

# The B.C. Mountaineer

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## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting to be held March 16th, Mr. G. W. McKenzie will move the following resolution to amend By-law Section 5a, subsection 1:—

That the Club at Annual Meetings may, from time to time, elect to the Executive certain members, known as permanent members, who by reason of length of membership and continued activities in the Club, have rendered same extraordinary services. Such members are to remain on the Executive as long as they are members of the Club.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Club will be held in the York Room of the Hotel Georgia on Monday, March 16th, 1931, at the hour of 8 p.m. Please make every effort to be present for your vote and opinion will be needed. Several matters vitally important will be dealt with and a good representation of members is requested. Your goodwill and attention will be much appreciated.

### LAKE O'HARA

By C. A. Dawson

For beauty, the setting for this year's annual camp in the Yoho National Park is unsurpassed. For the third time, the Club will camp on the shores of Lake O'Hara. For magnificence, Lake O'Hara is supreme in itself. It is now called the Jewel of the Canadian Rockies and wisely so. To commence to describe beautiful Lake O'Hara is sacrilege. Our Maker placed it there, so snugly, so perfect and yet so mysterious,

with its ever changing hue of colours. Not two minutes does the aspect of this lake remain the same, for every breath of air, or fleeting cloud and the bowl of enchantment reveals Nature's masterpieces.

So much can be said about Lake O'Hara, but never in justice. It remains to be seen and registered as never forgotten.

Once again our Club will camp beneath the beautiful clear ethereal sky, reposing midst a nest of giant monarch peaks, tipping high into the heavens at 11,000 feet. Each of these peaks in itself stands out as a guardian sentinel, the joy and hunting ground of every true mountaineer.

So ideal a mountain playground does this district offer that the most famous mountaineers in Canada have chosen the surrounding peaks of Lake O'Hara as their nucleus training ground and often return for experience with combined pleasure.

It is unnecessary to dwell on the various mountain monarchs, too numerous to mention in this district, as any C.P.R. agent has a complete list of data free of charge, such as good maps, descriptive booklets, etc., for the public, but chiefly for attention under the Club's climbing schedule will be Mount Victoria, 11,355 feet, Mount Hungabee, 11,447 feet, Mount Cathedral, 10,454, Mount Odaray, 10,000 feet, etc.

Do not imagine Lake O'Hara is only for the hardy mountaineers—far from it. Surrounding the camp, the district affords interest in abundance for every inclination, be it for restful enjoyment, reclining, walking, picnics, lake excursions, swimming, moderate climbing and strenuous exercise Lake O'Hara can afford it. Beautiful walks around the close vicinity of the Camp may be undertaken to Lake MacArthur, Seven Sister Falls, Ophablin Pass, Lake Oesa, etc. The Camp, situated at 6,600 feet above sea level, is surrounded by alpine flora of

rare beauty, although probably not so luxurious as in Garibaldi Park, yet the mountains and district far surpass anything in Garibaldi Park. It is a paradise in every respect.

One of the famous trips from this Camp will be the trip through the five lovely mountain passes. Usually everyone attending Lake O'Hara camp undertakes the Passes Trip. For scenic value and constant interest, this trip is unsurpassed to the full and true meaning of the word. Such a vista of mountain scenery greets the eye at every turn, that even our friends across the border fail in exclamation—they are spellbound.

From the moment you wind up the six mile Cataract Valley trail to camp you come under the spell and charm of the magnificence of Lake O'Hara. Life is too short to miss such an admirable playground of nature. Go by all means to Lake O'Hara! You will never regret it! Refer to any of our members who have been fortunate enough to be present at any of the past camps, and they will testify accordingly.

As a fitting conclusion to Lake O'Hara's enchantment, see a moonlight night on the lake, sit at a cheery blazing camp fire, look up at the guardian sentinels of the night, and see the moonbeams flicker on a high glacier, then you live.

With pure fresh mountain air, but three hours sleep is sufficient, and one is ready for conquest. Every breath is invigorating. Let us benefit by attending Lake O'Hara Camp this summer. You will never regret it, but will set one more ambition in life and become unrestful to see Lake O'Hara again. It reposes far from the tiring whirl of today. The jewel of the Rockies.

## AN EDITORIAL

After serving the Club as Editor during the past year, I am taking the liberty of using this space to show my appreciation of the privilege thus afforded me. I also wish to express my gratitude to all of those who have so graciously contributed articles for publication as well as invaluable assistance from other sources. The position of Editor is one involving considerable time and tact, also an unbiased opinion of matters pertaining to the Club in general is most essential. With this end in view I have endeavored, during the past year, to publish a Bulletin devoted entirely to mountaineering activities, taking into consideration the fact that the chief drawback is the lack of space, this necessitating enforced brevity.

I have been glad to render to the Club my services in accordance with the foregoing facts and I cordially wish my successor every success.

YOUR EDITOR.

## CROWN MOUNTAIN

February 1st

Fine weather with exceptionally favorable snow conditions featured the Club trip to Crown on the week end of February 1st. Starting at 6.30 a.m. the party gained the summit by the usual route at 12.30 p.m. and after four members climbed the Camel which was entirely free of snow, the return enabled the cabin to be reached by 4 p.m. The twenty-three on the trip, which was in charge of I. Irving and H. Somerville, voted it successful from every standpoint.

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## BLACK MOUNTAIN February 15th

Undaunted by the threatening weather, a large number of members, together with five members of the B.C.E. Hly. Hiking Club, turned out for the official trip up Black Mountain, February 15th. The trail to the foot of the gully from Whytecliffe was found to be in good condition. At 12.30 lunch was eaten in scant shelter in the lee of a bitter wind, driving rain and snow in all directions. Some returned but the majority reached the top of the ridge where a veritable blizzard raged. The return was made by the same route instead of over Hollyburn Ridge as originally scheduled.

Those on the trip which the leader will endorse as a graduating climb were: Misses Riddock, K. Smith, J. Burnes, M. Sing, W. Morgan, G. Smith, K. Andrews, J. Fraser; Messrs. W. Westall, H. Somerville, C. Andrews, B. Cook, H. Christie, F. McVickar, T. Carroll, E. Smith, H. Johnson, A. Cooper, N. Gerard, T. Urquhart, L. C. Ford, C. Saunders, C. Dawson, A. Taylor and "Brick" Spouse, leader. B.C. E.R. members were: Miss E. Gordon; Messrs. W. Knight, J. Taylor, J. Jones and S. Pike.

### DEPREDACTIONS AT THE CABIN

For some time past a series of depredations and burglaries have harrassed the owners of various small cabins on Hollyburn and Grouse Mountains. The lootings have gone on unchecked and are no doubt committed by a band of hoodlums roaming the mountains at will.

Two members, the first to arrive at the Cabin early Saturday evening, February

28th, found the kitchen door forced, and upon closer investigation discovered nearly every locker rifled of food stuffs. Things in general were much in disorder, making it impossible to determine the extent of the marauders' loot. Evidence showed that the thieves had leisurely gone about their work and had used the stove and other equipment. It was later discovered that a camera, three sleeping bag covers and a pair of moccasins had been stolen.

The North Vancouver police were notified and steps will be taken to apprehend the perpetrators.

This is the first time anything of this nature has happened and there is nothing to prevent its recurrence.

It might be advisable, considering what has occurred, to take immediate steps to "blind" all trails leading to the cabin and to discourage the public from frequenting the place. It is a serious state of affairs when the Club's beautiful mountain home is not immune from pillagers. Further details will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

### CLUB DUES

The Treasurer announces that all Club dues for the current year are due and payable on February 28th. Several inquiries have been received by him recently, more especially from newer members. Members who are in arrears are kindly requested to pay up not later than the Annual Meeting.

### A REMINDER

Do not forget the Social Evening and Dance to be held at Killarney, Friday, March 13th. As previously announced, ample entertainment will provide an enjoyable evening.

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**AUSTIN PASS**

February 28th - March 1st

Dull weather with poor visibility marred the special Club trip to Austin Pass. Saturday night was spent at the Mount Baker Cabin at Glacier. Cars were taken as far as Bagley Creek on the highway and the remainder of the trip to the lodge was completed on skis or on foot. Weather conditions precluded photography but an enjoyable time was had by the twenty-three members who attended. There was only 12 feet of snow according to reports.

**THE USES OF THE ICE-AXE**

Has it ever occurred to any of our members just what they would do to prevent a slip on steep, hard snow? Only a small percentage of climbers realise that no matter how competent they may be, accidents will inevitably occur through lack of attention or carelessness.

As a medium of safety the rope is invaluable both to the novice and expert. Ascending and descending steep, hard snow the rope must be kept taut and if possible a loop round the ice-axe shaft near the blade. The climber must stand upright in the steps; his right hand grasping the ice-axe blade or head while the shaft must be driven as firmly into the snow as possible. If the snow is exceptionally hard, the same axe holes should be used by everyone. The left hand must handle the rope while the greatest care must be taken not to break the steps. On a traverse of steep snow or ice, the steps should be made large enough to accommodate both feet at once. It is sometimes necessary to face directly into a slope, using only one step at a time. In this case the axe should be grasped firmly by the adze blade and the pick driven as far as possible into the snow or ice.

In the event of a slip on an average snow slope, assuming the party is unroped, it is necessary to arrest downward progress as quickly as possible. One who slips is almost certain to roll over and turn round on such a descent when out of control. The only possible way to stop is to

attempt to get into a position facing the slope and to bring the pick of the axe in contact with the snow.

This operation must be gradual, for even on hard snow, a bare half inch of the pick will arrest the downward plunge if properly applied. The axe must always be grasped by the blade and head; if not it will certainly be torn from the grasp and left on the snow above. The unfortunate climber will therefore be helpless to arrest his increasing impetus.

To demonstrate this method of self-preservation, the club programmes should include a trip or trips to easy snow slopes nearby where members could learn how to improve their snow craft.

**MOUNTAIN EARS**

At a recent Executive meeting the following were elected to graduating membership:—Misses K. Andrews, M. B. Sing, J. H. Fraser, L. Johnston, also Messrs. Chas. B. Cook and Wm. Williams.

\* \* \*

Do not fail to notify either the Editor or Secretary if you have changed your address. You will be sure of receiving your Bulletin as well as helping to keep the Club's records up to date.

\* \* \*

The few members and friends who attended the illustrated lecture given by Mr. Racey on "Animals and Birds of Higher Altitudes," were well repaid for their evening. His lecture was graphically demonstrated by lantern slides and actual specimens. The Club is very grateful to Mr. Racey for his efforts and to the B.C. Art League for the use of the hall. A larger attendance would have been appreciated.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. See are to be congratulated on the arrival of a baby boy. It is hoped he will follow his father's footsteps in his ascent to the peak of Life.

\* \* \*

Mr. Jack Betts and his mother have just returned from a month's holiday in Honolulu.

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