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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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THE SUMMER PROGRAMME

A glance through our summer programme should fan even the smallest spark of interest into a flame of ambition—ambition to devote considerable time this season to pursuing the pleasures and solving the problems of the higher altitudes.

You will notice that the trips are arranged so as to give all an opportunity to gradually fit themselves for our major activities in the Lake O'Hara district.

First we have two snow trips, White Mountain and Black Mountain. They are both valuable as training climbs. We shall be able to work the stiffness from our climbing muscles, get used to handling an ice axe once more, have a little glissading practice, and conduct a few experiments in Winter photography.

Cathedral Mountain, and the North Peak of the Golden Ears are more advanced snow climbs, and on these peaks we shall be able to make use of the knowledge of snowcraft re-acquired on the two previous trips and no doubt shall find out just how necessary it is to know how to use an ice axe.

As these trips are both quite strenuous the next trip to Hollyburn Ridge should prove a pleasant change.

Everyone will feel quite at home on the interesting snow pitches of the West Peak of Crown and the Sawteeth, and we shall also have our first taste of rock-climbing.

Ruth Mountain and the Eastern Lion should satisfy everyone's desire to test his mettle on more difficult rock, while for those who feel they are being forced ahead too rapidly there are two excellent photographic trips. They will be able to catch up on their rock work on the North Peaks of Crown and Mt. Foley, while the remainder

recuperate either by fishing in Jones Lake or by having a pleasant hike up Mt. Strahan.

Then Lake O'Hara—the big reason for our careful training—the mountain-lover's paradise. In this district there are seven peaks over 11,000 feet, twenty-six over 10,000 feet, eleven over 9,000 feet and innumerable lower peaks and passes to interest us. Some of the peaks have still to be ascended for the first time. All are either "day trips" or possible from an overnight bivouac. I admit this sounds rather like an overdose of mountaineering, but what a selection! Everyone will want to make the "Passes" trip, a regular high level sightseeing tour of the district—leaving Lake O'Hara in the morning, climbing through Abbott Pass across the Victoria and Lefroy Glaciers and through the famous Mitre Pass to a delightful camping ground in Paradise Valley—returning to Lake O'Hara the following day by way of the Wastach, Wenkchemna and Opabin passes and glaciers. What names to excite the imagination, all associated with the names of such pioneer climbers of the district as Edward Whymper, Dr. Norman Collie, Phillip Abbott, C. E. Fay and Sir James Outram.

Mount Victoria, 11,150 feet is a straightforward snow climb, Mount Hungabee, 11,447 feet, a first class rock climb. Mount Lefroy, 11,220 feet has achieved a rather unenviable reputation, but will be within our reach if conditions are right. Mount Odaray, 10,165 feet, which was the graduating climb for the Canadian Alpine Club in 1921 contains a little of everything, but can be classed as an easy rock climb, as can Wiwasay Peaks overlooking the camp. Cathedral and Mount Stephen, 10,464 feet and 10,485 feet respectively, are quite spectacular but almost disappointingly easy.

There is no need for me to attempt to

extol the beauties of the campsite. Some have tried but most people refuse to attempt a description in mere words. A statement in the Canadian Alpine Journal carries as much weight as anything I have read, "No more fascinating campsite could be found in the mountains. Lake O'Hara won the heart of the great painter, Sargent, who declared it the most beautiful lake he had ever seen. To appreciate it fully it has to be lived with and seen in every light, in sunshine and in storm."

How sorry we shall be to leave this wonderland in the heart of the Canadian Alps, but what a wealth of pleasant impressions and valuable experiences we shall bring back to Vancouver.

The rest of the schedule will seem easy. The north face of Baker will present no real difficulty—Arthur will have no trouble getting us up Mount Shuksan and the "wood bee" will prove extremely popular as usual. The remaining activities will be of a social nature, preparing us for a Winter of indoor activity.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Judging by the excellent attendance at the annual meeting and the interest shown by those present to all things pertaining to the future activities of the club, our ideals will be realized in 1931. Those who were not at the meeting will be pleased to hear that we have Mr. L. C. Ford to pilot us through this promising year, with our last president, Mr. Frank Johnson, in the position of First Vice President.

Our Treasurer, Mr. Dodds, submitted his report which showed us to be in good financial standing, in contrast to our affairs a year ago. The members extended him a

hearty vote of thanks and later returned him to office.

The question of lockers was discussed, and a quotation of \$119.00 left until a club member who wished, could put in a tender.

Mr. Roy Howard made a good suggestion that in view of the fact that so many members were taking up skiing the club endeavor to supply or rent a place on Grouse Plateau where skis and ski-ing equipment could be stored cheaply and safely.

The meeting decided to support the Burrard Field Naturalists' club in their efforts to protect British Columbia bird life from unscrupulous collectors. Apparently among the few men who have been granted licenses to collect for scientific purposes are some who are making a business of exporting specimens to foreign private collections and museums. Although the numbers of specimens may be small in comparison with those shot under hunting licenses the proportion per specie is greater as our rare birds are the most sought after. A statement of our opinion on this matter will be sent to the Canadian National Parks Association at Ottawa.

The meeting adjourned at 11 o'clock.

**DOME MOUNTAIN TRIP
March 15th, 1931**

As reported by the leader, "A party left on the 9 a.m. ferry following the usual route from the end of Lonsdale, being joined at Mosquito Creek by Miss M. Hatfield, B. Cook, A. Redington, S. Topham and P. Broughton. The weather being unfavourable with poor visibility, some of the party continued on to the cabin, while the majority reached the summit at 1 p.m. After a short stay for lunch

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the party descended to the cabin via the Chalet. Other members of the party were—Misses J. Fraser, T. Jamieson, G. Smith, E. Bird, G. McCallum, D. Clough, E. Smith, B. Woodsworth, and Dr. T. Urquhart, Mr. C. Saunders, C. Anderson, G. K. McKenzie, J. McKenzie, F. Brownward and Thos. Fallowfield (leader)."

SKI-ING IN CANADA

The Canadian Ski Annual, recently published by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association is packed full of interesting stories of the progress of ski-ing in Canada, and will be of real interest to mountaineers. G. Cameron Stockand has contributed an account of a ski trip made by a party of three last April. They started from Banff and travelled as far as White Man's Pass the first day, the second day they skied as far as Spray Lake, and after a long hard day via the Bryant Creek and Assiniboine Pass route, arrived at the end of the third day at Mount Assiniboine Camp. The skiers carried food and supplies for a week, as well as cameras, but did not carry blankets as they were able to use the cabins of the Park Game Warden.

Mention is also made of the 280 mile trip by ski in Jasper National Park made last spring by A. D. Lindley, R. H. Bennet and R. P. Gale, all of Minneapolis. These hardy adventurers started from a base camp at the Canadian National Chalet at Maligne Lake, and visited the Columbia Icefields, the Brazeau country, and made side trips of exploration with a view to returning with a larger party next year. Making the first attempt to climb Mount Castlegard in winter they reached the summit, carrying their skis all the way up, and returning, skied down the last slope,

which had taken them two hours to climb, in a breath-taking ten minutes.

A mountaineer who has learned to ski can reach his favorite peaks when they are at their best, but when, owing to soft snow conditions, they are usually hardest to climb. That this fact is being realized is evident from the numbers of climbers who are learning to ski. As Mr. Allan Snowdon, President of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association says, "Lack of skill is the greatest deterrent to ski-ing. There should be no age limit to ski-ing, if one has acquired sufficient skill to make easy work of it. Too many leave it early in life because they have never taken the pains to acquire the necessary skill and they find the sport increasingly difficult as the years go on. On the other hand, those who have learned to handle their skis, who can turn and stop at will, who, in a word, make easy work of ski-ing, stay with the sport until an advanced age."

Any mountaineer who will tie on a pair of skis and go for cross-country trips for one season will not only enjoy some delightfully new experiences, but after learning the various turns and stops, learning how to judge slopes and changing snow conditions while on the run, will find he has added immensely to his stock of mountain lore and will find early Spring trips a delight instead of a heartbreaking time of trail breaking.

—W. G. L.

ROPES

If you have a club rope will you please return it to Frank Johnson as early as possible. It is necessary that they be checked over and inspected so as to be in readiness for club trips.

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THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF MARCH 23rd

The executive committee had a busy session on March 23rd. They received tenders for building the lockers, three from club members and one from outside. The outside bid was set aside after proof of the club members' ability to do the work was given. The remaining bids were all for the same figure, so that of Mr. W. Taylor was accepted on the grounds of seniority, after some discussion.

It was decided that as the club's camping equipment was perishable they would neither rent nor loan it in future.

As a number of scheduled trips are getting somewhat out of hand owing to the policy of giving newer members an opportunity to lead, all leaders and end men named on the Summer Schedule will be requested to attend a special meeting at which Mr. Les Ford will speak on the necessity of maintaining our old standards of orderliness, and will emphasize the responsibilities of leadership. It is also hoped that the members at large will do their share towards maintaining these standards.

Frank Johnson was elected chairman of the cabin committee and will select his committee from members not at present holding any office.

SOCIAL EVENING

The club party at Killarney was a huge success. The members and guests present certainly had a good time. The orchestra was splendid, apparently lending to Les Ford the winged feet of Mercury as those young bloods who jealously watched him monopolize the pretty girls will testify.

During the refreshment period the social committee entertained with stunts, and it must be true that laughing aids the digestion since the "bologna" passed around by Harold did us no harm.

Excitement ran high during a medley when Scotch reels only were played and only hardy mountaineers could have stood the pace, but every couple acquitted themselves nobly.

The social committee are to be congratulated for the work they must have done to provide such entertainment.

* * *

Have you read "Mountain Craft," by Geoffrey Winthrop Young. It is in the club library. You really should, there is something in this book for everyone, from the ambitious climber to the casual hiker. Each chapter is written by a specialist in his own field. Leadership, use of the rope, use of the ice axe, glissading, ski-ing, rock climbing, snow and ice climbing, equipment, food, pace. All those who intend attending trips on the Summer Schedule and those who are coming to Lake O'Hara

this year will find it invaluable. Its popularity is proven by the fact that it is but seldom found on our shelves.

MOUNTAIN EARS

If Mr. Phillips is out when you go to put your name in for trips write your name on a slip of paper and put it in through the door, or phone to the store later and he will be pleased to put it on the list for you. Also if leaders mail their lists to him he will be pleased to put them on the notice board.

* * *

Les Golman has a pair of size 8 climbing shoes. The original cost was \$21.00. He will sell them for \$10.00.

* * *

Ye editor has a pair of size 10's used five times, cost \$15.00, will sell for \$7.50.

* * *

THE (ab) USES OF THE ICE AXE

The story about the combination tool, a hammer that could be used as a screw-driver, a corkscrew or a pair of pliers and was found to be of little use at all, applies in some manner to our ice-axe, the chief difference being that it is useful as an ice-axe.

As a toasting fork for marshmallows it is ideal, except that it may get a little charred where it needs strength most. As a hatchet it is not much good; as a geologist's hammer it is fine, provided one doesn't mind the pick being bent, the edge being dulled or the handle shattered.

In the early days climbers used ice-axes for cutting steps in ice or to prevent a fatal slip, but young climbers scorn to use man made tools to withstand the attacks of the mountain. Their first thought is to throw away their ice-axe so as to get at the monster with their bare hands. Others of a more sporting nature tie their axes to their wrist with a long thong so that after they have slipped and thrown it away as usual, it trails just out of reach on the slope above them in a tantalising fashion, occasionally hitting a bump and swinging over to deal them a playful tap on the back of the head. This game goes on until a convenient tree or precipice stops the fun.

Using an ice-axe as a ski-pole is another thrilling sport equalled only by fighting grizzlies empty handed. Speaking of grizzlies, I have often imagined reading the headline; "Hardy Mountaineer Battles Grizzly with Ice-Axe as Only Weapon," but a worrying thought has always pursued me that the ice-axe might jam in Bruin's ribs, and the mountaineer be blotted out before being able to deliver the coup de grace.