of withering, and many of the springs were drying up. Large flowered mountain daisies starred the Alpine meadows, and what are popularly known as mountain primulas were in great