



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS  
MESSAGE

"The Christmas spirit is one that mountaineers ought to find easy to understand, and in which to share. Snow and evergreens we always visualize in our Christmas thoughts, and these Christmas symbols surround us on our trips.

"But Christmas is particularly a season of good will and good fellowship, things which are essentially bound up with the pursuit of mountaineering. Therefore, at this time I would appeal to one and all to give a thought to those qualities which go to make a man or woman a mountaineer in the highest, truest sense of the word.

"Unselfishness, self-sacrifice, loyalty, good fellowship, forbearance—these are things which the Club has a right to expect from its members; our mountain heritage should be an inspiration to us, should call forth the best in us. We expect much

from the Club; let us not forget our obligations toward it and all those of whom it is composed.

"A Merry Christmas to all, a Prosperous New Year for the Club, and for each of its members."

FRANK W. JOHNSON.

NEW YEARS AT CLUB CABIN

Christmas is not the big day at the Club Cabin except for a few of our more or less homeless bachelor members; for the others it is a home day. On the other hand, New Year's Day is usually planned to be spent in the mountains, but as it comes on such an inconvenient day, Thursday, the following week-end will be the big feed. Last New Year's dinner was nearly an argument in favor of a bigger cabin, but the numbers ought to be exceeded this time. It is an occasion to be remembered.

A KNOTTY MATTER

Those who have George Finch's "Making of a Mountaineer" will have noted his unqualified condemnation of the "middleman's noose" which is recommended in George Abraham's "Complete Mountaineer" as the most suitable knot for a person not on the end of the rope.

Finch is perfectly right in saying that this particular knot is a slip knot—when pulled one way it is quite possible for it to tighten around a person, which, of course, might be disastrous.

A perfect knot for the purpose is a "bowline with a bight." It is simple to tie, easily untied, and will not slip under any strain the rope will stand. It may be tied without touching the ends of the rope. The "harness hitch" properly adjusted also seems better than the middleman's noose. It is another nautical hitch, for seamen appear to have originated every knot which amounts to much.

Because of instances where people have fallen out of the rope, due to the rope being too slack around the waist, the Swiss Alpine Club is in favor of wearing a loop of the rope around one shoulder as well.

## THE CLUB'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR

The Club year for some reason or other seems to end in March, the date of the annual meeting, but December being the end of the calendar year prompts a retrospect of the Club's accomplishments in 1924.

Good mountaineering was done in the Tantalus Range, including a first ascent. A number of climbing parties have been into this fine range which towers 8,000 feet above Squamish Valley, but this was the first time any attempt was made to map the region. This is work to which the Club should give the fullest encouragement; exploration that is not productive of at least a sketch map of a district is robbed of a great part of its value, not only to the Club but to the public also. In time perhaps a less difficult route will be found into this magnificent climbing district. It is somewhat remarkable how thoroughly nature has set this area apart, with the turbulent Squamish River as the first line of defence—one Club member, Mr. H. Korten, lost his life in its waters although not on a climbing expedition.

A trip to the mountains northeast of Coquitlam Lake resulted in some knowledge regarding a blank space on the map; while those who were on the trip probably feel highly unsatisfied with the amount of information they gathered, it may well be that they under-estimate its real value. The weather certainly cannot be said to have smiled on their enterprise. Even had they accomplished less, the trip was in keeping with the best traditions of the Club which since its inception has explored many hundreds of square miles of mountainous country.

In the Cheam Range the amount of actual exploration has not been considerable for the district has been known to prospectors and miners for a long time, that is with the exception of the more formidable peaks. It is typical of this class of men that they shun broken glaciers and precipitous

pieces. However, this excellent climbing country was brought still more before the attention of mountaineers, whose climbing scope is broadening yearly with the knowledge of various peaks which may be reached within even so short a time as a three-day trip from Vancouver.

Southward from Hope a little climbing was done but the mountains in this section possess less claim to interest as their alpine characteristics are not well developed. Here, too, the country is well known to prospectors and hunters, but the higher summits have been ignored.

In the Spearhead Range east of Alta Lake, the summer camp resulted in the linking up of information already gained of the north side of the range with the map of the area around Garibaldi Lake, altogether nearly 200 square miles. This, of course, also represents some of the work of members in 1923, as the two seasons really interlock so far as exploration and climbing is concerned.

The actual climbing done, even when this takes the form of the ascent of virgin peaks, never sets the bounds of the "climbing horizon" because the new peaks always reveal other mountains to which to aspire.

In keeping with our name, the British Columbia Mountaineering Club, members went as far afield from Vancouver as Mt. Robson, British Columbia's foremost peak, and added to the Club's standing in mountaineering circles by reaching its summit. Other peaks in the neighborhood were also climbed.

All this, taken in conjunction with the Club's vigorous year-round programme of week-end trips in the mountains adjacent to Burrard Inlet and members private trips easily gives 1924 claim to be the banner year in the Club's history. Never before has the Club had so many members, so many capable climbers, or accomplished so much in the line of mountaineering. 1925, with the summer camp set for Lake O'Hara, gives promise of being a worthy successor to 1924.

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**DOMES MOUNTAIN TRIP. DEC. 13-14.**

Mr. Dudley Foster is leader of the Dome Mountain trip which will be made from the Club Cabin. Indications are that there will be a fair amount of snow by this date. It is usual to return by way of the Cabin, but those wishing to get back early may save time by descending Dome direct to Lonsdale Ave. While Dome is one of the lesser summits, the trip is made so infrequently as to possess a certain amount of novelty. It hardly deserves to be classed among the hard climbs of the winter programme.

**CROWN MOUNTAIN. JAN. 10-11**

Mr. Charles Townsend will lead the Crown Mountain trip Jan. 10-11, from the Club Cabin. This mountain is justly popular for winter trips by club members. Owing to the intervening summits crossed, the total elevation climbed amounts to about 7,500 feet, so this trip ought not to be attempted by those not feeling fit.

**RAINBOWS AND CLOUDS**

How many members saw the brilliant fragment of a rainbow and its reflection just after sunrise on November 16? How many know the difference in shape of a rainbow seen from lower levels, and seen from a mountain-top? Or whether there is any difference?

Seen from the Plateau of Grouse Mountain this bow presented what may be described as an inverted appearance; the arc was part of the lower half of a circle, dipping into Capilano Valley; ordinarily the arc of a rainbow belongs to the upper half of a circle.

A little more than a week before this a number of Club members witnessed from the same viewpoint the unusual spectacle of distinctly green clouds along the western base of Grouse Mountain and flowing down Capilano Canyon. The clouds could not be called a bright green, being in the shadow of cloudbanks to the west which were lit by the setting sun. Green is not an uncommon shade in shadows on snow towards sunset, so there is a relation between the two, the rareness of seeing green clouds being due perhaps entirely to lack of favorable viewpoints at the right moment.

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

The Club has at present four members upon whom it conferred honorary membership. Mr. J. C. Bishop, first president of the Club, and then honorary president; was killed on Mt. Baker in 1913.

As our honorary members unfortunately come in contact with few of our present-day members, it might be timely to revive past memories.

Mrs. L. A. Green is the first woman who climbed the Western Lion, in the days when the trip was much more arduous than now, and when mountaineering was practically in its infancy in Vancouver. She attended the Club's first summer camp, situated on the westerly end of Round Mountain ridge, south-west of Mt. Garibaldi; at the instance of the lady members she was elected an honorary member.

Mrs. R. Harman (still by a slip of the tongue often called "Miss Fowler" by the old-time members) is affectionately remembered by all those who knew her charming

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personality. She worked hard and well for the Club. Her present home is Toronto.

Prof. John Davidson, F.L.S., gave the Club much time and effort at the time the natural history section was formed; so great indeed was the success of the section that it became too unwieldy for its parent club and became a thriving society standing on its own feet, still maintaining the kindest feelings for the B. C. M. C.

Mr. J. Porter, B.E., our present honorary president, is not generally known to be one of that very small and diminishing group of charter members of the Club. What he too has done for the Club is in danger of being lost along with the passing of the members of earlier days, the more so as he has been one of that type of member who works unobtrusively—often the kind who do most and get least thanks.

Mr. J. J. Trorey and Mr. D. Robertson are also charter members, the only others remaining of the group who launched the Club. Mr. Trorey shared in the first ascent of Mt. Garibaldi a short time before the formation of the Club.

“THE HAND-WRITING  
ON THE WALL”

This is the title of a forceful presidential address delivered by Prof. John Davidson, F.L.S., to the Vancouver Natural History Society, on the subject of conservation of plant life particularly in the vicinity of Vancouver; it has been printed for distribution. Copies may be obtained for a nominal sum from Murphy & Chapman, Printers, 569 Seymour Street.

The subject is one towards which Club members are sympathetic—in fact one on which many of them feel strongly. He deals with the havoc being wrought in Capilano Valley by logging operations, the ruin along Mosquito Creek due to the same causes, and the danger of extinction of dogwood and other distinctive species of plant life.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Have you changed your address in the past nine months? If so, have you notified the Secretary? Unless you do so he has not much chance of ever finding your new address. He has much more of a personal interest in you than you may imagine, and when the post office return letters for want of the right address, it makes him realize why secretaries grow prematurely grey or bald.

FIRST ANNUAL B. C. M. C.  
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

1. Photographs made by any member of the Club during the preceding year may be exhibited but only those that have not received previous recognition are eligible for competition.
2. All enlargements must be mounted.
3. Enlargements must not be larger than 14 x 18 nor smaller than 5 x 7 inches.
4. No colored or framed prints will be accepted.
5. Each entry shall bear on the face side the title, on the back there shall be the owner's name and address, also, the classification to which he wishes it assigned of which there are five, viz.:

- (a) Mountaineer Activities.
- (b) Animals, Flowers and Trees.
- (c) Pictorial.
- (d) Miscellaneous.
- (e) Collection of 6 unenlarged prints of any of the above classes.

Prints may be delivered to the Secretary, R. E. Knight, c/o The Kent Piano Co., Ltd., 339 Hastings Street West.

This is the first exhibition the Club has held and we, naturally, wish it to be a thorough success. We want all who possibly can to send in, at least, one exhibit—remembering it is primarily an “Exhibition” not a “Competition,” though we hope to be able to announce later that we have some good prizes to be competed for. Further particulars to be announced later.

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