



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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A WEEK IN THE CHEAM RANGE

Ever since the peaks known as the Lucky Four group were brought to the attention of the Club by Mr. and Mrs. Munday, who climbed Mount General Stewart in 1923, it has been the ambition of members to see more of this interesting region.

Messrs. A. J. Cooper, F. H. Smith and F. A. Spouse recently spent a week in this range with the result that all the peaks have now been conquered. The starting point is Laidlaw on the Canadian National Railway, between Chilliwack and Hope. From this point a good pack trail leads to Jones Lake where the B. C. Electric Railway have a cabin; from there it follows around the lake and up to the "Timberline Cabin" near the base of the range, at an altitude of about 5,000 feet.

The party made this cabin their climbing base. The first ascent was up the hitherto unconquered monarch of the range, Mount

Welch. By going among the seracs of the Welch Glacier and after much step cutting, the pass at the head of the glacier was reached, whence the route led first over exceedingly steep snow-covered rock, then just below the summit up an almost vertical cliff to the top which was conquered at 1 p.m. The altitude was found to be about 8,500 feet.

The next day was spent in climbing Mount General Stewart, first ascended by Mr. and Mrs. Munday. This trip was made interesting by the very broken condition of the glacier and by loose rocks just below the summit which was reached at 2 p.m.

The next two days were spent in climbing a rocky eminence known as "Baby Munday" and Mount Foley, both of which proved interesting climbs. The rock on the former was very rotten and called for much care, while the outstanding feature of Mount Foley was the lack of room on the peak, which is very sharp and falls away steeply on all sides.

A TRIP TO MOUNT BLANCHARD

In travelling up the Fraser Valley there are two groups of peaks on the north side of the river which have always been looked on as prospective climbs by mountaineers. One group is the "Golden Ears" north of Haney and has been the object of a few trips; the other, which on account of its size appears as a group, is in reality only one peak, Mount Blanchard. This peak is on the west side of Stave Lake, north of Ruskin.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, ten members of the Club left Vancouver with the object of conquering this peak. Cars took them to Stave Falls from which point a boat was taken to the head of the lake, about twenty-five miles distant. Rising at 3 a.m. Sunday, a start was made soon after daybreak. A ridge on the east side of the peak was climbed to about 4,000 feet, where a good view of their objective was obtained; but as often happens, there was quite a drop before a start could be made on the main peak. This was negotiated and a few hours over snow and rock brought the party to what appeared in the

neglected. In future the same plan could possibly be carried out as in this instance, one party climbing Brunswick and possibly Hanover, while another party ascends Harvey, returning by Brunswick.

ASCENT OF MT. TANTALUS

By E. H. Nunn.

The Tantalus Range runs in a general North-West direction from Howe Sound and can be seen to advantage on the way to Squamish. Although not so extensive as the neighboring Garibaldi group, it is much more rugged and precipitous. The peaks rise abruptly from the valleys to imposing heights, Mt. Tantalus, the highest peak, overlooking Garibaldi itself.

Although difficult of access, several trips have been made into the region and much interesting photographic and topographical data have been secured. The June, 1924 issue of the bulletin contained an account of last year's trip on which the region was mapped and several of the southern peaks climbed. The object of this year's expedition was to climb Mt. Tantalus which lies in the northern part of the range. The approach was made from Howe Sound and a point on the Squamish River six miles above Chee Kye was reached by auto stage from Squamish. The river was crossed in a canoe hired from an Indian, Jim Timody, and the night spent at Barber's abandoned lumber camp on the south bank.

The following morning the ascent of the ridge was made. The first hour or so of the journey lay through dense underbrush and swamp. From here the ridge rises abruptly in a series of bluffs to a height of 4,500 feet. It has been burnt over but is quite clear and presented little actual difficulty to us. The snow line was reached in the afternoon at 3,000 feet and camp was made at 4,200 feet.

On Sunday morning an attempt was made on Mt. Tantalus. Although the weather could not have been better, the snow was soft and powdery, and travelling as a consequence, became slow. An hour's climb from camp up the ridge took us to a point where we could choose a route over

the Tantalus Glacier. This glacier flows N.E. from the peak and, although early in the year, it was badly crevassed.

Leaving the ridge, we traversed below a series of cliffs and roped up on the margin of the glacier. A peculiar feature of Tantalus Glacier is a nunatak rising some 200 feet above the ice. This rocky pinnacle, which, owing to its shape, we called the Horn, is situated below the peak, and our course was directed towards it. At 2:30 we reached it and found the altitude to be 7,300 feet. As the peak was known to be at least 1,000 feet higher, we decided, in view of the exhausting trail breaking, to renew the attempt the next day.

On Monday we retraced our steps of the previous day and found the trail in many places obliterated by drifted snow. In spite of this, we arrived at the Horn two hours earlier than on the day before. From here the neve of the glacier rises between the peak and a high serrated ridge to a pass about 8,000 feet in elevation. The snow was still very soft, and the steepness of the slopes and frequency of crevasses, made the ascent slow. The bergschrund presented a formidable barrier, which could only be crossed by means of a thin snow bridge.

From the pass the peak rises abruptly, its cliffs encrusted with fantastic formations of glistening ice and snow. The ascent was continued to a corniced ridge which was then traversed and continually became narrower, finally ending in a knife-edge of snow, separated by a small gap from the actual summit. Owing to the precipitous nature of the approach, and to the powdery snow, we did not consider further progress to be justified. We were stopped about 100 feet below the summit and observed our elevation to be 8,800 feet.

From the summit ridge a wonderful panorama was enjoyed in all directions. Almost directly below us lay Clowholm Lake and Narrows Arm. This locality was once proposed as the site of a summer camp, but we could see that the peaks are not as imposing as was thought at that time. To the north lay the vast dissected coast plain reaching far up into the Lillooet

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country. The whole length of the Squamish valley could be seen, and the river followed from its headwaters down its winding course to the sea. We had a very fine view looking down on the Garibaldi range, and various features in the 1924 summer camp district were recognized.

The return was made over the same route. Our flaming countenances bore painful evidence of the actinic power of the sun,—to such an extent that we thought it advisable to remain in camp the next day.

On Wednesday morning we broke camp and returned down the ridge to the Squamish River. On the way down we stopped for an hour to visit Easter Falls. This is a very impressive cascade and emerges suddenly from a canyon over a sheer 200 foot drop. After again crossing the Squamish, we walked six miles to Chee Kye where we spent the night. Mr. James Watt, the storekeeper at Chee Kye, had kindly taken aneroid readings three times daily for us, and from them we were able to correct our own readings.

The following morning the P. G. E. was taken to Squamish and the trip down the Sound made with the "Lady Cecilia" on her first voyage. The party consisted of Neal Carter, Chas. Townsend and H. Nunn, and the average cost amounted to about \$12.

MT. SEYMOUR TRIP

On May 3rd the ever-popular Mt. Seymour trip was made under the leadership of Mr. Arthur Cooper. About 30 members, including several ladies, left Vancouver on an early ferry, and made the climb by the usual route up the big gully. On account

of the clear day very fine views were enjoyed in every direction and on returning home fine glissading was experienced down the gully.

TRIP TO LOST LAKE

Although May 17th was scheduled for a trip to the Upper Capilano Valley, on account of a forest fire in the valley it was decided at the last minute to run the trip to Lost Lake, up Seymour Valley, instead. Accordingly, under the leadership of Mr. John Speer, the party left town early Sunday morning, and proceeded up Seymour Valley to a point just below the intake, where the creek was crossed, and after following a series of skidroads Lost Lake was reached about noon.

PREVENT FOREST FIRES

The Forestry Department of the Provincial Government has shown its confidence in our Club by appointing twelve of our members as honorary fire wardens. The Government has shown its faith in us, and it is up to every member to justify that faith by doing all that is in his power to prevent forest fires.

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it was 3 p.m. when we reached the badly corniced summit ridge north of the final tower, the element of time forcing a retreat which wind and up-driving snow had urged long before.

Through a gap in a cornice we backed down the avalanche-grooved northeast face for 1,000 feet, Mrs. Munday leading and choosing unaided what proved the only negotiable crossing of the bergshrund, the mouth of the largest avalanche trough. This consumed an hour. The glacier was already opening up below, but most of it was taken at a run which was continued across Diamond Glacier, partly for the sake of recovering warmth. At 6 p.m. the breakfast place was reached. Even on western slopes it was now freezing hard in the shade. From below Garibaldi's cloud-cap, glorious views had been obtained in every direction, and now even the Pinnacle shook off its cloud-banner, the evening light brilliantly revealing the rich coloring of the volcanic rocks.

Hurriedly eating our second real meal of the day, we continued down through the land-markless woods and succeeded only half an hour after dark in striking camp exactly 18 hours since leaving it.

Three and a half hours next morning took us out to Chee Kye where we got the stage to Squamish.

When the snow is off the top of the ridge it may afford somewhat rough going. Our trip was made May 22-24.

* * *

By the time this is printed, those fortunate enough to have been able to go to the Summer Camp will be tearing up and down the 11,00-foot peaks in the vicinity of Lake O'Hara. Twenty-six names were down when the list was closed, with the possibility of one more to be added. The account of these ascents will be looked forward to with great interest in the next number.

* * *

New members elected within the last month or two are: Mrs. C. F. Connor, F. W. Dobson, Stan Henderson, Ira W. Swartz, P. J. Broughton, L. D. Golman.

* * *

On Saturday evening, June 27th, two very well-known members of the Club took the initial step in the proof of the theory that "two can live as cheaply as one." Incidentally, Miss Thyra Runnalls became Mrs. Truesdell Kent at the same time. A motor trip to the south followed, and on their return, Mr. and Mrs. "Trudie" will reside on Dunbar Heights. The Club extends its heartiest congratulations and wishes for their happiness.

HOLLYBURN RIDGE

The trip to Hollyburn Ridge under the leadership of Mr. H. D. Foster was scheduled to be made by way of Brothers' Creek. On account of some confusion in the skid roads that route was not exactly followed, although a very enjoyable trip was made. The main trail was picked up about half a mile above the first lake, and most of the party climbed the peak, which was reached about 3.30 p.m.

THE LIONS

The Lions trip this year proved just as popular as ever. Forty members under the leadership of Mr. M. Dodds proceeding to Lions' Beach on the good ship "Atsilac."

Starting early Sunday morning, the old route was followed around the amphitheatre to the ridge, and the majority of the party scaled the head of the Western Lion, arriving on top at about 2.30 p.m.

The party returned to town late Sunday night.

* * *

It has been brought to the notice of the Cabin Committee that some members of the Club have sent visitors up to the Cabin without accompanying them. The Cabin Committee hopes that this practice will be discontinued.

* * *

The Club extend their sympathy to Miss Peers on the death of her mother, which took place on July 8th.

Miss Peers was to have spent her holidays at the camp at Lake O'Hara.

* * *

Another of the Club's famous bachelors became a Benedict when Mr. Morrison McTavish and Miss A. Meilicke were married in the middle of the most propitious month for this ceremony. Mrs. McTavish was not a Club member, but it is hoped she will persuade "Mac" to bring her out on some of the trips. They have taken up their residence on Laurier Avenue.

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