



The B. C. Mountaineer

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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IN THE CARIBOO RANGE

By DON MUNDAY

The Cariboo Mountains are now marked on provincial maps as the McLennan Mountains, although still retaining their well-established name in general use. They lie south of Tete Jaune and somewhat resemble the Selkirks at their finest; pre-eminently a region of ice and snow, the glacial features being on a stupendous scale, the glacier tongues coming down to 4,500 feet above sea level.

The writer and his wife visited this fascinating district in July, penetrating the range by way of Sand Creek, 15 miles long. Owing to exceptionally high water in the valley, two and a half days were needed to cover this distance, a whole day being required to make the final three miles. Packs were respectively 70 and 55 pounds.

Terrific winds were the rule—a wind-break of boughs had to be built to protect

the tent at base camp. Unsettled weather prevailed. The fine peaks in this vicinity all exceed 10,000 feet, several approach 11,000, four exceed it, while Mt. Titan is 11,750, this being the highest peak in the interior ranges of British Columbia, a place formerly given to Mt. Sir Sanford, monarch of the Selkirks.

On account of the size of the glacier at the head of Sand Creek (which emerged through a mighty arch of ice) the trips are very long, making it necessary to move camp two miles up the glacier to 7,500 feet. From this camp we climbed Mt. Titan, ascending the steep rock ridge of Bivouac Peak, 10,150 feet, descending 1,000 feet to Kiwa neve, half circling Titan to the west face, where ice demanded an hour's step-cutting in a gale in which there was actual risk of being blown off the mountain.

Throughout the region crevasses were found exceptionally treacherous owing to the frequent snowstorms and fierce drifting—one glacier shelf below Holway Peak repeatedly flung a snow-plume half a mile across Stripe Glacier when the wind blew in earnest. Much time was lost unravelling a crevasse between the two peaks of Titan. Snowglasses were a necessity to protect eyes from flakes of surface ice, as big as one's hand, skimmed off the snow and whirled high in the air by the wind.

This trip completed the information we needed for attacking Mt. David Thompson several miles to the southwest, and the reputed source of the North Thompson River.

Following the Titan climb, storm drove us down to timber line, where an hour's hard work was required by both of us to pitch the tent in what was the most sheltered spot available. At 2 a.m. we started under a threatening sky. At 7,000 feet the ground was frozen an inch deep; snow raced bitterly across the glacier even in the very lee of the 3,000-foot precipices of Mt. Titan; by five o'clock we reached the McLennan River divide at nearly 10,000 feet. In the next hour we covered three miles, descending 1,500 feet and climbing 500 feet across the chief of the three McLennan glaciers which unite at their snouts.

Here we touched rock again for a few yards, then descended a mile, losing 1,000 feet elevation along the David Glacier. The north ridge of Mt. David Thompson is not a practicable route though not actually impossible. The east face is not climbable; the south is possibly the same but was ruled out by distance. The whole north-west face is ice to the summit ridge and subject to ice-falls. A subsidiary north-west ridge of ice offered the best chance but promised much step-cutting and had one bad place, which proved very bad, a great section of the slope subsiding visibly and repeatedly under our feet during the process of cutting footholds.

The summit ridge of this grand mountain was a fittingly magnificent approach, a sinuous knife-edge of snow soaring to a tiny peak on which only one person could stand. Visibility was splendid. The mountain is not in the Thompson watershed at all, and we were able to correct other topographical errors of the Carpe-Chamberlin party which made the first ascent of Titan last year. Ours was the first ascent of Thompson, which Carpe placed at 11,250 feet. This seemed conservative.

Thanks to the north wind, frost held the slope in safe condition till we got down, and so we escaped the unpleasant afternoon conditions which had made the descent from Titan so dangerous. The return across eight miles of glaciers was without other incident than the splendor of the views, and we reached camp at 7 p.m.

Prior to these trips, two lesser mountains were climbed.

Our final week's climbing was prevented by a bad cut in the leg which Mrs. Munday received from an axe in my hands—stung by wasps, I jumped down a bank—not knowing the cause, she tried to rescue me.

As intimated in last month's issue, two Club members, Messrs. E. A. Fuller and R. A. Fraser made a trip into the Tomahi region, south of Sardis. Although the actual Tomahi peaks were not climbed, sufficient information about the country was obtained to enable parties to reach this

region with very little trouble. Up till now the very indefinite information available has kept parties away.

The climbers report that the peaks of Tomahi appear to be in the neighborhood of 8,000 feet in elevation. The country surrounding them is high, some very fine meadows being found at about 5,000 feet as well as many beautiful mountain lakes, many of them glacier-fed.

The glaciers, although not very large, are extremely steep and badly broken up, and the rock, as a rule, is very rotten and treacherous. The ridges of the country all are very steep and badly broken by tremendous cliffs.

The correct way to get to the peaks seems to be to go direct to the Red Mountain Mine, which is located on the slopes of American Tomahi. This is reached by road and a very good pack trail. It appears that the Canadian peak could also be easily reached from the same point.

A TRIP TO MOUNT RAINIER

On August 22nd, a party consisting of Messrs. E. A. Fuller, R. A. Fraser, J. Hudson and W. Frow, left Vancouver with the summit of Mount Rainier as their objective.

That great mountain, with an altitude of 14,526 feet, is the second highest peak in the United States, not including Alaska. It is quite often seen on bright days from our local mountains and several members have viewed it from Mount Baker. The approach is made by automobile road from Tacoma, through Longview, known for its hot springs, and thence to Paradise Valley, where there is a very fine hotel, also camping grounds.

After spending the night at Paradise Valley, the party started for Camp Muir, a stone cabin located on a wind-swept ridge of the mountain at an elevation of 10,000 feet. On the way to Camp Muir, Anvil Rock is passed, where there is another cabin occupied by a fire ranger for four months of every year. From descriptions given by members of the party Camp Muir cabin compares somewhat to Abbot Pass Hut for comforts in the way of blankets, and it

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was possibly with reluctance that it was left in the morning for the final ascent of the Peak, as the weather had turned bad during the night, and the prospects for a good day were not at all bright.

From Camp Muir they made their way over the icy glacier to Gibraltar Rock, which was finally surmounted. Soon they were on the summit ridge, but in the meantime the weather had grown worse and worse, and a blizzard was blowing, so it was thought advisable not to proceed any further as there was absolutely no visibility; so about 1,000 feet below the summit, they turned back, picking their course back to Camp Muir entirely by compass.

THE CAMP REUNION

The Camp Reunion recently held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fyles, was a huge success, and was attended by nearly all the members who were at Camp. Reminiscences were exchanged and pictures were compared. The 1925 issue of "The Avalanche Roar" was read and copies distributed to all Camp Members. Lantern slides illustrating the district in which Camp was held were shown. It was interesting to note the difference in the appearance of familiar points when viewed earlier in the year, before the snow had disappeared on the lower levels and the lakes had opened up.

* * *

In a recent issue of the bulletin, in describing a trip made by some members to the "Lucky Four" group, the editor stated that the party had climbed the peak known as "Baby Munday." This statement was made in error, as "Baby Munday" was the

only peak in the group not climbed. The recorded ascents in this region are now as follows: Mount Welch and "The Still," once; Mount Foley and General Stewart, twice.

While on the subject of this region, it would be interesting to know if any club members have any information regarding the mountains south of Chilliwack Lake. A very fine view of these peaks is obtained from the Lucky Four Group, and although they do not appear quite so high, there might be some very interesting country there.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

The Club will hold its Annual Dinner in Spencer's dining room on October the twenty-fourth. Reserve this date now. All arrangements are in the hands of a capable committee.

* * *

The Summer Schedule of climbs will be completed on the week-end of September 26-27, by a trip up Crown and the Camel under the leadership of Mr. Hazen Nunn. After that trip members will be getting out their snowshoes and moccasins, and their warm clothing, in preparation for the winter climbs. A committee is now engaged in drawing up a schedule of trips for the coming winter.

BLOOD TEST

The Club has just been notified that before having a blood test taken, it will be necessary to get an application filled out at the City Health Department, on the tenth floor of the Holden Building. Members will please bear this in mind.

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PEAKS AND PASSES IN THE
ROCKIES

By DON MUNDAY

Perhaps some members have already discovered the numerous topographical shortcomings of the map of Yoho Park, but possibly it might not be out of place to put climbers on their guard against being misled by the trail indicated as running over Dennis and Duchesnay Passes from Field to Lake O'Hara. There is a fine trail to the fossil beds on Mt. Stephen. Crossing a hanging valley, we then climbed a notch in the high ridge behind Mt. Stephen, encountering an ice patch raining down rocks which forced a climb of unpleasant cliffs. The valley north of Mt. Odaray grants an impressive view of that mountain, but lack of a trail as shown lessens the pleasure of the last part of the trip. There are twice the number of lakes shown on the map along the route.

Horseshoe and Wenkchemma glaciers are mis-mapped, numerous other glaciers omitted altogether, and a trail shown as crossing the most difficult break in the Hungabee-Temple ridge.

Making the circuit of the passes from the Alpine Club camp with a party, Mrs. Munday and myself stayed at the Abbot hut and climbed Mt. Victoria in two and a half hours, the quickest time on record. The main party, with two men who were on their first mountain, preceded us, making also a record which lasted only till our arrival as we cut off fifteen minutes. The return took three hours.

Next day the pair of us climbed Hungabee leisurely, it being so warm on the summit no extra garments were needed in spite of a wind too strong to justify jumping the curious gash in the summit ridge near the peak. No particular difficulties were met at any point.

Meeting Mr. G. A. Gambs at Field the next night we went up the Yoho to Takakaw Falls. From here we spent a lazy day on Mt. Daly, 10,342, abandoning Mt. Bal-

four on account of smoke. Moving camp into the head of the little Yoho, we prayed for rain to clear the smoke, and got deep snow down to timberline. A lull in the storm tempted us to return by Emerald Pass to Emerald Lake, a trip which under the conditions encountered contained more concentrated mountaineering than the writer ever wishes to cram into half a dozen trips in future. Emerald Pass, 9,000 feet, has three glaciers, none shown on the map.

Reaching Emerald Lake chalet at 9 p.m., we were refused other food than iced soft drinks—this after fifteen hours in rain and snow—so we went down to Field. Snow continued on the peaks, rain in the valleys, and our last glimpses of the Rockies were anything but summerlike as we rolled down toward the Columbia next evening.

WOOD BEE

The Cabin Committee announces that the annual wood bee will be held on October 18th. As the dinner on Sunday will be community style a list will be left in Camera and Arts, so that food can be allotted to each one going to the cabin. It is hoped that all members will try and give the Cabin Committee their help on that date.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The Semi-annual Meeting of the Club will be held during the first week in November. The exact time and place will be announced in next month's issue.

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