

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA

It is possible that the charmed circle of nature fakirs may be increased by one. While climbing in the Canadian Rockies this July, a member of the American Alpine club claims to have made the intimate acquaintance of a Rocky mountain goat, a creature extremely difficult to approach both by reason of its fierceness and by its dexterity as a climber among the inaccessible crags. Mr. Comstock reports as follows:

"Myself and three companions were crossing the glacier of an as yet unnamed and unclimbed peak at the head of Gold river, a tributary of the Columbia in the Selkirk regions, when we noticed beyond us on the sky line of the peak's arete several goats. They disappeared as we approached. Having attained the summit of our peak three of us were engaged in building a stoneman or cairn as testimony of our success. I myself lay upon the windswept rocks on the arete a short distance below the summit. The ridge fell abruptly out of sight some forty feet beyond us. While thinking of nothing in particular I noticed approaching, rising into view at the point where the ridge dropped away, one of the goats we had previously seen. I kept perfectly still as though inanimate and to my astonishment the old goat continued leisurely approaching me until finally his very next step would have brought him upon me and I was looking into his eyes from a distance of not three feet. Meantime I was puzzled as to what to do. My camera was not at hand nor had I any firearms, even if I had had the illegal desire to slay Billy out of season. Not wishing to be walked over I raised my arms and yelled 'boo' to him. With great surprise, but not greatly alarmed, he ran some feet backward then stopped and looked again. I shouted to my deaf companions to bring a camera. At this the goat ran a yard or two further, hesitated and then disappeared over the ridge."

"I am sorry now I did not grab his forelegs and have a struggle with him. I ask the sporting editor, could I have held him till my companions might have brought me assistance?"

"Full grown mountain goats are strong and the ridge was not over ten feet in width terminating on either side in precipices. Should I regret not having tackled him?"

"His footprints were in a snow drift a few yards away as convincing testimony to my friends of the reality of Mr. Goat's visit and of my close acquaintance with him."—Rod and Gun in Canada.

A Mountain Climber's Outing in British Columbia

The idea of climbing a virgin peak, and that the highest of the Selkirk range, was very fascinating, writes B. S. Comstock in Rod and Gun in Canada. "Mt. Sanford is its name—baptized such from a distance, of twenty-five miles, by the head of Canada's topographical survey. By triangulation found to stand 11,654 feet above sea level."

How to reach it was a question. By pack horse up Six Mile creek, over a tract for a dozen miles to the head of Six Mile creek valley, thence with packs on human back down, down for 3,000 feet into Gold river valley by no trail whatever, but through the Selkirk timber and brush. What Saint knows about the Selkirk timber and brush and doesn't swear? Thorny devils—club, alder thickets, fallen timber submerged in the rankest and densest vegetation with swarms of ravenous mosquitoes not to be reckoned with. Hard work enough if on the level, but tenfold more so if climbing up or down with a forty pound pack on your back. When you get down into Gold river valley then comes the question of crossing this terrible stream in July, when its waters are swollen with melting snows. Doubtful even if the three feet in diameter trees can be felled successfully to hold against such raging torrents of rolling waters.

Another possible way is by canoe down the Columbia for twenty-five miles, thence for a couple of miles up Gold river, thence landing our canoes, on foot up Gold river valley for perhaps fifteen miles of brush work. A trapper's trail may help us for a mile or two. There's your dilemma, a peak some twenty-five miles away with that much Selkirk brush and timber between you, and no knowing from what point it is climbable. Just that lack of information is what stumped us, with our limited time. We took our chance of climbing it by the southeastern ridge nearest the Columbia river; and we discovered at the end of the week when we had come fairly close to our difficulty from the top of an adjacent peak that climbing from the edge was out of the question. It took more than one reconnoitering of the Matterhorn before that peak succumbed and I believe the difficulties of one sort or another are quite as great with Mt. Sanford.

We slept on Columbia's strand the first night. Early in the morning strolling toward each other a coyote and myself, he perhaps thinking of his breakfast absent mindedly, were mutually surprised. I saw him first and yelled at him some fifty feet away. The wild ones are seldom looking for their arch enemy in this region. He was better off than a mother grouse who a few days later flew with fierce voice and ruffled feathers, pecking at the legs of our trapper. Unfortunately for her, our larder was too bare of dainties to enable us to resist punishing her impertinence; her brood were old enough to go motherless.

We slip down the swift cool current of the Columbia. Its shores are irregular, heavily timbered with spruce, cedar, hemlock and Douglas fir. Snow summits of higher Rockies

on the east and Selkirks on the west appear over the dark forested foot-hills; while northward the river itself seems to end at the base of a group of white mountains.

Arriving in a few hours at the mouth of Gold river quite a different proposition confronted us. Now for a paddle and pole and pull with the oars for a couple of miles up stream searching for the eddies and slower waters along the shores. By four o'clock we had left our canoes and cached part of our grub and had already made a couple of miles up the valley with our packs on our backs, and had reached a trapper's deserted log cabin. Within, and having quickly closed its door, by making a smudgy fire and filling the interior with smoke we smothered some of the mosquitoes, not to speak of ourselves, and here we spent the night.

The next three days were struggles through the brush, gradually ascending, finally emerging above the timber line close to a high and difficult two-horned peak which we named Mt. Taurus. From its twin summits poured a tremendously broken glacier extending its icy mass considerably below us in the valley. Our drinking and cooking water at this point we got from a snow drift, but the mosquitoes still pursued us at night. We spent the afternoon reconnoitering upon the arete which leads to this peak.

The day following we ascended a peak somewhat less difficult than Mt. Taurus which we named Cornice mountain, from the immense snow cornice which overtops its glacier and which we think furnishes a large part of the glacier's neve or store house of snow and ice. From the summit of this Mt. Cornice we beheld our Mt. Sanford rising about two thousand feet higher and still much beyond us.

Quite impossible of ascent from this side. To reach its summit we must descend far down into the valley, follow to its source, out of sight, another tributary stream, until, some six or eight miles distant, we had reached the further side of the mountain. We surmise that an ascent thence is possible, but for us to accomplish it will mean a week longer in time and more grub than we have in our packs.

Alpine Climbing Accidents

The second accident in the history of the sport of mountain climbing in British Columbia befell a member of the Canadian Alpine club this past summer. A young lady from a town in Alberta, attending the annual camp at the club, was descending Mt. Avalanche with three companions, one of whom was an amateur guide. Mt. Avalanche is about 10,000 feet in height. Its upper part is somewhat sharply serrated. On its northern side it bears a small glacier. Its rocks are, characteristically of these peaks, friable unreliable and for the climber untrustworthy. It is not, however, what may be termed a difficult peak. It seems the party arrived at a bosse of rock from the top of which there was a drop of seven or eight feet to a couloir of snow. The guide halted the party and prepared to assist the young lady from the top of the rock, asking her to await his readiness. Seeing the snow below and thinking to glide or slide down its steep, soft surface and believing his aid unnecessary she sprang with self-confidence from her position before he could lend his hand. Instead of remaining upright when she lit, her feet slipped from beneath her and she rolled down over the thirty feet of snow, then swiftly over a steep turf, thence over a shelf of rock and still further for a distance of several hundred feet almost precipitously. Just after jumping, and as she felt herself slipping, she stretched forth her hand for aid, with a nervous and pathetic smile upon her face. The guide caught her fingers only. No cry came from her lips and it is surmised she fainted from fear before

her injuries brought death or unconsciousness.

A lesson which may not be neglected for an instant without imminent peril in climbing the high peaks of the Rockies is that of care in well testing one's hand-hold or foot-hold. The rock of these mountains has become rotten by the intense extremes of temperature and the intermittent changes between frost and heat; this is true in a much greater degree than in the Alps and makes rock climbing west a dangerous pastime for the careless.

The Canadian Alpine club camps for a week of each July at different points adjacent to high peaks. Here prevails the good fellowship of men and women possessing a common passion for mountain climbing. Around the camp fire at evening the varied adventures of the hard day's sport are lived again. It is the fashion, however, among expert climbers to make light of difficulties and to see dangers only most rarely. It is left to the novice to romance about both. To the expert what is actually dangerous, seldom comes to a climber and is generally defined as an element outside of human control, like the possible fall of an impending snow cornice or the passage of a gully down which rocks are constantly shooting. What is actually subject to human control, like a secure hand-hold or foot-hold, does not constitute danger, however many thousand feet you may be standing above the valley below. This means that a good nervous system and freedom from dizziness are indispensable and go without saying among experts. Lady members of the club, of course, don trousers. A rivalry exists between them in the matter of first ascents. It is possible, we fear, that pride may have led some of these fair ones to overdo things and climb beyond the wise limitations of their strength and condition. The writer believes that some of them may have received in their strenuous work physical injuries not immediately visible, but working damage to their future good health. Discretion is especially called for in the putting forth by women of more than ordinary powers of strength and endurance.

The mountains of British Columbia, while like the Alps in many respects, differ in their greater wildness and savagery, in their darker forested valleys and in the many blue or emerald colored glacial lakes of which Switzerland and Tyrol have none similar. The next annual camp of the club will be at Lake O'Hara than which there is none in the world more beautiful nor set in a grander environment.

The three annual camps already held have proved so successful that these gatherings will certainly grow in numbers and the work done, although of an excellent character from the first, become more truly that of mountaineering in the highest sense. The club members are likely to distinguish themselves in new endeavors and to add to our knowledge of Canada's wonderful mountains. No one who has been present at one of these camps can doubt the future of the club whose members have already shown such fine spirit in arduous work.

The Canadian Alpine Journal

The second part of volume one of the Canadian Alpine Journal was published in time to be distributed to those members who attended the third annual camp at Rogers Pass, B.C., in July of the present year. Doubtless there are many others who will be interested in this new addition to Canadian Alpine literature and will welcome the appearance of a second part maintaining the high standard that was apparent throughout the first issue.

In form and arrangement the same style that distinguished number one is followed in number two, that is, the number is divided into sections including the Mountaineering, Scientific, Miscellaneous and Official, the lat-

ter containing records that may some day prove valuable aids in writing the story of the club.

The Mountaineering section opens with a paper by Mr. P. D. McTavish on Three Attempts on Pinnacle in the course of which he describes three separate unsuccessful efforts to scale that difficult mountain. The story of the First Ascent of Mt. Garibaldi is told by Mr. A. T. Dalton and A. Day on Sir Donald by Mr. Frank W. Freeborn, who tells of his own and Miss Jean Parkes' fine climb. An expedition to Lake O'Hara is told about by Mr. R. L. Glisan—an expedition which involves mountain climbing of no mean character, the scenic views, however, well repaying all efforts.

In the Scientific section some exceedingly able papers are to be found. Professor Coleman writes of The Causes of Mountain Forms in the Canadian Rockies; Dr. Charles Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution on Mount Stephen Rocks and Fossils; and Professor William Hittell Sherzer, of Michigan State College, on The Nature and Activity of Canadian Glaciers. Even the general reader will be well repaid by a perusal of these articles.

Botanical papers are contributed by Mrs. Julia W. Henshaw and Mrs. Mary T. S. Schaffer, the former on The Orchidaceae of the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains and the latter on the flora of the Saskatchewan and Athabasca rivers.

A most interesting and important paper is that on the "Motion of the Yoho Glacier," contributed by the President and summarising the results of careful observations made in the years 1906-7.

In lighter vein, but still sufficiently serious to prove appropriate for such a publication, are the articles found in the Miscellaneous section. Mr. Frank C. Walter tells in humorous style some of his impressions of the Paradise Valley camp; Mrs. Schaffer writes pleasantly of "Untrodden Ways," while the Alpine Club's jubilee—that is, the jubilee of the father of all such organizations, the English Alpine Club, is told by the President, who represented the Alpine Club of Canada on that historic season.

For the first time an In Memoriam sketch occurs, this referring to the death of Colonel Aime Laussadat, one of the honorary members, whose portrait appears in the front page of the number.

The official section is taken up with reports and statements interesting to every member and useful to the future historian of the Club. Altogether the second part of volume one retains the high standard set by the first and gives every promise of these parts developing into contributions to Alpine literature having a distinct value of their own. Even for those who do not care for the strenuous work involved in mountain climbing these articles and records are of the deepest interest. Everyone at all concerned for the future of Canada cannot fail to be likewise interested in the future of the club.

Expedition to Mt. Robson

We quote the following interesting piece from the Journal:

In the report of the Geological Survey of Canada for 1899 (Part D, Vol. XI), appears the following note by James McEvoy, B.A., Sc., who was in charge of an expedition to examine the geology and natural resources of the country traversed by the Yellow-Head Pass route from Edmonton to Tete Jaune Cache:

Looking up Grand Fork is the most imposing view met with on the whole route. Great mountains are on every hand, but over all stands Robson Peak, "a giant among giants and immeasurably supreme." This, as well as the following, is from the description

of the mountain by Milton and Cheddie. "When we first caught sight of it, a shroud of mist partially enveloped the summit, but this presently rolled away, and we saw its upper portion dimmed by a necklace of feathery clouds, beyond which its pointed apex of ice, glittering in the morning sun, shot up into the blue heavens above. The top of the mountain is usually completely hidden, and rarely indeed is it seen entirely free from clouds. The actual height of the peak is 13,700 feet or 10,750 feet above the valley. The face of the mountain is strongly marked by horizontal lines, due to the unequal weathering of the rocks, and has the appearance of a perpendicular wall. From the summit to the base on the Grand Forks, a height of over 10,500 feet, the slope is over sixty degrees to the horizontal."

Although Robson Peak has been long known, its height has never been determined, nor was it supposed to be particularly notable in that respect, but now since the height of Mts. Brown, Hooker and Murchison have been proved to be greatly exaggerated, it has the distinction of being the highest known peak in the Canadian Rockies.

It is interesting to note that in a paper read before the Royal Society of Canada by Dr. G. M. Dawson the following paragraph occurs: "The Kamloops Indians affirm that the very highest mountain they know is on the north side of the valley at Tete Jaune Cache, about ten miles from the valley. This is named Yuh-hai-kas-kun, from the appearance of a spiral road running up it." The mountain referred to is undoubtedly Robson Peak, as it is only fifteen miles north from the valley at Tete Jaune Cache. The "spiral road" is probably an Indian's imperfect description of the horizontal lines on the face of the mountain. No one, has ever succeeded in reaching the summit."

Early last August an expedition consisting of Prof. A. P. Coleman, of Toronto University, Mr. L. Q. Coleman and the Rev. Geo. B. Kinney, all active members of the Club, started from Laggan, a station on the Canadian Pacific Railway, with the intention of making the first ascent of this virgin peak estimated to be one hundred and eighty miles distant from the starting point.

The party followed the Pipestone and Siffleur rivers to the Saskatchewan; then along the south bank of that stream, fording its tributaries, Mistaya river and the Little Fork river. Finally the Saskatchewan itself was forded, and followed northward beneath the towering mass of Mt. Wilson. It was again crossed above the West Branch, and the party was soon climbing the side of Mt. Saskatchewan, past the canyons and waterfalls at the head of the stream, to the watershed between the Saskatchewan and Sun Wapta rivers, above which towered the snow and ice-clad heights of Mt. Athabasca. The watershed is locally known as Wilcox Pass. Before reaching this spot much rainy and bad weather had been encountered and it now climaxed in a wild snowstorm.

Descending from the Wilcox Pass by the valley of the Sun Wapta, over widespread shingle and mud flats and by trails badly obstructed by dead-fall or almost obscured by the growth of the young jackpine, the main stream of the Athabasca was reached. This stream was followed to the junction of Miette river, the party being considerably delayed by brute and second growth.

After a vain search for a ferry, which it was reported would be found near the mouth of the Miette, the Athabasca was crossed by rafting. Now ascending the Miette to its source in Yellow-Head Lake, the pass was traversed and the headwaters of the Fraser River followed to Moose Lake. Continuing down the Fraser, at the junction of the Grand Fork the party obtained the first view of the "imperial mountain of our aspiration; one vast, lone, snow-clad, cloud-capped peak, wrapped in the solitude of centuries."

A day was spent seeking a short route from the Fraser to a tree-line camp on the flanks of the mountain. In the end, however, a path had to be cut, by dint of much chopping, up the Grand Fork, with traces of an old-time trail for guidance; but so sinuous and rough that it was with great difficulty pack-ponies could be taken over it to a camp beside the rushing torrent at the base of the mountain.

Two more days were spent searching for a route of ascent; and when, at length, the party had with great difficulty established a camp at timber-line, snow covered the ground and was still falling. Next morning it was so deep that the impossibility of an ascent within the limit of the time at its disposal was recognized and the party was compelled to admit defeat. It was doubtful if the heavy snow-fall would permit of an attempt being made, even if it had been possible to wait for an opportunity. "Perhaps the spirit that dwells in this towering fortress, alone and undisturbed, defies molestation and works with Fate against him who aspires to knock at its ancient door."

The Journal is indebted to Mr. L. Q. Coleman for the above notes, and sympathizes most sincerely with the failure of the plucky attempt to reach the summit of Mt. Robson which involved an immense amount of hard work and much privation, as well as a considerable outlay. Should the party again attempt this achievement, as it is understood is intended, it is hoped the past experience will prove of value and lead its next expedition to a successful issue.

The Notification of Consumption



HE administrative difficulties which have hitherto prevented the "notification" as an infectious disease of pulmonary consumption have been disentangled, or may perhaps be said to have been cut, so far at least, as one great section of the sufferers is concerned, by the simple expedient of an order of the local government board, imposing certain duties upon poor law medical officers, says the London Times. This order, the impending issue of which has just been officially announced by Dr. Newtholme, the medical officer of the board, at the International Congress on Tuberculosis now being held in Washington, will require all poor law medical officers, whether in charge of parochial patients at their homes or in work-houses or infirmaries, when application to this effect is made by the medical officer of health for the locality, to send to him the names and home addresses of all parish patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and to do so within forty-eight hours of the discovery of the nature of each case. The information to be thus afforded, in districts where the medical officer of health makes the necessary application, will be equivalent to a compulsory but confidential notification of consumptive disease to him, so far as such disease affects persons obtaining medical relief under the poor law. When it is remembered that, in 1904, 23.5 per cent of the deaths from consumption in London occurred in the workhouse infirmaries, and that most of the patients had been under the care of poor law medical officers at their own homes before their admission to the infirmaries, it will become evident that, by this order, Mr. Burns is furnishing sanitary authorities with greatly increased opportunities of preventing the spread of infection by, and of giving efficient help to, the most needed and most likely to be benefited; while, at the same time, they will not be exposed to any of the consequences of the forms of notification which, in the cases of diseases of less duration, are obligatory under acts of parliament. Notification of this kind involves various disabilities, such as a prohibition of resort to public places; and imposes upon the medi-

cal authorities to whom notification is made, the duty of securing the adoption of certain measures of isolation, of disinfection, or of the destruction of infected materials. It has been forcibly urged that it would be unjust and inexpedient to "notify" a chronic disease like consumption in any manner which would either sever the sufferer from companionship, or place difficulties in the way of his employment upon any work which he might still be able to undertake.

The use to be made of the extra-legal notifications now ordered is well defined. The medical officer of health will not be likely to apply for them unless his sanitary authority is prepared to turn them to good account; and, in that case, his functions arising from them will be manifest. It is part of his ordinary duty to "ascertain the causes, origin and distribution of diseases within his district, and to inform himself of all influences affecting injuriously the public health." Consumption is one of the most important of these, and it may be said that his authority should decide, to a degree hitherto unattainable. It prevails to an excessive extent, as is well known, in the dwellings of the poorest classes, chiefly as a result of the insanitary condition of the dirty habits and the unregulated sputting of some of the inhabitants, and of the facilities which these circumstances afford for the spread of infective material in dangerous quantities. Under each of these heads the order about to be issued by Mr. Burns enables more prompt and efficient action to be taken than has hitherto been practicable. It is already the duty of medical officers of health and of sanitary inspectors to visit the homes of the poor and to attempt to remedy objectionable conditions; but in the major-ity of districts it is impossible for them to visit each and every house more than once in two or three years, and they have no clue to those in which their presence is most urgently demanded. By the notifications now required, immediate attention will be directed to the sanitary defects of infected dwellings, notices will at once be served to remedy these defects, and overcrowding will be abated, even although it cannot be entirely obviated without prolonged and persevering effort. Overcrowding attains the maximum of danger

when it includes among the overcrowded persons a patient liable to communicate infection to any others with whom he may come into intimate or protracted contact, and that is precisely the case with the consumptive. In the homes of the poor he commonly sleeps in the same bed with at least one other person, and possibly with one or two children in addition. The notification of the cases will enable such practices to be prevented for the future; and no one will derive greater benefit than the patient himself from the altered conditions which the sanitary authorities will for the future be able to require.

Apart, moreover, from purely official action, it is much to be hoped that the important step the local government board are now taking may lead to co-operation not only between public health authorities and boards of guardians, but also between these and voluntary associations or charitable individuals desirous of assisting consumptives. The provision of better food and clothing, of improved housing, of temporary residence in a sanatorium, or of a holiday at the seaside may, in certain stages of the disease, prevent a complete breakdown, and may thus obviate the need for protracted treatment. The help that comes early is always more efficacious than that which is belated; although, even in the advanced stages of the disease, treatment in a well-equipped and well-administered infirmary or similar institution, in which due regard is had to the comfort of the patient, may not only be highly advantageous to him, but will also serve greatly to diminish the danger of infection which must always be present during the treatment of consumption in a study or crowded habitation. Mr. Burns is clearly giving, alike to authorities and to the charitable, opportunities for useful and benevolent action of which it is to be hoped they will not be slow to avail themselves; and the ingenuously wish which he has utilized the power which the board possesses of dealing with the duties of parochial medical officers, and in the delays incidental to legislation or the infliction of disabilities upon the sick, is worthy of admiration. For the future, our knowledge of the amount of consumption existing among the poor will be precise, and our powers of dealing with it in an effective manner scarcely fail to be in a corresponding degree enhanced.