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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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B. C. IN THE MAKING

Digest of "The First Ice Age in
British Columbia"

By ARTHUR P. WOOLLACOTT, F.R.G.S.

in Museum and Art Notes,
December, 1930

Burrard peninsula, the fertile Fraser Valley and the beautiful southern stretches of Vancouver Island are ideal places in which to live. Man is clearing these level places and building modern cities. He is cultivating the soil and making it produce abundant supplies of food. This has been done in the last half century. In the first place, however, these fertile valleys and plateaus were carved out for him by gigantic tools held in the strong hands of Nature.

The outstanding features of British Columbia, the mountain ranges, are huge up-thrusts of the wrinkling crust of the earth as it cooled. The general trend of these wrinkles, or mountains and valleys, is north-west and south-east. From the Pacific to the Prairies there is a succession of solid waves, culminating in the shattered strata of the Rockies.

A mountain chain is submerged in the ocean, its exposed summits forming Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte group. A downfold of the strata produced the famous series of channels known to the tourist as the "Inside Passage."

Tremendous forces squeezed up a molten mass a thousand miles long and a hundred miles wide from ten to fifteen thousand feet high and formed the "Coast Range."

Between this and the double wall of the Selkirks and the Rockies a plateau a hun-

dred miles wide and from two to three thousand feet high stretches from the United States to the Yukon, and holds more than half of the arable lands of the Province.

So the walls were raised east and west, but openings were left north and south. Gradually the whole territory was raised a thousand feet above its present level and the whole district became a condenser of the moisture of the Pacific. Volcanic activity filled the air with a pall of dust for a long period and this shut off some of the sun's heat. The elevation of the land and the lowered temperature brought about an accumulation of ice.

The interior plateau filled with a sheet of ice which attained at its maximum a depth of seven hundred feet. The glacial mass flowed north and south, deepening depressions that had been waterways. In this way were formed the long valleys which are now occupied by rivers and lakes. Examples of this are the Okanagan and Arrow lakes.

Eventually the accumulation of ice became so great that there was an overflow eastward through the Peace River Pass and westward through the waterways which led through the Coast Range to the Pacific.

Farther south the slow moving glacial stream found a barrier in Vancouver Island and split just north of the Seymour Narrows. The southern branch filled the Gulf of Georgia and, on its way to the Pacific, passed over the site of Victoria. It is believed that a central stream proceeded over the middle part of Vancouver Island to Nootka Sound. A northern branch continued into Queen Charlotte Sound, planing off a considerable portion of the north end of Vancouver Island on its way. The whole of the lower Fraser Valley was at

this time under a sheet of ice five thousand feet thick.

This then was the great tool which carved out the contours of the country we know. A column of ice five thousand feet thick gives a pressure of one hundred and thirty tons to the square foot. Provide such a tool with abrasives in the shape of rock fragments imbedded in the lower surface, and the process is obvious.

In this manner the old waterways were deepened, and the glaciers, in retreating, left debris in the form of drifts on the planed-off surfaces. Vancouver, New Westminster, Victoria and Nanaimo are built on such drifts.

Thus we have an example all around us of the effects of the advance and retreat of a huge ice-cap, carving out the country and preparing the inhabitable areas of the province in which the major part of the population is concentrated.

—W.G.L.

MIMULUS ALPINUS (Gray) Piper
Alpine Monkey Flower

This alpine flower is surely well known to all mountaineers. The flowers are an extremely clear, bright yellow, borne in such profusion that they form solid sheets of gold, lining the little beds of streams. It grows only two to four inches high, and so striking and common is it to Garibaldi that a little alpine creek flowing into Garibaldi Lake is christened in its honor—Mimulus Creek.

The mimulus is a member of a group of plants common around Vancouver, the Scrophulariaceae. It is a very large family, hav-

ing no less than twenty genera on this coast, among which are the Penstemons, Foxgloves, Paintbrush, Lousewort and Speedwells. There are also many members of the genus to which our mimulus belongs; a well-known one is the rosy monkey flower, *Mimulus Lewisii*, which is common to nearly all our mountains. Much more robust than our yellow mimulus, this flower often inhabits the banks of alpine streams, and clumps of it three to four feet across are often met with. Another common one is *Mimulus luteus*, with pale yellow flowers and of a rather coarse growth, living in much the same situation as the rosy mimulus. The Musk flower is another member of the genus, which has provoked so much controversy as to the reason for its loss of perfume. All of the members of this genus are moisture lovers, and the mountaineer, on crossing the little streams where our little friend resides, cannot but linger awhile in admiration of its yellow glory.

—Fred Perry

This is the last of a series of articles by Mr. Perry. I think you will agree that they have been very instructive and enjoyable and we hope that he will continue them next spring.—Ed.

**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION
AND AMATEUR COMPETITION**

The Photographic Exhibition and Amateur Competition will be held in the Vancouver Art Gallery, 1145 Georgia Street West, about the middle of January, 1932.

All entries are to be delivered to A. C. Phillips, 315 Cambie Street, not later than January 8th, 1932.

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The following are the classes:

1. Winter Scene.
2. Summer Scene.
3. Sunrise or Sunset Views.
4. Mountain Peak.
5. Marine View.
6. Animal or Bird.
7. Rock Climbing.
8. Wild Flowers.
9. Colored Photographs.
10. Water Colors or Oils.

All pictures are to be enlargements not less than 4" x 6" with not less than a 2" border (framing optional). They are to be from negatives taken by the competitor.

The name of the competitor, the title of the picture and the class name or number are to be placed on the back of each entry.

Only members in good standing at December 31st, 1931, may enter prints for competition. This includes graduating members who have paid entrance fees.

Entries for awards of merit must be photographs taken within the last two years.

The pictures will be hung and classed for awards of merit and exhibition under the supervision of the committee and two members of the Governing Council of the Art Gallery. Their decision is to be final.

The pictures will be judged by Mr. B. H. Taylor of Canadian Kodak Stores, and Mr. J. Vanderpant, F. R. P. S., of the Art Gallery.

We ask the members to support this Exhibition and to do their best to make it the most successful yet.

Any further information regarding the competition may be had from members of the Exhibition Committee:—

P. R. Lockie, Chairman, High. 836L; C. R. Fripp, Bay. 940R; A. C. Phillips, Sey. 4916; W. Hastie, High. 2456X; C. Ledingham, Fair. 350R; A. Lambert, New Westminster 2406L.

ACTIVE MEMBERS WELCOMED

The applications for active membership of Bert Cook and Mrs. Roy Howard were passed at the last executive meeting.

SKIING

Twenty-five members have joined the Ski section, and if the weather keeps up as at present they will soon be starting to ski.

Roy Howard has arranged for Dick Shaich, an expert Swiss skier, to conduct a series of lectures throughout the winter.

The first will be on November the 16th in the "Sports Room" of the Vancouver Daily Province, at 8 p.m. This evening will be in the form of an organization meeting of the Ski Section. During the lecture, Dick Shaich will give advice as to the best types of skis, harness, and general equipment to use. All members are cordially invited to attend.

—From an informal report
by Roy Howard

I am deliberately embarrassing Roy Howard by making public the fact that he is donating the services of Dick Shaich to the Club, free of charge.

It is unselfish services such as these, with which the history of the Club is re-dundant, that have made possible all the major accomplishments and activities of

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the Club. While we have such men as this in the Club in addition to the hard workers of our social and camp finance committees (who are seldom praised, only criticized when they fail to make money through our lack of support) there is very little need for us to be afraid that by making an occasional donation, or rendering an extra service, that we will ever inadvertently step over the line (horrible thought) and do more than our fair share of keeping the Club alive.—Ed.

MOUNTAIN EARS

Two very fine pictures of the old cabin were framed and presented to the club by Percy Lockie and Mickey Dodds. They look fine in our cabin and are very much appreciated.

Mr. Les. Ford, Bert Cook and P. L. Tait were guests at the Mount Baker Mountaineering Club's Annual Dinner last month.

THE LIBRARY

The Librarian is asking for three new books "Beyond the Rockies," by Lukin Johnston, "Minerals and How they Occur," by Millar and Parsons, "James Douglas and B. C.," by Prof. Sage. If you have any of these books and have no further use for them we would appreciate the donation.

The Library is being used a great deal this year and it is becoming obvious that we need a larger stock of books, including some modern mountaineering literature.

Two books have been missing since 1926. They are "The Alps from End to End," and the "Mount Everest Reconnaissance." If you have them or know of their whereabouts please endeavour to have them returned as soon as possible.

OLDTIMERS' AND YOUNGTIMERS' TRIP TO SEYMOUR MOUNTAIN

Now and again older members of the B. C. Mountaineering Club not now considered active take the notion to make a trip to one of their former stamping grounds, and in this instance Seymour was the scene of the return trip. Messrs. C. Chapman and C. J. Heaney, who, among others, were the first to scale the summit over twenty years ago, and W. Westall, presumably leader of the party, revisited this mountain on a day trip during the month. With Mr. Chapman were Mrs. Chapman and their two children, Dora and Arthur, who were making their first ascent of this mountain.

Taking the south-east slope via the logging road, a new route to old members

and young aspirants alike, at 7 o'clock on the morning of October 12, the party got away on a dubious looking day, full of question marks, and mounted steadily with the mists up to the Alpine Club cabin, where the party were entertained to a brew of tea by Mrs. Munday. On leaving the cabin the weather had brightened considerably and everything was perfectly clear except the shortest route to the summit. Nevertheless, after we had disentangled ourselves from the blueberry bushes and other divers sorts that old-timers have a habit of getting mused up with (perhaps this is to perpetuate old times too), the way to the top became increasingly apparent, and without any difficulty to solve other than the oft-repeated "Is this the top?" from the young-timers, as we reached the high spots that run across from "Dog" or the saddle of Pump Peak, or peaks (whichever way one feels about it) and then the various outcroppings or knobs between it and the middle peak, and after that the middle peak and then the final scramble up to the main peak, which the "leader" insisted was not the actual summit, but which lay still beyond that again. However, this surmise was happily illfounded, and to the relief of the young climbers, and perhaps none the less the old-timers, this proved to be the highest point thereabouts, and as there was also a bulky cairn erected thereon, in the crevices of which were stuck sundry tin cans with about a thousand records of ascents, this was accepted as final proof of being the peak. The youngtimers were perfectly satisfied at having achieved the conquest of Seymour and figured they were now ready for more pretentious peaks such as Cathedral or Garibaldi. After half an hour on top viewing the surrounding hills, the party returned by the same route—or nearly so—as before reaching the trail that connects with the Alpine cabin, a little more unpremeditated bush whacking was engaged in before relocating the trail that leads to the logging road and home.

—W. W.

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