

WHEN I AM OLD

(By M. E. Colman)

When I am very old and wise,
By the chimney-place I'll sit,
Remote from weary cares and ties,
And knit—
When I am old, and very wise.

I'll be content to sit and wait,
Serene, detached and still,
Leaving, of love and life to prate,
Who will—
I'll be content to sit and wait.

But now I would a-roving go,
And would great battles fight
Against some wicked, princely foe
Of might—
Ah me! I would a-roving go.

I would some wondrous treasure find—
A magic cloak, or shoon,
Or mystic gems by witches mined
I' the moon—
Some strange, rich treasure would I find.

And then I'll be content to rest
Sheltered and snug within,
Watching young souls the eternal quest
Begin—
Ah! Then, I'll be content to rest.

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(Please see notes on Page One)

Mountaineering in the Cheam Range

(By Don Munday, B. C. Mountaineering Club)

Controversy is an unfortunate element to introduce into the fine recreation of mountaineering, and therefore it is with particular satisfaction that the writer is able to dispose simply of the points raised with regard to whom credit is due for the first ascent of several peaks of the Cheam Range. Some time ago Mr. Ebe B. Knight, of Penticton, through these columns gave an interesting account of climbs he made in 1888.

Due, perhaps to lapse of time, there are inaccuracies in Mr. Knight's article. He mentions following a ridge "12 miles south" from the Eureka Mine to the mouth of Jones Creek; doubtless "west" was intended. His elevations as recorded by barometer require correction by subtracting about 1,000 feet—there is only one peak in the range definitely over-topping 8,000 feet to any degree, Mt. Wahleach or Welch. He leaves one with the impression that there are only four major peaks, including Cheam, whereas there are at least nine in the range deserving that description, and several of lesser importance. Mt. Cheam does not exceed 7,500 feet.

Now Mr. Knight claims first ascents of peaks up the west branch of Jones Creek, whereas the writer and his associates claim the same thing up the east valley, knowledge of whose existence Mr. Knight gives no hint. Our claims do not clash at all. His description of the little glacier fixes the area of his climbing with certainty to the west half of the range which is wholly unlike the glacier-belted eastern section where each of the peaks calls for ice-work;—in the case of the Welch and Stewart glaciers if one had to cut only 100 steps that would be getting off easily. Mr. Knight's lack of mountaineering equipment makes his feat highly creditable, but hardly gives a fair idea of the comparative difficulty of the glacier even when allowing for the advances which have been made in the standards of mountaineering since then.

From the mountaineering point of view the eastern section of the Cheam range is incomparably finer, besides possessing now the important advantage of a trail to the very base of Mt. Foley. That name and the others used by the writer are merely the ones current among the residents of the nearest section of the Fraser Valley, Laidlaw to Hope, and it would be somewhat arrogant to come along and try to change established nomenclature even though one might not wholly approve of it.

The writer feels certain that Mr. Knight will be glad to learn that his successes of so many years ago do not detract from the natural satisfaction felt by members of a younger generation at their own successes in the same form of endeavor. There is a keen pleasure in being the first to set foot on a fine peak—and there are some exceptionally fine peaks in the Cheam Range. The view from the Timberline Cabin of the Lucky Four Mine is striking even in a province abounding in magnificent mountain prospects. The great red tusks of rock tower mightily above the gleaming glaciers which unite along their bases in one defensive front from Mt. Foley to Mt. General Stewart. Mr. Knight's peaks numbered 1 to 4 all lie northward of Mt. General Stewart. This I know from personal knowledge and an aeroplane photograph of the Geodetic Survey confirms it.