



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

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THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Club will be held at 8 p.m., March 19, in the Daily Province Building.

Business to be transacted will include election of officers, discussion of the proposal to build a new cabin on Grouse Mountain, the summer schedule of climbs, and other matters of importance.

All committees are asked to have reports prepared.

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF TRIPS

The first trip of the Summer Schedule will be Black Mountain from Whyte Lake, led by Director Tom Fyles, April 4-5. The climbing committee's complete list will be presented first for the approval of the Executive, then of the Annual Meeting.

CROWN PASS, MARCH 14-15

Mr. H. O'Connor will be in charge of this trip from the Club cabin, return being by way of Lynn Valley.

LYNN PEAKS TRIP

This one-day trip was substituted in place of the scheduled White Mountain climb owing to not being able to depend on use of a cabin at the logging camp near Lynn Forks. Mr. Eric A. Fuller was in charge. Fifteen members turned out for the trip. The weather was dry for a change though not bright. Autos were used to the sawmill.

MT. BISHOP TRIP

The launch trip to Mt. Bishop will be in charge of Director Tom Fyles, March 21-22. (Note change of date.) A good boat will be engaged. The Bishop trip has rarely been marred by weather in the past, so is surrounded by happy memories.

LIBRARY MOVED.

The Club library has been moved from Mr. Toon's bookstore to that of Mr. S. H. Baker, 855 Granille Street. Mr. Baker is a Club member. In the new location the librarian will have a better chance to keep the books in good order.

USE OF CLUB EQUIPMENT

In future members wishing to use Club tents, ropes, etc., will be expected to sign for them when receiving them from the Secretary, and will be expected to return them promptly. Ropes and other equipment likely to be needed on any official trip may not be obtained for the use of private trips on the same week-ends until the leader of the Club trip has been supplied with what he considers enough for the needs of his party.

MISSING ICE AXE

Will those who were on the Lions trip please examine their ice axes carefully? Mr. J. Spibey has an axe which does not belong to him, and wishes to exchange it with whoever has his.

It would be an excellent plan for all members with ice axes to register with the Secretary the serial numbers stamped on the heads or any distinctive marking put on, such as initials; the advantages of having these on record should be apparent.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION
SUCCESSFUL**

Club members and the public alike were surprised at the great success of the photographic exhibit. The room engaged in the School Board offices was considered ample in size but proved really too small. There is certainly ample encouragement to make this an annual event.

Unfortunately neither competitors nor judges had a clearly defined understanding of the precise classification intended by some of the divisions. A debatable point might be the wisdom of limiting competition to pictures taken in a single year; the idea was to avoid discouraging newer members who might otherwise feel they had no chance against the older climbers—not necessarily the case. The result was certainly to shut out many of the older members from competing, while on the other hand it perhaps is not readily proven that it achieved the intended object so far as new members were concerned.

Such a proviso probably always will be unsatisfactory through being overlooked by competitors—at least one picture was entered for competition which was ineligible, and the competitor most certainly in that particular case acted in good faith.

The judges, Mr. R. P. Dunn and Mr. G. E. Edwards, both of Camera & Arts, were unanimous in all their awards. They considered Class A, mountaineer activities, as being very good, and would have liked to see more in this class. Class B, animals, flowers, and trees was small, but the prize pictures remarkably good. Class C, pictorial, was very good and difficult to decide; subjects were well chosen and well handled; others beside the prize winners were worth close study. In Class E, six unenlarged prints of any other classes, the collections (six prints) were very good, but miscellaneous studies are always hard to decide. In general some pictures might have been improved if a softer grade of paper had been used. On the whole, the judges declared the exhibit very creditable, showing a great deal of labor, and the pictures obviously being taken under great disadvantages.

Points were given for composition, exposure, atmosphere, and general finish; some of the enlarging did not do justice to the original, in the opinion of the judges, who also thought a different arrangement of the classes would simplify judging, and be fairer to competitors.

Prize-winners in Class A were: first and second, Mr. E. N. Nunn; third, Mr. T. C. Kent.

Class B: first prize, Mr. Tom Fyles; second, Mr. Don Munday.

Class C: first prize, Mr. W. Hendry; second, Mr. T. Fyles; third, Mr. Don Munday.

Class D: first prize, Mrs. Don Munday.

Class E: first prize, Mr. L. C. Ford; second, Mr. W. G. Wheatley; third, Mr. T. C. Kent.

There were 68 entries for competition, and 189 pictures on exhibition.

Although a visitors' book was kept at the exhibition, only a percentage of visitors entered their names; at a conservative estimate, 1,000 people viewed the photographs.

The public were deeply impressed with the striking character of mountain scenery portrayed, and probably a number of members will be secured as a direct result.

The Club's thanks are due to the judges, to the firms and individuals who so generously donated the excellent prizes, and to the members of the photographic committee. Club members gave splendid support both in entering photographs and in interesting friends to go to see the exhibition.

(A minor feature of the exhibition was the consistent mis-spelling of Mt. Strachan.)

**MEMBERSHIP IN CANADIAN
FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.**

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to take out membership for the Club in the Canadian Forestry Association which is a strong and influential body concerned chiefly in forest protection, but also in the country's beauty spots. A live monthly magazine is published.

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**MOUNTAINEERING IN THE B. C.
DRY BELT.**

By FRED H. H. PARKES

The mountains surrounding Ashcroft are about 6,000 feet high and are a succession of ridges, each a few miles long, and parallel to the Thompson River at ten miles distance. They rise from the river in a series of plateaus like giant steps. Roads wind up these and through the passes between the ridges and form an easy method of approach, so that there is no real difficulty in climbing these mountains.

Our best climbing is found on the numerous hills which rise from one to two thousand feet above the surrounding plain, and in climbing from plateau to plateau of the bench land. The hills are very rocky and usually two of their sides are almost perpendicular with a steep slide of broken rock below. The views from their summits are only comparable to those obtained from an aeroplane, since the town and the farms seem directly below.

The stretch between two plateaus is very steep and is cut into many gullies, where the soil and rock is carved into a thousand fantastic shapes. The strata exposed are very interesting and would be even more so if we knew anything about geology.

The lack of rain makes this district surprisingly different from the coast, and gives it features which have led to frequent comparisons with Egypt and South Africa.

There are none of the frequent streams nor the dense underbrush to which we are accustomed, nor are there any trees below 3,000 feet. Instead we have the tumble-

weed, a plant which rolls about in the wind; the sage-brush, which Zane Grey has immortalized; and the cactus, which spreads out close to the ground and lies in wait for the unwary foot. These are all characteristic desert shrubs, which will grow with the absolute minimum of water. Wherever they grow is also found the rattlesnake, and this place is no exception, though they are only troublesome in the summer months.

Since there is no underbrush we do not have to keep to trails but can take any direction we please. For the same reason our views is never obscured except in a gully, and so every few steps on a climb gives us a new panorama of the valley and the surrounding mountains. And as we get higher the far distant peaks of the Cascades appear, a series of white teeth gleaming in the sunshine. For now, as ever, each new climb shows us new peaks to conquer.

I mentioned the resemblance of the country to Egypt. There are cliffs here some few hundred feet high where Nature has sculptured as man did along the Nile. With a little imagination the shapes of long dead Pharaohs are easily discernible. Many of the rock hills from certain angles are not unlike pyramids, and while we have no sphinx we have one hill that even the least imaginative can see is a recumbent elephant. At the points where the gullies leave the plateaus, the washing of water from cloudbursts has cut thousands of shapes, which readily form ruins of temples. In the moonlight the whole picture is one of marvellous beauty, and it would be a dull person who was not enraptured with

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it. By this light even the ugly jack pine is transformed and becomes a stately palm.

And yet this is the region that on first sight is set down as a dreary waste. They say that "familiarity breeds contempt," but it is only with familiarity that one can see, know and love the beauties of a place. We need a poet to publish the charm of this desert, as has been done with others.

There are plenty of real mountains beyond the ridges which overlook the valley, but unless I can get a car they are too far away. The next range to the west is 7,000 feet high and the valley is 4,000 with a good road leading to it, so that there is not so much of a climb left. It might even be managed on a bicycle, so we may get there this spring. Just at present the roads are snow-covered, and even in town there is a little, mostly slush, so we have to keep to the nearby hills. There are so many that we have still plenty of available material for climbs, without getting too far from home.

There is so much to our Province that we can never hope to see all of it, but we should try to see as much as we can. We ought to have a camp some time in this district, that is to say, in the new National Park on the Fraser Canyon Highway, or in west of Lytton or Lilloet. There are plenty of eight and nine thousand foot peaks which have never even been named. Some of the ranchers along the Fraser have been in there hunting. They have not bothered about climbing but have kept to the passes, but there are all sorts of wonders which they have seen from there. I have been told of a waterfall which drops a half a mile or more over a cliff and is dispersed in mist before it comes to earth. It swings in the wind like a pendulum. They have promised to take me on a trip through the district any time I can get away, and I will certainly manage to do so some time, if not this year, then next.

NEW MEMBERS

Rev. A. H. Sovereign has rejoined the Club, and Mr. Allan Spouse, Box 44, Hollyburn P.O., was elected an active member at the last Executive meeting.

SEASICK MOUNTAINEERS

If you were not on the eventful Lions trip last month, bear patiently with those who took part in it when they indulge in reminiscences, for it was one of those trips that are never forgotten.

Thirty-four people went as far as St. Mark's Church camp, permission to use it being courteously granted as in the past. Nineteen climbers reached nearly 4,000 feet, the last three hours being ascended at the rate of about 500 feet an hour owing to deep powdery snow.

The increasing wind piled up a considerable sea for a small boat. Off Fishermen's Cove the engine stopped, the boat swung into the trough, and most of the party soon proved they were not sailors. The contradictory character in charge of the boat finally admitted his craft could not round Point Atkinson in such weather—only this time he did not promptly contradict himself again. It was the wildest night a Club party has been afloat. Turning round was accomplished safely, and Horseshoe Bay reached in due course. Fortunately Mr. P. R. Lockie was a member of the party, and being acquainted with the residents, soon found comfortable quarters through the great kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe. About half the party walked to Caulfields and there got autos to North Vancouver. The rest came in on the first train in the morning.

The same boat was used last summer for Club trips, and was not the subject of any particular complaint, but it proved entirely unsuitable for a winter trip, and the leader of the party recommended to the Director and Executive Committee that a more suitable boat be obtained in future.

But, granted a sense of humor, it's a fine trip to look back on.

MT. DAM TRIP

The trip over Dam Mountain by way of the Alpine Club trail was carried through in spite of the brand of weather which has been expressly reserved for week-ends this winter. Mr. B. C. Cayley was in charge, and a number of members of the Alpine Club shared in the trip.

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