



The B. C. Mountaineer

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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CAMP DIFFICULTIES

Most of the members know that a camp this year in the Tantalus Range was conditional upon being able to secure aerial transport for camp supplies. Use of a government aeroplane for this purpose required permission from Ottawa. This was refused after a long period of silence, and when permission was finally secured, and the Vancouver unit of the Air Force notified to that effect, the Club was informed that no suitable machine was available for the work, though a new machine might be in commission by that time.

In the meantime the Camp Committee saw clearly that the suggestion of a camp at Jervis Inlet found no support such as would warrant attempting to make it the alternative authorized by the last annual meeting.

Therefore, at the suggestion of the Director, two members of the Camp Committee made a reconnaissance of the Fitzsimmons Creek district, as mentioned in the last issue of the "MOUNTAINEER." But apparently the uncertainty about camp created by the

long period when it was impossible to say whether or not camp would be held in the Tantalus Range, made many members abandon the idea of going to camp, or led them to arrange to have their holidays at other than the camp dates. In any event, not enough applications to go to camp were received to warrant engaging pack horses.

The fault, if there is any, does not rest with the Camp Committee nor with the Executive. But the situation clearly illustrates something this year's Executive Committee laid plans at the very outset of its term of office to dispose of for future years, although perhaps powerless to do anything this year to remedy the defect. What is referred to is leaving the choice of the site of the annual camp until the spring of the same year, as has always been done in the past. Only those who have served on the Executive Committee will realize in full the unavoidable delays that tie the hands of those responsible for arranging camp.

If the annual camp, which should be the greatest single undertaking of the Club each year, is to be the fullest possible success, the site of camp must be decided practically a year in advance; that is, months in advance of the present date of the annual meeting. This radical change is essential to the success of the camp.

INNOVATIONS ON GROUSE MT.

About the beginning of August a new trail up Grouse Mountain will be completed by the interests who intend to place a hotel on the plateau; the route taken will be from the Lonsdale car terminus eastward to St. George, thence up the open slopes of Dome Mountain, green timber being entered at an elevation of about 2,500 feet, and Mosquito Creek crossed at about 2,800. From thereon the trail will bear westward toward the end of the old trail on the bare rocks overlooking the city. The gradient is so remarkably easy throughout, and the character of the route so pleasant, that the old Grouse trail is likely to go into the discard as soon as the new route becomes generally known. The new trail is primarily intended for saddle and pack horses, so will be well suited for foot traffic.

The intention is to keep the trail open for horse traffic all winter. This service is being handled by Mr. Don Munday. Horses will be available from the Lonsdale car terminus about August 1.

Lighting fires and cutting of any kind of dead or green timber on the top of the mountain will be subject to the strictest kind of control in order to preserve the natural beauty of the area to the fullest extent possible. Such a move is certainly overdue. The entire mountain top is now private property.

Coincident with the opening of the new trail, a refreshment stand will be placed beside the lake; drinks, fruit, meals, etc., will be served daily, summer and winter. Mrs. Don Munday will be in charge. This will be a permanent feature although begun in temporary quarters. Doubtless, climbers will be pleased to know that these services will be handled by fellow-mountaineers.

CABIN IMPROVEMENTS

On the recommendation of the Cabin Committee, lumber has been purchased to lay a new floor in the kitchen of the Club Cabin. Mr. "Roddie" Gaudet has packed most of the material up there, but male members of the Club are reminded that a few pieces still remain alongside of the trail awaiting willing shoulders to carry them; as they are only ten-foot lengths it is no great feat of strength to carry one—remember the duties of the Cabin Committee are not to relieve the rest of the members of their fair share of keeping the Cabin in repair.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs. M. C. Johnston, for several years one of the Club's vice-presidents, left Vancouver on July 10 for Los Angeles, and was married on July 18 to Mr. P. B. Long, who has been a popular member of the Club for many years. Before leaving the city, Mrs. Johnston was presented by members of the Alpine Club and the B. C. M. C. with a handsomely embossed club bag. Mr. and Mrs. Long will have the best wishes of all local climbers for their happiness, and we are glad to learn that it is not their intention to desert British Columbia permanently.

MT. RODERICK

Mt. Roderick, at the head of Mill Creek Howe Sound, was climbed for the first time on June 17, by Mr. H. J. Graves, chairman of the Vancouver section of the Alpine Club, and Mr. F. H. Smith, of Britannia Beach; the trip took three days, and use was made of the information gained by Mr. and Mrs. Don Munday, who penetrated to the base of the mountain in rainy weather last year, seeking a route for a trail to the Tantalus Range.

The large snowfields give the mountain a deceptive appearance of height, as its elevation is about 6,600 feet.

MT. BAKER

In the past the trip to Mt. Baker has always been made on Labor Day week-end, but the change this year to Dominion Day was a distinct advantage owing to the greater length of daylight and the increased likelihood of good weather. The sightseeing car, in which the party of 22 left Vancouver, stuck for a time in a ditch in avoiding a collision. When Glacier, Wash., was finally reached it was found that a detour of over two miles was necessary owing to logging operations along the trail, further delay being caused by two pack horses having trouble in the dark in boggy ground. At the eight-mile creek the packer refused to take the horses across owing to the rush of water.

The maximum amount of sleep any of the party obtained that night was two and a half hours. Splendid weather prevailed for the climb in the footsteps of an unroped party of the Seattle Mountaineers, led by Mr. Jos. Hazard. The visibility was excellent when the summit was reached at 4 p.m. In three places the mountain was seen to be smoking. The evening light on the glacier and the snowy peak was unforgettable.

Rain somewhat marred the return home, but when good weather has favored the climb, even a severe downpour becomes unimportant.

The Glacier trail to Mt. Baker will not be open again this season.

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ON MAKING TRAILS

To one who has been a member of the Club for a long time it sometimes seems that insufficient thought has been given to the making of trails. Until logging operations have finished the work of ruining what ought to have been one great forest reserve, the making of trails is somewhat discouraging. Also, it must be admitted that logging roads—notably in the case of Lynn Valley—have been a boon to climbers.

But, after all, a mountaineering club ought to take the lead in trail-making, if only on the ground of service to its members. There are a few climbers, partly selfish, partly thoughtless, who oppose making the mountains more readily accessible—as though they are better mountaineers because of being bushwhackers. They overlook the rather well-known fact that making mountains more accessible raises the standard of climbing by eliminating the waste of time otherwise taken up in overcoming the natural obstacles offered by the non-climbing areas. When we have so little time for climbing it is a pity to continue to waste it forcing a way through the woods when a few hours' work would make a well-defined trail on which a little additional work might be expended each trip thereafter.

Members used to rough coast bush-work may fail to realize how much the speed of a party would be increased if the less experienced members only had some sort of trail to keep their feet from tangling so badly.

Black Mountain and the upper part of West Lynn Valley are two suggestions for ambitious trail-makers. The Howe Sound side of the Lions is another place. As it seems almost impossible to keep the party together coming down, the trail might with advantage be made more distinct.

CURIOUS ALPINE EQUIPMENT

From a Portland dealer a circular has been received accompanied by photographs of some curious articles which are supposed to be alpine equipment. First on his list is an alpenstock every bit as long

as seems to find favor with some of our climbing friends to the south, its chief merit being its suitability for use as a tent pole.

Next on the list is a cross between an ice axe and a "grubhoe," with the features of the latter quite marked in the hybrid; in particular, the handle is attached just like a pick except that it is held in place by a screw so the head may be dismounted for packing. For casual climbing it might answer all right, but the head would soon work loose with continued use just as a pick handle is worn by the metal of the head.

A combined pack-board and toboggan, three pounds in weight, and with an aluminum back, is said to have given satisfaction on Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams. It is two feet long and one foot wide, easily controlled, so its inventor claims, by an alpenstock when one is sliding. As the obvious disadvantages of pack-boards outweigh their good points, it is unlikely this type will find much favor among our climbers merely for the odd times it could be put to the special use for which it is intended.

BLACK MOUNTAIN, JULY 28-29

Director Tom Fyles will be in charge. The main party will leave on the P. G. E. train from North Vancouver. A saving may be made by buying combined train and ferry ticket at the Vancouver ferry wharf to Whytecliff. Camp will be at the Lake about 900 feet above Horseshoe Bay. As most of the climb of Black Mountain is in the open, splendid views are obtained up Howe Sound and in other directions. This is the best approach to the mountain, but a few volunteers with sharp axes could easily make the groundwork for a trail through the strip of second growth. The summit plateau is extensive, with a number of pretty little lakes.

Have you paid your subscription of \$1.00 for the B. C. MOUNTAINEER? You are reminded that each member, by a decision of the annual meeting, is assessed \$1.00 to meet the cost of this publication. If your annual fees are in arrears you are requested to pay them also.

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NORTH PEAKS OF CROWN, JULY 14-15

Only seven stalwarts accompanied the Director on this trip, but they were rewarded by an excellent trip with exceptionally good visibility for summer weather. The trail to the zinc mine was taken, after which came a climb to the top of the ridge above the mine, the crest being followed to the base of the most northerly peak of Crown. All the peaks were traversed in succession to the summit of Crown, which was reached at 2 p.m., when it was judged too late to climb the Camel.

This trip is one of the most enjoyable on the summer programme and should have witnessed a much larger attendance.

ATTEMPT ON MT. GEIKIE

An attempt to climb Mt. Geikie is being made by Mr. Krahnstoever, an experienced European climber. Mt. Geikie, 10,850 feet, is situated in the Ramparts Range, south of Jasper, in a district difficult to reach; several peaks in the range are considered as verging on the inaccessible. Last year Mr. C. G. Wates, of Edmonton, did not succeed in getting to the top of Mt. Geikie, though within about 500 feet of it. The mountain offers an exceptionally long rock climb and is extremely steep.

The Secretary recently received and answered an enquiry from the Californian Alpine Club which sought particulars with regard to cost, construction, design, etc., of the B. C. M. C. Cabin, as they plan building one. Enquires have been received in the past from other clubs which had not reached the stage of owning a cabin in the hills as early in their history as the B. C. M. C. was successful in doing.

IN GOOD COMPANY

It is interesting to note that the Sierra Club of San Francisco, and the Mazamas, of Portland, this year commenced the issue of publications somewhat along the same lines as the B. C. MOUNTAINEER. The former is bi-monthly, the other one is monthly. The two clubs issue annual publications, but in spite of this feel the need of something else.

CAMP AT LAKE O'HARA

Mr. Tom Fyles, and as many applicants for camp as fall in line with the proposal, will go to Lake O'Hara in the Rockies for the two-week period set aside for the Annual Summer Camp.

By doing this, the Fitzsimmons Creek district will be left available in its freshness for next year's camp.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Climbers who attended the Rogers Pass camp of the B. C. M. C., may appreciate the following nonsense rhyme which will recall to mind the great rock overlooking the camp site occupied for a week at the head of Asulkan Valley, and named for a fancied resemblance to an ichthyosaurus sprawled beside the glacier.

*"There once was an ichthyosaurus
Who lived when the earth was all porous;
But he fainted with shame
When he first heard his name,
And departed a long time before us."*

Mr. R. Gaudet and Mr. Hugh McKechnie left on July 19 for a trip up Seymour Creek to Loch Lomond, from which point they planned to cross over to Utopia Lake and descend to Britannia Beach.

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