

The B. C. Mountaineer

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

P. O. Box 543
TELEPHONE SEY. 3189

Honorary President: J. PORTER, B.E.

President: F. W. JOHNSON

Secretary: R. E. KNIGHT

Treasurer: G. T. WALLIS

Official Publication:

THE B. C. MOUNTAINEER

Editor: Neal M. Carter
1125 Pender Street West.
Phone, Seymour 7590.

Subscription: \$1.00 PER YEAR.
Published Monthly.

LIBRARY: Baker's Book Shop,
855 Granville Street.

No. 3 Vol. 4 MAY, 1926 Vancouver, B.C.

THE NEW CABIN

The new Cabin has now become a materialization instead of a plan on paper—the foundation posts are cut and ready to be placed.

The members of the Club have completed their first share of the work, and a contract will be let within a few days to a responsible party for the cutting of the logs and erection of the cabin. This work, if done by volunteer labor would mean the cancelling of the whole summer program, and when completed would probably not be as satisfactory as that done by a few men accustomed to such building. Then the members of the Club will once more be expected to step in and do their bit when the interior finishing is to be done.

Saturday, April 17th, marks the commencement of the operations, for on that afternoon a delegation chose the most suitable site after careful consideration. The

three requirements of water, level ground and a good view were found to be best combined on the north-west corner of the Club's property a short distance down the slope from the "perpendicular farm." The cabin will rest on the bed rock overlooking the cliff, and will command a wonderful view of the Lions, Vancouver Island and a portion of the City from the front verandah facing southwest.

On the following day the "gang" set to work real early and amid a more or less continuous drizzling rain succeeded in hewing the site from the primeval forest of the mountainside. A welcome hail from the old cabin up the hill announced a splendid hot dinner which had been arranged and prepared most capably by Mrs. W. E. Martin and Miss Siddeley. Before a heavy rain discouraged further work late in the afternoon, the work of laying out the cabin had been commenced.

On the week-end of May 1-2, another trip was cancelled and the second working-bee, considerably larger than the first, started in to clean up the site, dig the holes for the foundation posts, and get everything ready for the contractor. One large stump had to be blasted, while others were "pulled" literally by united effort at the business end of a big rope. Often the rope broke instead.

Mrs. Dobson and other members of the Cabin Committee were in charge of the dinner, which necessitated a general stretch-out on the verandah before work could be resumed. By four o'clock, Tom Fyles declared a truce and announced that it was all over, until the cabin is ready for interior decorating.

Following a series of skidroads and a trail blazed by Eric Fuller, two members approached the new cabin site from the Capilano road and decided that horses could be employed to carry lumber and materials to a point within a few hundred feet of the bottom of the rockslide below the cliff. This will mean that when it comes to carrying up the boards, nails, tools, etc., the members will have only a short distance to back-pack the materials to the base of the cliff, up which they (not the members) will be pulled by ropes. At all times, the par-

ties will be within hearing distance, and this should make the tedious part of building a new cabin much more pleasurable than the long grind up the old trail.

No more of the Summer Schedule will need to be cancelled, and it is hoped that next autumn, when the call comes, everyone will forego the necessary trips and refrain from suggesting private trips which might entice those who feel deep down in their hearts they should be "up the hill" helping the bunch pack stove-lid holes up the rock-slide or nailing shingles on the roof of their new Cabin.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

The contract to build the new cabin, and the materials for finishing it are all going to cost money. The Annual Meeting authorized the use of the Club Fund available for this purpose, but you all promised to help make up the balance. This money was called for in our last issue, and the Treasurer reports that some is still due. Now that the cabin is really under way, it is hoped this will influence those who have not yet subscribed or paid to do so promptly to Mr. Geo. Wallis, 551 Howe Street.

THE SPECTRE OF THE BROCKEN

On April 11th, after spending Saturday evening at St. Mark's camp on Howe Sound, Bill Wheatley led a large party up the Lions as a successful closing trip to the winter program. The usual route up the ridge was followed, but rain and fog proved very discouraging until the summit was almost reached, when the weather cleared and gave splendid views towards the City and Howe Sound.

Due to the fog clearing from the top, leaving banks of cloud lying in the depressions to the north, conditions were just right for anticipation of that uncommon sight, the Spectre of the Brocken. Now, this is nothing to be frightened of, nor is it an indication of a recent visit to the Vendor's Store; it is merely the popular name for your own shadow. Whenever you get on any kind of a prominence overlooking a cloud-filled depression, or even facing a bank of cloud near-by, stand right on the edge with the sun behind your back, and the chances are the "spectre" will walk. It

is not an optical illusion, and there is no reason for its appearance being considered rare; the trouble is, when the clouds clear off, everyone's attention is directed towards the view disclosed, not towards the cloud or mist remaining. The writer has observed it on Mt. Baker late in the afternoon, and on Goat Peak just at sunrise; Mr. Fyles reports having seen it ten times, once on Crown at mid-day, as well as the two appearances on this trip, so the sun's altitude is immaterial. It is strange that such men as A. O. Wheeler and Col. W. W. Foster speak of the phenomenon being so unusual.

The peculiar halo-encircled appearance of the shadow, enormously exaggerated on the bank of cloud, receives its name from the fact that its appearance was first recorded as being seen in 1780 on The Brocken, the highest point (3,733 ft.) of the Harz Mts. in northern Germany, where from time immemorial the huge bare granite dome has been used as a centre of religious congregation. It is hoped that members of future parties will look for its appearance and attempt to photograph it for the Exhibition.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

Owing to the fact that a great many of the climbers were disappointed at having the Wrottesley trip cancelled for the work on the new cabin site, the Director took a vote of those working there to get their opinion regarding putting it on later. The result was unanimous. Consequently, the Bishop trip for May 8-9 was changed to Wrottesley, and the proposed re-union of old time members has been postponed until the Brunswick trip of June 5-6. Such changes of schedule are apt to occur until after the new cabin is completed, although as stated before, no further interference with this summer's program is expected. There are many fine trips coming off this month, since Wrottesley and Roderick are quite new to Club members, and Cheam practically so. The Sawteeth are expected to prove as popular as ever, since the trip up Roderick will be more in the nature of a scouting party than a regular trip, although it is being held on the same date.

KODAK FINISHING

SPECIAL CARE GIVEN TO MOUNTAIN VIEWS

A. C. PHILLIPS

Seymour 4916

323 Cambie Street

FLOWERS

Do you appreciate wild flowers? Someone who did wrote the following lines:

What is a flower, plucked, cast aside,

Dead in an hour?

Nay, let it bide on the hillside,

Gift of a Higher Power.

The Editor's attention was drawn to the fact that on a recent trip, more flowers were taken from the immediate vicinity of a spot where they are most appreciated "in situ," than were necessary for the individual wants of those who picked them. In B. C. we are still fortunate in being able to countenance such action due to the splendid abundance of flowers; however, some day this will not be allowed if "hiking" continues to grow in popularity at its present rate, as witnessed by the necessary regulations in the U. S. National Parks. So do not let the habit grow.

CATHEDRAL AND LYNN PEAKS

On the week-end of April 24-25, Arthur Cooper with Mickey Dodds as end man guided a large party up Cathedral. Leaving the Forks at 5:15 a.m., Palisade pass was reached at 8:15 and two hours were spent in traversing around below White, roped up. The weather was perfect and the snow good, allowing every one of the party of 24 to make the summit by one o'clock. The slopes are as steep as ever just below the summit, and the depth of snow seems about normal above 5,000 feet although notably deficient on the lower levels, which fact led to a little more bushwhacking than usual.

The view was superb and caused the party to linger over an hour on top, making

it 7:30 before the Forks were reached again. This was a splendid turnout for so arduous a trip, and the seven ladies on the party are to be complimented, especially Misses N. Coulson and M. Saville, who chose it for their qualification climb. The others were Mrs. F. Dobson, Misses Islay Richards, Emmie Milledge, Leone Morris, and Winnifred Speechley.

The concurrent Lynn Peaks trip on the Sunday, led by George Wallis with George Stephenson as end man, was also well attended.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The Photographic Committee wishes to announce that the classes for the next year's exhibition will be as published in the Dec.-Jan. issue of this year, with the exception that classes "G" and "H" (Panoramas and Groups of 6 Unenlarged) are deleted. A more complete summary of rules and classes will be given later, but the above fact is to be borne in mind when preparing your pictures.

Also, don't let the pictures hang over until the last minute. If you only knew how despondent the Secretary was two days before the last exhibition, with practically no entries, you would have them in two weeks in advance this year.

* * *

"Bill" Wheatley now has a rival in Mr. R. H. Wheatley whose application was passed at the last Executive meeting.

SUMMER CAMP

The Camp Committee met at the end of April and again went over the list of applications from outsiders and the replies to the invitations sent out to organizations. The

OUTINGS LIMITED

5TH FLOOR. 939 GRANVILLE STREET VANCOUVER, B.C.

Mountaineering and Camping Equipment

Edge Nails

Alpenstocks

Tents and Waterproof Clothing

The most important part of a mountaineer's outfit is his Boots; they may mean Life or Death to him.

McLachlan-Taylor Co. has made a special study of the construction of boots for mountaineering. All our boots are hand made. It will pay you to see us before buying your next pair.

MCLACHLAN-TAYLOR CO.

SHOEMAKERS

63 CORDOVA ST. WEST

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Recommended by members of the B.C. Mountaineering Club.

result was that some had to be referred to Mr. Bell-Irving's camp, since our own list is already getting pretty full. Of course, this means that about forty places are being reserved for our own members, and more if necessary; but your name must be in as early as possible before June 1st to enable the Committee to ascertain just how much room they have left for the other people we have invited.

As noted in the last issue, Mr. Bell-Irving has issued a cordial invitation to any of our members who find the dates July 17 to Aug. 7 suit better than the dates of our camp. If you wish to go to his camp, please send in your application to Mr. Knight, who will forward it.

THE POOR BEAR

The bear (or bears?) which has caused the many depredations around the mountainside since last November, is now having his skin stretched. It met its untimely end on the last Monday in April after particularly annoying the resident of one of the private cabins. Although our cabin suffered several times, the general trend of opinion was towards keeping the intruder out, not doing away with him. However, never again will he playfully poke his nose through Les Ford's kitchen window-pane. It is doubtful whether another bear will ever be found whose constitution could withstand coffee, strychnine, flour, chloride of lime, etc., in such rapid succession without injury.

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE ANTARCTIC

Mountaineering and polar exploration are closely akin and shade into one another so that at times they can scarcely be distinguished. For instance, Stuck's expedition to McKinley, and the Alpine Club trip to Logan were more in the nature of polar work than of a mountain climb, and it may be of some interest to note that mountain climbing has been done as far south as latitude 83 degrees 30 minutes South, when Shackleton climbed Mount Hope, 2,758 feet. This was a rock climb on weathered granite, some 500 miles from the South Pole. The South Pole itself is on an elevated plateau at some 10,000 feet. It is not a characteristic of explorers and surveyors to refer to incidental difficulties and

so many an interesting chapter on mountaineering is hidden away in such a book.

Another ascent of Shackleton's 1908 expedition (during which he fell short of the Pole by only 100 miles) was the first ascent of the volcanic cone of Mount Erebus, 13,370, in latitude 76 degrees, 40 minutes South, an ascent from sea level almost entirely over snow and ice. A sledge was drawn from the base to approximately 5,630 feet and there deposited, while the party of six, cutting their way up the glacier with forty-pound packs, reached on the 5th day, in a sadly frost-bitten condition, the old crater rim at 11,400 feet. Here they found a band of cliffs, complicated by a wind-made trough in the snow at their base, but they found a route and on the 6th day were examining the smoking crater. Two of the parties fell into caverns caused by fumaroles, or steam-jets. In one day they descended 5,000 feet by glissading, a very risky procedure over unknown slopes, but luck was with them. Then they hauled the sledge back, much hampered by sstrugi, or wind furrows, which make it almost impossible to find a level surface on the ice of the Ross Barrier.

Two features are of interest. One is the 'earth bars'; or shadows cast by the sun, low on the horizon, behind the mountain ranges. The second is the comparative permanence of the ice in this region, of intense cold and low precipitation. To us, accustomed to the melting of ice-steps in an hour, it seems strange that the marks of picks on ice should still be found after a six year interval, in which time glacier ice was found to have flowed 8 inches in the centre, and 6 inches on the side.

INSURANCE

Who did the courting; who is responsible for those lovely children, and who will be responsible for their upbringing when you are gone? But sometimes it is also an old father, or an old mother that has to go to the poor house in case you slip and break your neck. If you live—it protects your old age, the money becoming payable to you.

The New York Life Insurance Co. is Mutual, there are no shareholders to reap the profits. All dividends go to you. Phone Seymour 6552 for appointment with E. Baeschlin, or see him at Room 1211, Vancouver Block. (Advt.)

MURPHY AND CHAPMAN

LIMITED

STATIONERS

PRINTERS

BOOKBINDERS

Telephones Seymour 718-719