

The B. C. Mountaineer

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Founded 1907. :: Incorporated 1912.

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ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 16th

This meeting will be held at 8 p.m. sharp on the above date, at Room No. 132, Hotel Vancouver.

Nominations have been received, properly signed by five members, for the following positions:

President—Frank W. Johnson.

First Vice-President—L. C. Ford.

Second Vice-President—Don Munday, A.

A. Milledge.

Treasurer—George T. Wallis.

Secretary—L. G. Golman, A. Taylor.

Editor—John Huggard.

Librarian—E. H. Nunn.

Reporter—Miss Leone Morris.

Executive—Harold O'Connor, M. M.

Dodds, A. J. O. Cooper, F. A. Spouse, R. M. Gaudet.

Will the members please take note that there is being made a slight alteration in the manner in which the members stand for election. Where there is the regulation secret ballot for an office, the member losing drops out of the election entirely and does not have the option of standing for any of the other positions which are open.

Advance notice is hereby given of a motion to be moved by Mr. L. C. Ford, at this meeting as follows:

"To amend the By-Laws by striking out the word 'Director' in Clause 5a, and by striking out Clause 7g."

NOTE.—The substance of this motion is to do away with the position of Director, and to leave the arranging of trips and leaders in the control of the Executive. It is entirely probable that three members of the Executive will be chosen as a Climbing Committee to look after these matters, which will bring us in line with other Mountaineering organizations in North America.

Will all members possible attend, so that this Annual General Meeting may have the representation it warrants.

SEYMOUR TRIP

This was scheduled as a snowshoe trip for January 29th and 30th. A party of three under Leader J. Irving and Endman Bill Dobson, combined with Middleman K. Grimsgard, camped at the mill above the iron bridge Saturday night. Owing to a heavy snow storm, the trip was called off, but we have wind of a new song for the Club song book which was the outcome of suppressed climbing exuberance finding its outlet through a poetical safety valve.

BLACK MOUNTAIN TRIP

The advantage of trail cutting trips was made evident on February 13th, when the regular two-day trip to Black Mountain was shortened to an easy one-day trip by the trail made last summer. The party of 14 arrived at Whytecliff by auto at 8:50 a.m., and the ascent started soon after. The trail was in good condition except for a few windfalls, and the snow in the gully excellent. The usual traverse of a few dozen subsidiary peaks was made and the summit reached at 1.20. After lunch the party on its descent was met by a second party at the head of the gully, where hot tea was served, and then all returned and arrived at Whytecliff at 5.30. The party consisted of Misses Teddy Sproule, Winnie Jones, Frankie Riddock, and Messrs. L. C. Ford, E. Henderson, H. Sommerville, J. Horan, H. Griffin, Geo. Wallis, A. Simpkins, R. Gaudet, Les Golman, H. O'Connor (Endman), and Hazen Nunn (Leader).

The same day two early ascents were attempted. The first, Cathedral Mtn., by Arthur Cooper, Jim Irving and Bill Dobson, which was successful. Conditions were ideal and considering a late start from Lynn forks at 7 a.m. good time was made to the summit, which was reached at 2 p.m. Sliding was poor. The second was the Western Lion, by Brick Spouse and A. Taylor, which was unsuccessful. A point about 200 feet up the head was reached, but the sun was loosening ice and snow in increasing quantities, so discretion was deemed the better part of valor and the descent commenced. Splendid sliding was enjoyed in the Cirque and Lion's gully.

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE LIBRARY

The librarian, Mr. E. H. Nunn, wishes to advise that the Club has received the following publications, which have been entered in the library at Outings Ltd., 5th Floor, 939 Granville Street.

"Bulletin of the Appalachian Mountain Club."—December, 1926.

"The Mountaineer."—Dec. 15th, 1926.

"Mazama."—Dec., 1926.

"Annual Report of the Director of the National Park Service."—U.S. Department of the Interior, 1926.

"Zeitschrift des Deutschen und Osterreichischen Alpen-Vereins." 1926.

This last one is a trifle difficult to grasp but would be very useful to anyone visiting the continent.

THE ACCIDENT ON LITTLE GOAT

It was with the deepest regret that we heard on Saturday, February 19th, of the death of Mr. E. A. Agur, who was so closely associated with Don and Mrs. Munday in their attempt on the Mystery Peak.

It appears that Mr. Agur and his partner, Mr. Johnston, had just left their cabin on Little Goat and were following the new trail put in by the Grouse Mountain Resort Co. This crosses the head of several gulleys leading to Kennedy Lake, and from the nature of the slide it would appear that it was started by themselves. The hard crust, resulting from eight days of sunshine previously, coupled with a fresh fall of snow of about two feet and a rise in

temperature, made conditions ripe for avalanches, and their combined weights precipitated this one. Mr. Johnston was fortunate enough to catch a tree at the top of the bluffs after having slid about 200 feet, while Mr. Agur was carried over these bluffs and engulfed in the rapidly increasing slide. Mr. Johnston, although badly shaken up, proceeded to the Chalet to obtain help, and with this spent the rest of the afternoon searching the upper slopes and digging around trees to find if Mr. Agur had been caught, but with no result.

An S.O.S. was sent to Club members that night, and a small party gathered at the Club cabin, while Don and Mrs. Munday, after bringing the news down, returned the same evening to Agur's cabin. The Club members the next morning proceeded to that cabin and then to the foot of the slide to commence a thorough search. Conditions had become worse during the night, and avalanches had occurred in all the gulleys with several over-lapping the original slide, thus further confusing things. The upper part of the gully had been thoroughly searched by Don and Mrs. Munday, but it had been swept clear of all debris, and the party then started to thoroughly search the surface of the avalanche debris. By noting the general direction of the slide the area was narrowed down to a fan shape about thirty feet wide at the top and two hundred feet wide at the bottom and five or six hundred feet long. Every inch of the surface was carefully investigated and prodded to the full extent of ice axes, with no result. It was with sad hearts that the members of this Club and the Alpine Club of Canada abandoned the search, realizing that Agur's body must be buried deep under tons of wet snow, and that it would be impossible to find him until the spring or summer thaws melted away the top covering.

Mr. and Mrs. Munday have sent to the members of this Club who assisted in the search a note of appreciation, which we are quoting below:

"Mrs. Munday and I wish to express our very deep appreciation of the efforts of members of the B. C. Mountaineering Club in the search for our friend, Mr. E. A. Agur, who perished almost within sight of

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his mountain home. We feel that the Club's rapidly growing record of unselfish response in such emergencies is creating an ideal of service in keeping with the finest mountaineering traditions, and one that future members of the Club will regard as one of their proudest heritages."

We have also received a letter of appreciation from Mr. Agur's brother, Mr. R. V. Agur.

It will be greatly appreciated if every week-end any members who are over in the neighborhood of Dam would give to the memory of this fine gentleman a little extra exertion in the shape of descending to the location of the slide and giving it a thorough look over, so that his body may be found as soon as possible after it is uncovered. For those who are not clear as to this location, the regular gully descending to Kennedy Lake from Goat Ridge will be well known to all, and the gully in which the slide occurred is the next one north, or the first of two gulleys close together.

LYNN PEAKS TRIP

This trip, owing to its easy access by Cedars Ltd. road, was set for a day trip on February 27th. Fourteen members started from the end of the Lynn Valley car line at 8.30. Snow was encountered before Cedars' mill was reached, but was in splendid condition. The falls in the gully leading up, so well remembered by numbers of climbers who have passed over and under them, were completely covered. About half way up hard snow was encountered, necessitating step cutting, and shortly after leaving the top of the gully snow conditions became worse, the hard crust being overlaid by a plentiful deposit of fresh dry snow, which necessitated great care in the descent of the north side of all

the peaks, and it was found necessary to use the rope in descending the last one.

The highest summit was reached about three o'clock, and after a brief stay to partake of refreshments and the thoroughly enjoyable and extensive view, the descent over the fourth peak commenced. In going down to East Lynn a very good slide may be expected at this time of the year, but owing to the extreme hardness of the crust it was deemed advisable, with the exception of a few hardened glissaders, to kick steps and thus avoid the possibility of a slip, which, owing to a turn in the gully, might result in an accident. Lower down a short slide was enjoyed by all, down a shingle bolt chute, which afforded an additional thrill in having a missing link in the form of a spot free from snow which furnished an exciting bump.

The members on the party were George Wallis (Leader), Miss Frankie Riddoch, Arthur Cooper, L. C. Ford, Alex. Simpkins, Harry Sommerville, Jack Horan, Bill Dobson, J. A. Wetterwald, Jim Irving, Herbert Griffin, Brick Spouse, and last but not least, two visitors, whom we hope will become good members—Mr. Carrick and Mr. Wing.

PRIVATE AND CLUB TRIPS

By A. TAYLOR

The writer was recently asked why some of our trips were called "Club" and some "Private," and I had to go into some detail to convince the questioner that the word "Private" was wrong, as it suggested exclusiveness, and that they are both really Club trips, inasmuch as they both consist of Club members officially representing the Club; the main difference being that the former are predetermined in a series called a summer or winter schedule with leaders

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and endmen named in advance, whereas the latter are made up on short notice, generally to take advantage of some special condition, but the same discipline should prevail on both; and be it clearly understood that they both take a vital part in the Club's life. No Club like ours can hope to be successful unless it has an organized series of trips, meetings and social gatherings; likewise we could not turn out the brand of climbers we are unless they had the chance to attempt difficult or new routes up our British Columbia mountains and learn from first hand experience the difficulties and joys of rock, snow and ice work.

I feel that none of you will take it amiss if I take this opportunity to urge you, whether on scheduled or unscheduled trips, to remember that you are representing the B. C. Mountaineering Club, and to conduct yourselves to its credit; be it an ascent by a difficult route, or the turning back when the risks do not warrant going on, or the education of new members in handling the ice-axe or rope, or accepting the leader's decision when it does not agree with yours, putting out camp fires or forming search parties, remember that you are setting an example to the ever-increasing number of the general public who are thronging our local mountains every year.

NEW MEMBERS

Applications are in as follows, which will be dealt with at the next Executive meeting:

Miss Winifred Jones, Fred Perry, A. R. Simpkins, J. C. Horan, and M. R. Whitaker.

HINTS ON THE USE OF THE ROPE IN MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

Feeling that many of our members would be interested in an article on the use of the rope in climbing, we have been able to obtain, through the courtesy of Dr. F. C. Bell, President of the Alpine Club of Canada, their permission to reprint a very interesting article on this subject by Mr. J.P. Forde, which appeared in an early volume of the Canadian Alpine Journal. This is too lengthy to be embodied in one of our issues, and contains too much wholesome advice and instruction to be given in "tabloid" form, therefore we are dispensing it on the installment plan. The first part follows and will be continued until the whole article has been dealt with.

"In the sport of mountain climbing the rope is one of the most important articles

of equipment, and, if properly used, is an absolute necessity to the safety of the climbing party, while it is a distinct source of danger to all if improperly handled, either through ignorance or carelessness. The following hints are given to inexperienced climbers therefore, and while, like any other sport, mountain climbing cannot be learned out of books, I hope that they may be of a little service to some of the newer additions to the quickly increasing ranks of climbers in Canada.

It is presumed that the party is equipped with a proper rope, of a length suitable to the size of the party and the nature of the work to be done, it being a Beale's Alpine Rope of three strands of Manilla Hemp, with the thread of red worsted running through it, which is the only proper climbing rope made. The first item to be attended to, on reaching the point where it is necessary to put the rope on, is to see that this is done properly. There are three principal things to be looked after in connection with this, as follows:

First—To place the party in proper order.

A discussion of what this order should be is unnecessary here, but it might not be out of place to say that on guideless climbs, which I hope will soon be fairly common among the members of the Alpine Club of Canada as our experience and knowledge of climbing increases, the best man should be chosen as leader, to go first on the ascent and last on the descent, and once he is settled on for the position his word should be law until the descent is finished. As he is presumably the best and most experienced climber of the party, he should issue his orders firmly and the others must obey him promptly, and cheerfully, even though they may not be in perfect accord with him at all times. A disorganized party is always in danger, and when once the leader has decided on a certain course of action, his leadership must not be questioned. Of course, it is not intended that the other members of the party should be debarred from offering a suggestion, or that the leader should be above accepting one, but when one is offered the matter of whether it is or is not to be acted upon, must be left to the leader to decide. The position of the rest of the party is of minor importance, except that one who has had experience, and who has a good bump of locality, should be placed last, as he will be in the lead on the descent."

To be Continued

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