



The B. C. Mountaineer

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

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THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Our President, Mr. F. W. Johnson, desires to convey to all members of the B. C. Mountaineering Club his sincere wish for a very prosperous and happy New Year, and asks from all their hearty cooperation and loyalty to make this Club a bigger and better one, with mutual benefits for everybody for the year 1927.

Let everybody pull together and nothing can hold us back.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special general meeting of the Club was held at the Hotel Vancouver on December 2nd, 1926. The meeting was called at the written request of five members to discuss the following motion:

"WHEREAS at the General Meeting held on the 4th day of November, 1926, certain unrettracted expressions of opinion make it impossible for the Club or its Executive to function harmoniously:

"NOW therefore be it resolved that it is our belief that if our Executive has erred it has been through an excess of zeal on behalf of the Club in upholding

approved mountaineering ideals both in its membership and its conduct and not through personal motives:

"AND be it further resolved that it is our wish that the Executive continue to uphold these ideals:

"AND be it further resolved that this resolution includes an apology by the members of the Club to the Director."

Before the motion was introduced, the Honorary President, Mr. J. Porter, addressed the meeting, urging compromise and moderation, and as far as possible a silent vote, lest anything unfriendly should inadvertently be said.

Mr. Fred Parkes then rose to propose the resolution. He explained that the motion had reference to the tone of some of the speeches which had been made at the last meeting, and he considered that the criticisms of the Director contained in some of the speeches had been unjust.

Mr. Ingram seconded the resolution, but explained that his deafness had prevented him from hearing what had been said at the last meeting. He was very strong, however, in the opinion that the Club should apologize to the Director, and thought that it was a good thing to have a Dictator in the Club, although "not necessarily" as he put it "a Mussolini."

Mr. Ernest Baeschlin spoke against the motion, and lamented a feeling which he held had been engendered by the Executive, casting a shadow upon the traditional freedom and goodfellowship of the members of the Club.

Mr. A. A. Milledge moved an amendment cancelling the motion and substituting a vote of confidence in the Executive in its place, and said it seemed absurd for the Club to apologize to the Director. He continued that, with the possible exception of three men, everyone had left the last meeting very well satisfied, and in perfect harmony, after carrying an amendment which was a happy compromise, and carrying it also without a dissenting vote.

The Director explained that at the last General Meeting, the position which he had taken at the Executive Meeting had been misunderstood by some of the speakers who had criticized him at the General Meeting but that he had overlooked the

necessity to correct the misunderstanding at the time. He refused to accept the amendment as proposed by Mr. Milledge.

The Chairman upheld an objection to the amendment and ruled it out of order. Mr. L. C. Ford suggested an amendment to the effect that the whole incident be allowed to drop, but as this did not appear to be acceptable to the meeting he favored Mr. Milledge's vote of confidence.

Mr. Parkes' motion was then put and defeated. Mr. Milledge moved a vote of confidence in the Executive, which was carried unanimously. The Director immediately rose and resigned his membership in the Club, and the following members of the Executive then followed his example: J. H. Speer, W. G. Wheatley, R. E. Knight, N. M. Carter, B. C. Cayley, and W. E. Martin.

The meeting then elected Mr. Leslie Golman to the Executive, with the additional position of Acting Secretary and authorized the remaining members of the Executive to carry on.

The President, Mr. F. W. Johnson, then addressed the meeting, urging cooperation and goodfellowship and loyalty to the Club, and was heartily applauded.

The meeting also dealt with the organization of search parties for hikers who were reported as lost in the mountains, and a list of names was opened of members who could be called upon in an emergency. A good suggestion was made by Stan Henderson that members when submitting their names advise which mountains they are most intimate with. This would enable the Secretary to make sure that there was one man at least in each party that was thoroughly familiar with the ground to be covered.

NOTE—Although rumours are circulating that a large number of members have resigned, some saying as many as half the club, we can officially say that only 25 resignations have been received for the entire year.

BROTHERS' CREEK TRIP

Gus Fraser was scheduled to lead the trip on November 28th, to climb Hollyburn Peak via Brothers' Creek. Unfortunately Gus sprained his ankle on the

evening previous and therefore Stan Henderson and Fred Parkes took charge. The day was poor and owing to rain they only went as far as the Lakes and returned by the main trail. No special difficulties were encountered and the trail up the East end of the Ridge was easily followed.

WHITE MOUNTAIN TRIP

The main party proceeded to Lynn Forks on Saturday evening, December 11th, and made camp in the abandoned cabins there. Most of these cabins are water-tight but lack windows and stoves.

The party, under leadership of Brick Spouse and end man Bill Dobson, left at 6.15 a.m. and followed the new trail to the foot of the ridge leading to White Pass and continued up the slopes, arriving there early in the morning. On account of the cold snap which had settled over the Lower Mainland that day, the wind was extremely keen and was felt by members who had not heeded the leader's warning to bring proper clothing.

Owing to the extreme cold, coupled with a biting North wind, the traverse of the Peak was not made and the party returned via Lynn Lake, arriving at the Forks at 2.15 p.m.

The return to town was made in good time.

An amusing and interesting incident during the climb to the pass was the sight of a small rabbit in its winter coat of white but owing to the fact that it was some hundreds of feet below the snow line its colour attracted considerable attention. The bunny, however, evidently believing that its camouflage was working perfectly remained absolutely motionless and appeared quite unconcerned despite the fact that quite a crowd congregated around and discussed it at some length.

NEW EXECUTIVE

At a meeting held on December 14th, at 440 Seymour St., the remainder of the Executive and a number of members elected the following, to carry on as Executive until the Annual Meeting in March, 1927: F. W. Johnson, L. G. Golman, G. T. Wallis, A. Taylor, M. M. Dodds, F. Smith, H. Nunn, A. J. O. Cooper, A. A. Milledge, R. M. Gaudet.

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REPORT OF TRIPS

Will leaders of Club trips please report if possible on the evening of their return, to Mr. Geo. Wallis, Telephone Bay. 5940-X or Sey. 9040, so that details can be given to the papers for immediate publication.

SQUAMISH TO WIGWAM INN

By L. C. FORD

It is an interesting trail from Squamish to a spot opposite the Wigwam Inn, at the mouth of the Indian River. John Huggard, Mickey Dodds and I followed it for two and a half days in the middle of May, 1926. The distance is about twenty-six miles and the direction travelled is South Easterly. We left Squamish soon after two p.m. and a good trail led us through tall timber, till as darkness fell, we reached Haybrick's cabin at an elevation of 2,170 feet. It was raining steadily, so after knocking and finding no one at home, we drew aside the sacking which served for a door, and took the liberty of camping inside for the night. We had been following the course of the Stawamus River, going upstream and leaving it on our right. This river starts near Loch Lomond, and flows into Howe Sound near Squamish. Southerly, or far side of the river was bounded by a precipitous mountain ridge, 4,000 to 4,500 feet high.

Next morning, a further 300 foot rise brought us to the highest point on the trail, and the descent to the North Arm of Burrard Inlet began. We left Stawamus River, and struck Indian River near its source at 11 a.m. and crossed to the South Westerly side. Here the obvious trail leads up hill for a quarter of an

hour to a very commodious miner's shack. The main trail, however, follows near to the South Westerly bank of the Indian River. Instead of having precipitous mountains on our right, we now had them on our left on the far side of the Indian River, while the mountain ridge on our right sloped gradually down, and numerous streams flowed down its sides and crossed our path on their way to swell the Indian River. Where these streams came in, the trail began to be grown over with wet salmonberry scrub, through which we forced our way. Fallen trees also obstructed the going. We camped out that night at an elevation of 700 feet, and spent the evening drying out at the camp fire.

Next morning, half an hour's hike in heavy rain, brought us to a small miner's shack built of shakes. The door was open, so we sheltered till the rain stopped. Half an hour's hike further on, we came to the Falls on Indian River, which were swollen by the rain and were well worth seeing. The sun shone out from the clouds for a while and lit up the water above the falls as it foamed over the rocks in the riverbed, past the forest trees on either bank. Below the falls in one place there was a remarkable spray effect, the water rising again in the air from where it had struck, and forming a huge inverted cup.

From this point to Wigwam Inn, the going would have been easy, had we not had to climb over a number of fallen trees, constantly push our way through dripping salmonberry and thimbleberry scrub, and wade the Indian River and other minor waters connected with it. We dried out that night at Wigwam Inn where we had a very good supper.

THE MOUNT BAKER DISTRICT

By ARTHUR COOPER

A particularly fine Alpine region has now been opened up since the completion of the Mount Baker Highway to Austin Pass. A big Chalet is under construction on Austin Pass Meadows to be completed in the summer of 1927. From this point it would now be possible to climb Mount Shuksan in a long weekend, as well as many other glacier hung peaks including Mount Baker. On many occasions the Club has ascended Mt. Baker, but an official attempt has never been made by Club members on Shuksan: a fine massive rock peak surrounded by magnificent hanging glaciers. Although only 9,025 feet in elevation as against Baker's 10,750, it is far more difficult to approach because of its isolated position in relation to other peaks. The North, West and East faces are absolutely unjustifiable because of the great precipices overhung with glaciers that shower down thundering avalanches.

On August 28th and 29th, 1926, the writer in company with a small private party made an attempt along the rugged ridge known as Shuksan Arm. An altitude of 7,800 feet was reached on the North West face where a great ice fall barred all further advance. This was found to be a very unsuitable route, first, because the Arm is very difficult to traverse on the end near the mountain itself and secondly because of the extremely steep and badly broken glaciers.

On September 26th a second attempt was made by J. Norman and the writer and a route was forced up some cliffs on the Arm, when lack of time alone forced a retreat. An ascent could be completed by this route but the character of the climbing calls for much skill. Instead of following the Shuksan Arm, the route led over Austin Pass and down Swift Creek a short distance then over a pass to Maiden Lake. From here a traverse over rock-slides and a small glacier and the cliffs climbed on the South side of the Arm.

On Nov. 6th, 7th and 8th last a further attempt was made but snow conditions prevented any approach to the mountain at all.

The only feasible route appears to be over to Maiden Lake, then to drop 1,500 feet to cross Shuksan Creek, and from here there appears to be a steady ascent to the snowfield beneath the final rock tower.

The expedition is a long one and could only be made by an accomplished party, however, the writer intends to visit the mountain and surrounding districts next season and will be able to furnish more

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data, and, possibly open up other interesting peaks for club trips.

NOTE—The mileage via Blaine from Vancouver to Mount Baker Lodge is approximately 100 miles and the time necessary for the trip, making allowance for the Customs and the climb to Austin Pass, is between five and six hours. The road as far as Glacier is excellent, but from there on although the surface is good it is rather narrow with sharp turns and switchbacks in several places, necessitating careful driving, but the Pass can be easily reached by any make of car providing no snow is encountered.

FIELD SECTION OF B. C. MOUNTAINEERING CLUB REPORT ON SNOW CONDITIONS IN LOCAL MOUNTAINS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1926

By WILLIAM TAYLOR

The snow fall over the local mountains for the first two months of the Alpine winter has been light below the 4,500-foot level. The November fall being very much below the average, while the December fall was just up to average. In the high Alpine regions above 6,000 feet the snow fall for the first three months of the Alpine winter must have been up to average, judging from the mountain precipitation and temperatures. The last three weeks of December gave us all our present cover below the 4,100-foot level. A slight loss of snow cover took place during the short mild spell after Christmas. Precipitation has been up to average, but on account of high temperatures in November, most of the precipitation during that month fell as rain below 4,500 feet. The average snow depth taken from all four exposures on December 31st, 1926, were as follows: 4,500 feet, 4 feet 9 inches; 4,000 feet, 4 feet; 3,500 feet, 3 feet 3 inches; 3,000 feet, 2 feet; 2,500 feet 12 inches and 2,000 feet, 6 inches.

Over an average of 14 years the depth at the 4,000-foot level is 7 feet. The maximum depth at that date occurred in 1912 when it was 12 feet; and the minimum was in 1919 when it was only 1 foot 9 inches.

RESCUE PARTY

Members of the B. C. Mountaineering Club fully deserve the esteem in which they are locally held in their forming of search parties to locate the two boys who were reported lost on Dog Mountain on Dec. 14th.

Chief Constable W. W. Hemmingway of North Vancouver District phoned Mr. Golman and requested that the Club supply a volunteer search party to look for

the two boys. The members gathered at the Hotel Vancouver after the Club Meeting held that night and were picked up about midnight and driven to a point near the iron bridge on Seymour Creek, and spent the rest of the night in a cabin there.

They left at daybreak, Wednesday, and fully scoured Dog Mountain. Near the top the party divided so as to cover a greater territory, one party retracing in a general direction their previous steps and the other intending to circle the Peak and so reach their old trail. They, however, ran into numerous bluffs which forced them eventually into Seymour Creek. A cable crossing was found but it was in poor condition and thanks are due Walter Gilbert for going over the cable in a bosun's chair and repairing it so that all members could cross with ease.

In the meantime the Alpine Club had also formed a party which left Vancouver Wednesday morning; they arrived at the same cabin about noon. Almost immediately after their arrival the news was received that the two boys had turned up and although the A.C.C. members had started out they were able to be recalled. They warmed up the cabin and prepared hot tea which was greatly appreciated by our members on their return.

Credit is also due another member of the Club, Elliot Henderson, who was accompanied by Fred Parkes and Stan Henderson in his trip over Seymour Ridge from the North Arm, on a search for the boys.

As it is now known, the boys were lost on Hollyburn Ridge and it is a further example of inexperienced hikers changing their plans after they left home, with its attendant confusion in the event of their not turning up. It also amply justifies the suggestion that members who are able to get away from their work leave their names with the Secretary so that he can form emergency search parties.

SOCIAL EVENINGS

It has been suggested that if members are interested in having social evenings at the Club Cabin, say from nine until midnight on a Saturday, that these members get in touch with Mr. L. C. Ford, phone Sey. 623, and make up a party.

We feel there must be considerable talent in the Club, and everybody would enjoy several social evenings during the season. By giving advance notice in the Camera & Arts full advantage may be taken of such an auspicious occasion.

DANCE

Don't forget the dance which was proposed at the last meeting. This will probably be held during February or early March. You will remember what a good time everybody had at the last one, and when the occasion arrives let's all go and make it a better one than ever.

MOUNTAIN EARS

At a meeting of the Executive held on December 14th, which has been reported elsewhere in this issue, five new members were elected to that body and four active members were admitted into the Club, these being as follows: Miss Nance Sandeman, Miss Violet Jones, Donald J. McIntosh and Harry Somerville.

* * *

We are very pleased to report that Mills Winram, who has been laid up pretty well ever since the wood bee, was able to get up just before Christmas, and is on the high road to his old form. He expects to get outside before the end of this month; so we may expect to have him back in our midst early in the spring.

FOR SALE

Pair of ladies' tailed snowshoes, very little used, \$4.50; pair of McLachlan-Taylor Swiss nailed boots, size 5½, used at one summer camp, \$6.50. May be seen at Mr. Golman's office, United Typewriter Co., 440 Seymour Street.

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