



**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**

*Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.*

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**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION**

The Secretary has received a number of photographs already for the exhibition, which seems evidence of a lively interest in it. If the response is sufficient this is likely to become an annual event in the Club's activities.

Remember that this is primarily an exhibition, but with an element of competition introduced to add interest. You are at perfect liberty to compete or exhibit, or both, but please send in something for exhibition at least. Please note that this classification does not exclude colored or framed pictures, and no restriction is made as to when they were taken.

Nearly every member has some mountain scene enlarged because of its special interest; others will be glad to see it. The intention is to open the exhibition to the public. Vancouver people are altogether too ignorant of the mountain scenery close to the city, so this exhibition should be a fine thing for the club which will gain in public estimation when the public is shown the kind of climbing done locally.

**MT. LOGAN EXPEDITION**

Indications are that the Mt. Logan expedition of the Alpine Club will be carried out this year, sufficient funds having been secured to justify going ahead. Supplies must be freighted in by dog team to the base of the mountain in winter as the greater distance of the approach is over glaciers where even a hand sled is useless in summer owing to the morainal debris covering them.

Members of the Club will wish the expedition every success. Canadians have not played the part they ought to have done in mountaineering in their own country. It has been said with too much truth that we appreciate our mountains less than people of other countries appreciate them. The conquest of our highest mountain by Canadians will be a matter for national pride.

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Are you going to the Lake O'Hara Camp?

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**ILLUSTRATED GARIBALDI LECTURE**

Under the auspices of the Vancouver Institute, Rev. A. H. Sovereign will give an illustrated lecture on Mt. Garibaldi, in the Physics Building of the University, 8 p.m., January 15. There is no admission charge.

**NEW CABIN PLANS**

Plans of a suggested style of cabin for the Club are on view at the cabin, and suggestions are welcomed from any member. The plans are, of course, entirely tentative and do not necessarily represent even the final opinions of those responsible for drafting them. The question of cost is of paramount importance and until some fairly definite cost is settled upon nobody can go to work and plan properly. The same thing governs the decision whether it should be built by contract or be the work of members. The cost of the contract plan appears prohibitive within the space of time fixed by the probable life of the present structure, but perhaps some bright mind will solve the financial difficulties. The class of material also is governed by the money problem, even stone having been suggested. The Club is fortunate in hav-

ing a number of members with practical building experience whose advice can be relied upon.

The Executive Committee welcomes practical suggestions relating to the new cabin so that clear-cut plans may be laid before the annual meeting, and in the event of a decision to build being reached work may be started within a reasonable period without drawn-out discussion of details. It is suggested that building operations be extended over two years, partly in order that it shall not clash too much with climbing, and also because the Club finances probably will not permit greater speed.

#### CLIMBING IRONS

Some of the local sporting goods stores are displaying an American made type of "creepers" resembling a cheese grater; under ideal conditions they might serve on gentle slopes of ice or hard snow—under any other conditions they would be useless. The points are too short and too numerous. The club library has a book on snow and ice sports which deals with such contrivances, but the author of it has no knowledge of the "crampons" which have stood the test of climbing in the Alps. It seems characteristic of non-British climbers on this continent to be slow to accept standards developed in the home of mountaineering, or even to inquire why those standards became established.

The Editor has used a pair of eight-clawed Swiss creepers on steep ice covered with as much as six inches of sticky snow, yet experienced no real difficulty keeping the points free of snow. The present tendency among mountaineering authorities seems to be to regard spikes of two inches or more as being desirable. The type mentioned in the first paragraph have points about half an inch long.

#### THE DIRECTOR'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Director Tom Fyles and his wife are the proud parents of another boy, born December 22. We all hope that he will literally follow in his father's footsteps.

#### CROWN MOUNTAIN TRIP

Crown Mountain will always be a popular trip, for Crown is a fine mountain at all times of the year and offers so much variety. The trip on January 10-11 will be from the Club Cabin, under leadership of Mr. Chas. Townsend. As this is the full moon week-end the trip ought to be under the most favorable conditions, although the time of the full moon is accompanied by bad weather with sufficient frequency to satisfy those who pin their faith to the moon's changes governing weather.

#### SNOWSHOE HINTS

What is more aggravating than snow shoes which will not remain properly adjusted? Perhaps wallowing through soft snow after taking them off in disgust, is equally hard on the temper.

The common leather snowshoe harness is good if properly adjusted, and it has the advantage of simplicity in putting on and taking off, there being but one buckle to undo. The one difficulty seems to be in the matter of the tightness of the strap across the toe. The common mistake is to get this too tight so that in climbing a slope the weight of the body on the bent foot allows the toe to slip out. The same trouble may be experienced, of course, where thongs are used.

Thoroughness and care in putting on snowshoes are well repaid, and it is a fine feeling to be able to swing along without worrying about one's feet; in fact almost the whole enjoyment of snowshoeing depends on this.

Wearing deerskin moccasins may be counted upon to result in wet feet with average weather conditions in the local mountains; the oil-tanned moccasin will obviate this.

One other important "wrinkle" is giving the webbing of the snowshoe several coats of spar varnish or shellac to prevent stretching with the wet; getting the gut soaked stretches it out of shape besides being tedious to walk on.

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WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY

During summer and autumn the advantages of using a color screen for distant views of mountain subjects can usually be demonstrated in an unmistakable manner, but in clear weather in winter and spring this condition is often quite reversed in our local mountains, photographic manuals to the contrary notwithstanding.

Our winter-clad mountains usually possess no heavy shadows; all the contrast which may be secured is desirable; the effect of a color screen too frequently is to lessen the contrast and produce a picture which has some degree of flatness, particularly when compared with unscreened exposures. Of course no hard and fast rule can be laid down in this regard. Mountain pictures are the hardest kind to take, and some of the rules so emphasized for the guidance of the beginner with a camera may be broken with impunity and to the improvement of the picture, always provided one knows how and when. This applies especially to pointing the camera towards the sun. With snow scenes this can usually be relied upon to produce a better picture because one gains whatever small shadows break the surface of the snow, the blankness of open snow spaces being one of the things to guard against if possible. Of course, the lens must be shaded.

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Our popular Vice-President "Bill" Wheatley is nursing an injured wrist which goes to prove that mountaineering is not so dangerous after all, as he was hurt in a very prosaic manner in the city, which just shows the irony of fate.

THE LIONS TRIP

The Lions trip is always a strenuous one, particularly so in winter, and members going on it should keep this in mind. The date is February 7-8, the leader Mr. Don Munday. The full moon is the 8th. As this is a launch trip the usual rule regarding having one's name down in time will hold good. Details will be placed in the Club box, 610 Granville Street. The next issue of *The Mountaineer* will not be mailed in time for inclusion in it. The climb is usually wintry, so plenty of warm clothing should be taken along. The ridge is a chilly place in a wind. Ice axes or alpenstocks will be required.

THE DOME TRIP

The Dome Mountain trip was scheduled for December 18. Our Treasurer arrived on the plateau of Grouse Mountain and announced he was the Dome trip, but apparently he felt honor was more than satisfied for he went no further for the same reason that no one else went even as far as that—the day was the culminating fury of six days of heavy rain on the mountain.

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Mr. Fred Parke is now a member of a law firm in Ashcroft, B. C. He spent the Christmas holidays in Vancouver, and reports having done a little climbing around his new home. Mt. Glossy, over 6,000 feet, is the highest climb he has made there; opportunities exist for rock-climbing but mountains of the dry belt have little snow. He says he will be at the Lake O'Hara camp.

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**GREAT HOURS IN SPORT**

The Club library is richer through the gift of the book, "Great Hours in Sport," presented by Mr. S. H. Baker, one of our members. The book, edited by John Buchan, devotes a chapter to ten sports; one of them is mountaineering, the subject of it a new route up Mt. Blanc. The narrative is by Geoffrey Winthrop Young who succeeded in a feat which had baffled climbers for many years, so much so that he felt the party must fight against "the fatal miasma (of failure) that had crept upon all parties in the past." The route of ascent and descent furnished fine mountaineering. The story is told in terse, graphic language, picturing the mountain so vividly that the reader seems almost accompanying the climbers foot by foot on their ascent that achieved the first direct passage up the greatest ridge of the monarch of the Alps, and that forged the final link in one of the last great unsolved alpine problems of Europe.

It is not only the descriptions of the actual climbing which so delights, but his mental reactions and impressions find an echo in one whose main ambition is not merely to get to the top for the getting there.

This narrative will whet the appetite of members for other mountaineering accounts by the same author.

**MOUNTAIN-TOP TEMPERATURES**

In theory the temperature decreases about three degrees for each thousand feet of altitude, but this is by no means a hard and fast rule. Until recently no one was in a position to observe and record temperatures over any prolonged period at high levels in the local hills. So far as the top of Grouse Mountain is concerned, the temperatures show a wide variation from the rule just quoted; possibly proximity to the sea has a marked effect. So far as minimum temperatures go, the rule serves closely, but it is quite common for the thermometer to stand higher than at the same time in Vancouver, this being particularly the case in frosty weather, the difference sometimes amounting to as much as 15 degrees. Meteorologists call this an "inversion

of temperatures." The coldest day in December on Grouse Mountain was the 17th, 2 below zero, the previous day was zero with a northerly gale.

But sometimes the warmer upper layer of air does not even rest as low as the mountain-top, for rain has been noted with a temperature of six degrees below freezing point.

The early part of the winter has been marked by light snowfall and heavy thawing. On Christmas day the snow post at the foot of Grouse peak recorded only two and a half feet. Grouse Lake was open on December 14.

**MIRAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS**

It might be of interest to know whether any members have seen a mirage in the local mountains; the Editor has had a fairly lengthy experience climbing in the Coast Range but witnessed nothing of the sort until last Christmas Day. From dawn to dusk it was a day of vivid coloring, but the striking feature was the Olympic and Vancouver Island mountains changing their proper forms for fantastic shapes that altered while one watched, the Olympics at one time resembling a section of the Colorado canyon with ethereal alpine coloring as the sun lit the glaciers and snowfields. Peaks melted away or seemingly floated clear of the earth till the sky seemed full of islands. Sunset partly restored the skyline to its normal and unmagnified appearance, but parts of Vancouver Island remained affected as long as the light made the mountains visible.

**SNOWSHOE TRIP TO MT. STRACHAN**

This trip, January 24-25, under leadership of Mr. Hazan Nunn is not scheduled as a snowshoe trip, but under normal winter conditions it has always turned out as such. In the event of the snow being soft the distance to cover is so great that snowshoes prove essential. Ordinarily it turns out that there are two parties on this trip, those starting Saturday afternoon to spend the night at the old mill cabins, and those leaving Sunday morning from Vancouver, the latter being able to reach Hollyburn Peak.

# February 14th—St. Valentine's Day

## DANCE

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