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Mountain-Climbing on Vancouver Island



Cameron Lake showing Mount Arrowsmith in the distance.

Vancouver Island is becoming famous for many things. Among the chief of these is its climate, among the more utilitarian its strawberries; and among the tourist attractions its marvellous scenery, and magnificent drives, its many fascinating trips both by boat and by rail. But, while tens of thousands of visitors holiday in the Island every summer, very few of them are aware of the fact that within less than a day's journey of Victoria there are mountain peaks covered with perpetual snow, and massive glaciers, which defy the warmest of the summer sunshine, where those who enjoy that most exhilarating sport, mountain-climbing, may put all of their skill to the test.

The most popular mountain from an Alpinist's point of view is Arrowsmith. It is about six thousand feet high, and to reach it one travels by one of the most magnificent scenic railways on the continent. There is a diversity of country all along the hundred miles from Victoria to Parksville. Parksville is on the east coast of the Island, and Victoria, situated at the extreme south of the Island is the starting point for the journey. One of the first summits to be crossed is that of the splendid Malahat, about fifteen hundred feet above the sea. Here, from the "Lookout," one looks down on a wonderful panorama of green-embowered hills, narrow winding waterways, the wide stretch of the sea itself and the Olympian mountains on the Mainland in their dazzling dress of ice and snow. After crossing the Malahat there are miles along the shores of the salt water, quick passages through picturesque villages and towns, journeyings among sweet-scented woods which are always gay with flowers.

At Parksville the road divides one branch swinging toward the west. And there begins the first trek in the journey which leads to the everlasting hills. As one nears Cameron Lake, whether one travels by rail or highway, one sees the beginning of the vast forest of Douglas fir, than which there is no finer stretch of timber in America.

Just across the lake from the Chalet one begins the ascent of Mount Arrowsmith.

The particular day when we made the journey was in early June. It was sweet and cool near the water, the bracken thrusting up branchy and tall, maiden-hair ferns just unfolding, all of the trees and shrubs wearing their new dresses of fresh, young green.

We started at noon, and from the very outset, found the trail fairly steep. With only occasional stops for breath, we pushed on for five hours before we made the Hut, a distance of about 3000 feet up. It was rather early in the year for mountaineering and the trail had not been cleared since the winter storms, which made our going rather more difficult than it would otherwise have been. But every step of the way displayed some

magnificence of scene that called forth exclamations of delight.

The Hut was practically buried, for the snow lay deep on the upper reaches. It took us an hour or more to tunnel into it, for although our packer had gone ahead with the blankets, he could not accomplish much alone. But we finally dug our way in, cleared the snow from the windows, made a fire, and before very long the aroma of boiling coffee and fried ham filled the little cabin, and we sat down to eat with ravenous appetites.

The sleep that comes to one on these high, snowy altitudes, far above the slightest sound of life, is deep, dreamless and infinitely refreshing. We awoke at eight the next morning, full of eagerness to continue the climb, which from there on is a real test of strength and endurance.

The final five hundred feet were very steep, and not without danger for the unwary. We had a few tumbles, and slides, which only added to the enjoyment, and when we had pursued our journey to the end our satisfaction was very great. For it was an objective worth striving for.

The view was grand beyond conception, snow-peaks all about us, dazlingly splendid in the sunshine, clouds of mist lifting from the valleys, and rolling away to give a glimpse of lakes blue as periwinkle, of bare cliff-sides coloured with the tints of the rainbow, and bright, green valleys, and forests of sturdy little jack-pine, while now and then, when the clouds would roll up and melt into the blue of the sky, we could glimpse a farther view, and we said it was the sea and the mountains beyond the sea, but the distance made it almost as vague as a half-forgotten dream.

It is a journey that one can easily make within the day, providing there is no miscalculation, and it is a most joyfully exhilarating climb, while the picture which the summit discloses must always stand out conspicuously in the gallery of one's memories.

CHOP STUFF

Kincardine has a balance of about \$350 to the good after the recent reunion.

Glencoe war veterans have organized a soldiers' club with C. Bechill president and E. Smith secretary.

The school board of Glencoe had seventy applications for the position of principal of the public school.

Glencoe Chautauqua guarantors went back to the extent of \$5 apiece on this season's venture. There were 33 guarantors.

George Smith brought four car-loads of horses to Cottam from the West and disposed of same at prices ranging around \$100.

Thirty citizens of Strathroy, who signed the Chautauqua guarantee last year to bring it back this year for the seventh time, will be required to make up the deficiency on the six days' show of approximately \$10 or \$12 each.

Three Glencoe Public School teachers have been engaged to teach in Lambton. They are: Miss Mary Westcott, S.S. No. 6, Brooke; Miss Jessie Currie, S.S. No. 15, Moore, near Courtright; Miss Frances Sutherland, S.S. No. 12, Brooke.

Andy Ferguson of Bothwell lies in a critical condition in the Chatham Hospital as a result of being kicked in the stomach by a horse on Tuesday. The horse kicked at another horse but the unfortunate man received the blow instead.

Windsor, Walkerville and Sandwich stand to lose \$15,000 which was on deposit in the Windsor branch of the Home Bank of Canada when it suspended payment. Officials of the municipalities were notified by Dr. J. O. Reaume, Registrar of Deeds for Essex County, that the money being held in trust for them by the county was in the bank. City officials say the county will be responsible in case of loss.

Edgar Frank suffered a fracture and dislocation of the right arm at the elbow on Saturday afternoon, when he fell about four feet from a wagon which had become slippery from the rain. He was engaged along with Dan Sloan in moving a house for James Fletcher from the 2nd line north to the 2nd line south, Adelaide. Mr. Frank was immediately taken to Strathroy hospital where the fracture was reduced. He was later removed to his home.

Clare Thorne, Wyoming, had a narrow escape last Saturday while driving home to Sarnia in his car along the 2nd line. He drove to one side of the road to pass a buggy and after trying to regain the center of the road, a wheel came off owing to the gravel which had been heavily laid. He was thrown a considerable distance, but was unhurt. The radiator and radius rods and windshield were damaged, and the tires badly cut. He was taken home by Mr. Beck of the townline.

Angus Cruickshank, Centre Road, East Williams, who died in St. Joseph's hospital, London, Monday afternoon, developed blood poisoning following an accident on Thursday night. He was attempting to remove a piece of wire from the foot of a horse which had become caught in a wire fence, when he either fell or was kicked by the horse. His arm was fractured. He did not appear to be in a serious condition until Sunday morning. He was taken to London in the afternoon. Mr. Cruickshank was 73 years of age.

The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the late David Watson, Plympton, with a few intimate friends, in all about 100 in number, held their annual family picnic at Bright's Grove, on Saturday, Aug. 11th. Relatives were present from London, Kitchener, Watford, Forest, Warwick, Plympton, Brown City, Mich., and Williamston, Mich. The relative coming the longest distance was Dr. H. J. Watson, who motored that day from Williamston, 130 miles. The day was spent in various sports and a general good time.

Port Huron appears to be a favorite resort for young people of Western Ontario who contemplate marriage, according to the list of marriage licenses issued Thursday which contains the names of Roy Sharp and Helena Patterson, both of Sombra; Edmund T. Leitch, Ridgetown and Harriet Wagner of Blenheim; Richard A. Trott and Irene Muriel of Ridgetown; William G. Evans and Vera Stephenson of Arkona. Several of these licenses were obtained Wednesday afternoon when the Sarnia office was closed owing to civic half-holiday.

Read the Want Ads on Page Four.

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Here and There

Buffalo in Wainwright reserve increase at the rate of about 2,000 each year.

The output of coal from Canadian mines during January, 1923, amounted to 1,743,800 tons.

The total wheat production of Canada in 1922 was 399,786,400 bushels of which Saskatchewan produced 250,187,000 bushels.

The Eskimos give the doctor his fee as soon as he calls. If the patient recovers he keeps it and if not it is returned.

Heads of large implement and machinery firms in Edmonton and Calgary state that for every acre of corn that was sown in Alberta last year ten will be sown this year.

1923 will be the greatest prospecting year known so far in Northern Ontario. The largest rush of prospectors is in the district extending from Swastika for a hundred miles east into the Province of Quebec.

Grain men and others in Calgary already forecast the probable yield of wheat in Alberta this year at something in the neighborhood of 100,000,000 bushels. This estimate is based on the 65,000,000 bushel crop of last year.

The total wheat production in Canada has grown from 16,723,000 bushels in 1871 to over 399,000,000 in 1922. The number of elevators in 1905 was 525 with capacity for 18,320,352 bushels. To-day the capacity of 3,924 elevators in Canada is 231,633,420 bushels.

The Canadian Pacific Railway have further reduced the freight rate on horses from prairie stations to all eastern Canada points. The old rate on horses from Moose Jaw to Montreal or Toronto was \$1.30 1/2 per hundred pounds. The new rate will be \$1.20 1/2 or a saving to the farmer of \$38 per car.

"Will Summers," owned by His Majesty the King, was recently brought to Canada on the Canadian Pacific Steamer "Marburn" and will be kept at the Prince of Wales ranch near Calgary for breeding purposes. This famous five-year-old has a pedigree back to Orme and Galopin, the former sire of Flying Fox and the latter a Derby winner.

It is reported that the head of the textile department of Leeds University, England, has invented a process for the making of artificial wool from cotton waste. The basis of the process is cellulose acetate. The product wears well as wool, it is said, will take the dye of any desired color and is considered a better insulator than natural wool.

During the last fiscal year Canadian exports of tobacco amounted to 471,991 pounds with a value of \$175,826. Of this value the United Kingdom accounted for \$135,784, the United States \$52,216 and other countries \$34,826. There are 125 tobacco factories in Canada, Quebec and Ontario being the principal producers.

Running on schedule the Canadian Pacific liner "Empress of Canada," Captain A. J. Hailey, again demonstrated her right to the claim of "Queen of the Pacific." The Canadian vessel left Vancouver 24 hours after the American liner "President McKinley" and arrived in Yokohama five hours in the lead.

The British Government is completing at Chatham the largest and most wonderful under-water craft in the world. On the surface she will displace 2,780 tons and when submerged 3,600 tons, this displacement being 1,400 tons greater than that of the largest German submarine. With a twelve-inch gun the new submarine will be able to bombard any object and then quickly disappear under the sea.