



# The B. C. Mountaineer

## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

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The Cabin Committee wishes to announce that the next social week-end will be January 12-13, 1924. The programme, which will be very interesting, will be: Saturday night, Mr. Perry will give a talk on the early history of the Cabin and Grouse Mt. On Sunday there will be a snowshoe trip to Dam Mt. The list will be in the Camera and Arts as usual. The Cabin Committee requests those using the pans and dishes at the Cabin to please wash and put them back in place when through using them, as some members have been forgetting to do this before going on a trip.

### MEANS FOR AN EMERGENCY FIRE.

Keeping one's equipment as light as possible is essential in the mountains but a useful hint for getting a fire in an emergency is what goes by the name of "fire bottle." It is nothing more bulky or weighty than a small bottle or other perfectly tight container filled with fabric saturated with coal oil. On short trips there may seem to be little need of such a thing, but in snowy weather even the experienced person may sometimes find getting a fire, when most

needed, is extremely difficult. In any event, the "fire bottle" has been proven a friend in need.

### JUSTIFYING MOUNTAINEERING.

Just why mountaineering is more in need of justification than any other form of recreation is not clear, but the fact remains that climbers have to try again and again to answer questions on the subject of why they climb. Of course, mixed motives underly climbing.

Those who find themselves too unready of speech to express why they climb, should refer interrogators to the introduction by Sir Francis Younghusband, President of the Royal Geographical Society, to "Mt. Everest, the Reconnaissance, 1921." The book will be found, occasionally, in the Club library at the Cabin, but most of the time it is in possession of members down town, thus proving its interest, and also that the Cabin is not in many respects the best location for the library, as there is greater delay in returning books.

### LYNN PEAKS TRIP.

Mr. W. G. Wheatley is in charge of the trip to Lynn Peaks on January 6th. This will be a one-day trip, the party leaving on the 7.40 a.m. ferry. It is a pleasant climb for one day, and at this time of the year the views are very fine, weather permitting—and Mr. Wheatley has established a reputation for picking fine week-ends.

Do not bring snowshoes as the slopes encountered are too steep for their use. Food for one meal may prove sufficient, but a little extra might be more advisable.

### NOTICE

Any members interested in skiing might get in touch with P. R. Lockie, phone High. 836L. There are several experts in town who would like to start a ski club if a bunch could be got together.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. A. A. Milledge and Miss Clarice Henley, both members of the Club, were married December 22nd. We wish them all happiness, and hope to see them in the hills as often as ever.

**ICE-AXES PROCURABLE IN VANCOUVER.**

It will be good news to members to know that ice-axes may now be secured in Vancouver without the excessive delay attaching to sending to Switzerland, more particularly as the axes last received were unsatisfactory as to strength.

Mr. W. E. Martin, treasurer, will be glad to put members in touch with a Vancouver mechanic who is turning out an ice-axe of excellent strength for the sum of \$8.00. The shaft is of selected wood, and the steel is equally good, although possibly lacking slightly in the outward finish of the foreign article. However, it is an article that one need have no hesitation in recommending to Club members, and certainly worth the small extra cost, if only on account of the promptness with which it may be obtained. Every encouragement ought to be given to any effort on the part of local workmen to produce ice-axes, and credit is due the Club Treasurer for his energy in locating a man capable of doing the work.

**MT. STRACHAN TRIP.**

Mt. Strachan, via Hollyburn Ridge, is the trip for the week-end of January 19-20. It is hoped to issue the January number of *THE MOUNTAINEER* in time to announce definite particulars about the trip, but at the present time there is some doubt about being allowed free use of the mill buildings as in the past, owing to an attempt to turn the logging camp for the winter into a stopping place for parties visiting Hollyburn Ridge. Particulars regarding the trip will be left in the Club box, at Camera and Arts, in any event. If the mill buildings cannot be used it will be necessary to turn the trip into a one-day one.

Note that the proper spelling of the name of the mountain is with "ch," although the Union Steamship Company have christened their Bowen Island resort "Mt. Strahan Lodge."

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The Editor is in receipt of a letter from the historian of The Mountaineers, Seattle, stating that their annual publication has

gone to press, but a copy has not yet been received—as it will embody The Mountaineers' impression of Garibaldi Park, it should be of more than ordinary interest to B.C. M.C. members. It also contains a brief summary of B.C.M.C. activities for the past season.

**THE CANADIAN ALPINE JOURNAL.**

Volume XIII., of the Canadian Alpine Journal, is the foremost piece of alpine literature published in Canada this year, and one in which every climber may take the keenest interest whether a member of the Alpine Club or not.

The place of honor is given to an article by Major E. O. Wheeler dealing with the first expedition to Mt. Everest, and adds considerably to what has already been published on this greatest of mountaineering topics. Some aspects of the Everest problem as dealt with by Mr. T. G. Longstaff, medical officer of the 1922 expedition, throws a clearer light on the physical difficulties of the climb than perhaps anything which has yet appeared in print on the subject.

Coming nearer home, much of the volume is devoted to climbing in the Rockies, of course. Climbers sometime feel that not much is left in the line of making first ascents in Canada's greatest mountain chain, but the reader of this issue of the Journal can scarcely escape being struck by number of first ascents recorded—for those who hunger, rightly enough, for the triumph of a first ascent, it will be good news to learn that out of 30 peaks in the Freshfield group alone, there are 24 over 10,000 feet, half of them unclimbed.

In the Northern Rockies, Mt. Sir Alexander and Mt. Ida are classed as inaccessible. The latter somewhat resembles Mt. Assiniboine in appearance. The outstanding difficulty about the former is its sharp summit ridge, too sharp to carry a cornice.

"Ice worms" are usually classed as one of the far-fetched stories of the Arctic regions, but the scientific section of the Journal carries an article with drawings and particulars of snow worms, which rejoice under the name of *Mesenchytraeus gelidus*.

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Local climbers may remember that Sir James Outram did not profess to know just what "red snow" is, whether animal or vegetable; this article rather increases the conflict of opinion.

Illustrated with a fine panorama is an article by Mr. Don Munday on climbing at the head of Pitt River in Garibaldi Park.

To those who take any interest in Rev. G. B. Kinney's claim to have made the first complete ascent of Mt. Robson, it may be pointed out that Mr. W. B. Putnam claims the second ascent, a previous Journal having credited Lieut.-Col. W. W. Foster and Mr. A. H. McCarthy with the first ascent. Last summer the Editor of THE MOUNTAINEER received a long and somewhat incoherent protest from Mr. Kinney against a published statement in the press in keeping with what had appeared in the 1914 Journal, Mr. Kinney claiming to have never before known of any doubt being cast on his claims although his companion, Phillips, is quoted as definitely denying their making a complete ascent.

Altogether it is an excellent issue, well illustrated, and crammed with interest. Copies are obtainable, price \$2.00, from Mr. S. H. Mitchell, Sidney, B. C.

#### TO ATTEMPT HIGHEST PEAK IN CANADA.

It is not generally known that Mt. Logan, 19,800 feet, is the highest peak in Canada, the popular impression outside of mountaineering circles being that Mt. Robson enjoys this honor. For some time the Alpine Club of Canada has been anxious to send an expedition to attempt the conquest of this great peak, and recently Mr. A. H. McCarthy has been appointed organizer for the expedition.

#### MT. RAINIER.

It is usually considered something of an event to see Mt. Rainier from the vicinity of Vancouver, but recent experience would seem to indicate that it is largely a matter

of being favorably placed. In spite of the dull weather which has marked December, Mt. Rainier has been a fairly common sight from Alpine Lodge, Grouse Mountain; on one occasion with the naked eye the curve of the summit ridge and crater was readily distinguishable in spite of the 170 miles intervening.

#### DOMES MOUNTAIN TRIP.

The Dome Mountain trip, led by the Director, Mr. Tom Fyles, December 2nd, from the Club Cabin, was carried out in spite of fog, wind and snow. There was insufficient snow for using snowshoes, and the going was somewhat heavy. However, there was a good turn-out under the circumstances, and a second party came straight through from the city Sunday morning and made the climb. For a person properly equipped for the work, even such weather conditions need not completely, or even nearly, spoil an outing.

#### THE TANTALUS RANGE.

Sooner or later the Club will succeed in the highly difficult undertaking of holding a camp in the Tantalus Range. Most of the members are more or less familiar with some of the difficulties, but this does not lessen the keenness of the desire to enter the fascinating region.

Newer climbers around Vancouver will not know Mr. B. S. Darling, a former member of the Club, and now residing in Toronto. His name will be found on the records of the first ascents of some of the more prominent peaks around Vancouver, and he led the way into the Tantalus Range, therefore, the following letter from him to the secretary, Mr. John Speer, is of special interest.

"I am sorry you have not been able to arrange to get into the Tantalus country for your Summer Camp. I was looking forward to reading the story of your members' experiences there. It is interesting to learn that you expected to go in by aero-

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plane. I suppose hydroplanes would have been necessary as the landings in the Tantalus Group are few and far between. All the ridges are narrow and the snow fields fairly steep and some of them quite badly crevassed. A hydroplane, however, could land very nicely in what now seems to be called Tantalus Lake, which I suppose is the lake we used to call Lake Lovely Water when I climbed in the group. It lies below the south cliffs of Mount Alpha. There is a peak at the west end of the lake which we used to call the Red Tusk, the final pinnacle of which is quite a good bit of work. The climb on Alpha by the south face is also interesting. I remember when we made it, a mountain goat insisted on keeping ahead of us most of the way, and made things rather unpleasant by sending down showers of rocks, which we had a good deal of difficulty in dodging. He kept with us nearly all the way and crossed the summit a few minutes before we got there, after which he disappeared down a steep gully on the north face.

"The valley leading up to the lake is pretty rough going in spots, and on the shore of the lake there are no very good camping places for a large party. The best camp for a large party would be on the ridge that leads up to Tantalus, north of the east ridge of Alpha, although there is not a great deal of room there either. Climbing on the ridge itself up to the highest camp-

ing place is not bad although there is some fallen timber to get over in places.

"The glacier at the head of the valley your exploring party entered is very broken and avalanches fall from it constantly day and night, or used to when we camped on the crest of the ridge to the south in 1911. The sound of avalanches and falling seracs was so constant that we used to call it the Rumbling Glacier. In those days the snout of the glacier extended over the cliffs in a long narrow tongue like a pan-handle. It took us some time in 1911 to get through the crevasses and climb Tantalus as the ice was very broken right up to the edge of the surrounding cliffs. I remember that we started late that day (having climbed from the Squamish the day before under heavy packs) and the crevasses delayed us so much that after having made the traverse of Tantalus from the south we reached the glacier again below the north ridge just as dark was coming on. We then had a great deal of trouble finding our way back through the crevasses as our footprints of the morning had melted away. We got through finally by the aid of a lantern and the few traces left by the spikes of the axes, the deeper spike holes having not entirely disappeared.

"The country you have now chosen for the camp north of Castle Towers will doubtless prove equally interesting. I often used to look at it from Garibaldi and Mount Mamquam, but never had the good fortune to get into it."

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