



# The B. C. Mountaineer

## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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### AN OLD FRIEND INJURED

Members of the Club will be sorry to learn that Mr. Fraser, who packed for the last Garibaldi camp and for the Seattle Mountaineers this year, is in St. Paul's Hospital as the result of a severe axe-cut inflicted while packing to Cheakamus Lake for the Vancouver hydrographic survey party with which Mr. Neal Carter worked all Summer.

### EXPEDITION TO WEDGE MOUNTAIN

Mr. Neal M. Carter and Mr. Charles Townsend left on September 7th for Alta and Green lakes where they hope to spend ten days or two weeks among the virgin peaks. Wedge Mountain, 8,300 feet, is one of their main objectives; to the northward of it there is an imposing rocky cirque above which rise two peaks of about equal height.

### A WILDERNESS PROBLEM

How would you get an injured person out of the wilderness where all ordinary means of transportation are out of the question?

Mr. R. L. Horie, a surveyor of many years experience in British Columbia, tells of using an adaptation of the "travois" which the prairie Indians once utilized with horses. The Indian travois consisted of two poles crossed over a pony's back, the other ends trailing on the ground while the redman's belongings were carried in a basketwork stretched between. Mr. Horie reversed this arrangement of the poles, the joined ends trailing on the ground, and the others being carried on a man's shoulders where they were secured by straps or ropes. He says that actual practice shows that one man can bring out a companion this way when carrying him on the back would be too exhausting—he brought a man with a gashed foot out from Cheakamus Lake.

### NEW GROUSE MT. TRAIL

The new trail up Grouse Mountain has been in use several weeks now, and is in good condition. Though actually somewhat longer than the old trail, it requires but little more time to travel owing to the easy grade. The open slopes of Dome Mountain command a splendid view, but this part of the trail is likely to prove more popular for foot traffic when the weather is cooler. The remainder of the trail runs through big green timber to the edge of the plateau, joining the old trail at the northern edge of the area of bare rock to which the name of "plateau" is more generally applied specifically. At this point a small glade runs westward and an existing stretch of footpath was made use of. The new trail was not built with the intention of trying to divert foot traffic from the nearly out-worn "main" trail on the south slope.

### OLD FRIENDS RETURN

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Beltz, both old-time members of the Club, have returned to the city from Trinidad where their baby boy was born. They spent a week at their cabin on Grouse Mountain, their city address being 2296 Broadway East, for the present.

## CHEAKAMUS LAKE AND DISTRICT

By Neal M. Carter

The Club was unfortunate this year in having to forego a Summer Camp because of necessitated change of plans at a late date; the proposed region, however, at the head of the Fitzsimmons Valley, was visited by Mr. and Mrs. Don Munday, and a report duly published in this periodical. The writer, after spending three months with a survey party near this region, may be able to add a few additional facts to this report.

From Alta Lake P. O. (Rainbow Lodge), a twelve-mile trail to Avalanche Pass was to have been followed, as described. Here, access is given to the mountains encircling the head of the Valley, notably Mt. Overlord and Red Mt., both of which may be seen from Alta Lake. The Spearhead Range, also visible from Alta Lake as the nearest glaciated peaks, lies across the Fitzsimmons Valley from the camp site, and is more easily climbed either from Alta Lake, or part way up the trail. Other interesting peaks in the vicinity of the railway are Whistler Mt. (7,000 ft.,) a moderate day's climb from the Lodge; Sproat Mt., just back of Alta Lake, about 6,000 feet high, becomes the local "Grouse Mt." A very fine glacier, at the head of 19-mile creek, is also within a day's journey of the Lodge, and remembering that the elevation of the lakes in Rainbow Valley lies around the 2,000-ft. contour, these mountains seem to rise quite high above the valley. Another very interesting group lies opposite the end of Green Lake, 4 miles farther up the line. Wedge Mt. (8,300 ft.) is apparently the highest, and in many respects resembles the south and west faces of Garibaldi. Another pair of twin peaks connected by a knife-edge ridge are nearly as high, and promise plenty of rock-climbing. These, and many similar ones are still unmapped, unnamed, and have yet to feel the prod of the ice-axe.

The three valleys containing Fitzsimmons Creek, Cheakamus Lake and river, and the Garibaldi Region, lie approximately parallel to the railway, and at right angles to it. The writer had much to do with Cheak-

amus Lake, following the cutting of an eight mile pack trail in from Mile 34 to the P. G. E. R. This lake, at an elevation of 2,810 feet, forms with Callaghan Creek, the source of the Cheakamus River. It is four miles long with an average width of one mile, lying east and west with its head about opposite the Sphinx Glacier of the Garibaldi region. It is intensely glacial, being fed by a large number of glaciers at the head of a wide valley opening out beyond the flats at the head of the Lake. Singing Creek, the largest of the clear streams flowing into the lake, cascades down some 3,000 feet from the south side of Avalanche Pass, while Corrie Creek, flowing from a small lake below the Corrie Glacier, empties into Cheakamus Lake just at its outlet. Above all, however, the most impressive feature of this lake, is the huge Cheakamus Glacier flowing from the immense ice and snow fields to the north of Castle Towers Mt. This glacier, as Mr. Munday has said, is by far the finest in the region, surpassing any of those in the Garibaldi region, and even excelling the Fitzsimmons Glacier in ruggedness and size, if not in length. Its tremendous ice-fall, seen on the sky-line from the head of the Lake, can only be compared with that of the Roosevelt on Mt. Baker; from the sheer north cliffs of Castle Towers to its snout 250 feet above the lake, it presents one tumbling chaos of ice.

The writer, with a Mr. Chas. Nikiel, made an ascent of Whistler Mt. from a camp five miles up the Cheakamus River above the railway. A 45° timbered slope led up to a steep, alpine ridge, which, after the usual belt of mountain flora, became a rocky series of pinnacles, each becoming higher until the summit was reached. The view was splendid, all the old friends of the Garibaldi group becoming of new interest when seen from a different angle. The Black Tusk, resembling a huge spire, rose above Desolation Valley, and Helmet creek could be traced from Helmet Lake to its juncture with the Cheakamus just above camp. Castle Towers, with its two abutments on either side of the above-mentioned Cheakamus Glacier, completely dwarfed

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Garibaldi in the distance. Mt. Isoceles and Parapet Peak, across the head of the Pitt, and the whole of the Fitzsimmons region also were very clear. Wedge Mt. and some very fine pinnacled peaks at the head of Brandywine Creek were other prominent features. Whistler Mt. itself, though reputed to be 7,200 ft., was evidently lower than the Tusk (7,250 ft.,) and though quite spectacular looking from Alta Lake, proved very tame from this side.

The same party later made a trip from the camp at the outlet of Cheakamus Lake across the ridge into the Fitzsimmons valley, visited Avalanche pass in hopes of striking the B. C. M. C. Camp, and returned disappointed down Singing Creek and back along the jungles around the shore of the lake. The day camp broke they also visited two very beautiful falls on Corrie Creek, about 600 feet above the Lake.

A splendid, well-blazed pack trail from the 34-mile post gives access to this region, and a 25-foot dugout canoe accommodating 8 persons is available for transportation over the lake.

#### MOUNTAINS NEAR HOPE

For years, Vancouver climbers have heard about the mountains south of Jones Lake, near Hope, but until this summer they remained entirely unvisited. Mr. Charles Chapman passed through the district with a botanical party headed by Mr. J. W. Winson, and the next day Mr. and Mrs. Munday arrived on a climbing trip, their objective being Mt. General Stewart, reputed to be the hardest of approach from the north, and declared to be inaccessible by miners and trappers. Mt. Cheam is the lowest of the range, and the most westerly. The group of eight peaks is more than ordinarily fine, and for striking appearance are not easily matched. The glaciers are not large, but most of them are extremely rugged; several of the

peaks may be fairly easy of approach from the south, but the northern faces are most formidable owing to the great cliffs and the glaciers at the foot of them.

Mt. Welch is the highest of the group, appearing about 8,500 feet. The only names in common use are those applied by the miners at the Lucky Four Mine, the three more prominent peaks being named for the owners of the claims, Foley, Welch, and Stewart; another peak is called The Still from its way of condensing moisture into clouds; another peak, probably the most difficult of the range, Mr. A. S. Williamson, superintendent of the mine, persists in calling "Baby Munday" in honor of her mountaineering experience.

Unfortunately, the district does not offer sufficient scope for holding a Club camp for two weeks as the surrounding mountains are of no particular interest to climbers. A fine district exists to the south, but is widely separated by the valley of the Chilliwack River.

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The recent death of Peter Taugwalder has robbed Switzerland of the last survivor of the party which climbed the Matterhorn for the first time 58 years ago, at the cost of six lives.

Only three out of a total party of ten returned to Zermatt after having made the first ascent of the previously unscathed Matterhorn. These were Peter Taugwalder and his son, and Edward Whymper, a famous British alpinist, who organized the party. Whymper and the younger Taugwalder have been dead for many years, but Peter Taugwalder lived to make over 120 ascents of the mountain on which he escaped death when his seven companions plunged over a cliff to the Matterhorn glacier 4,000 feet below.

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