

The Topography of the Vancouver or Britannia Range

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The object of this article is to describe those mountains which lie to the north of Burrard Inlet, immediately behind the city of North Vancouver. They are described on the maps as the Britannia or Vancouver Range; but the various peaks are known to mountaineers by special and familiar names.

The country covered during the season by the week-end excursions of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club lies roughly between Howe Sound on the west and the North Arm of Burrard Inlet on the east, and between a line joining the peaks of Mounts Brunswick and Bishop on the north and Burrard Inlet on the south. This area is divided into four sections by the Capilano, Lynn, and Seymour streams. Each of these sections contains peaks enough to make it interesting to the climber.

The positions and heights of the more important peaks are shown upon the accompanying map. In the work a simple plane table was used, much of the detail being filled in from photographs taken by members of the club. The heights given are the average of readings taken at different times of the year with a pocket aneroid.

The nearest mountain to Vancouver is Grouse. This is undoubtedly the most climbed mountain in B. C. On its western slope the Club-house is situated at an altitude of 2,500 feet above sea level. The plateau of Grouse is about five miles from the ferry landing on the north shore of Burrard Inlet, and has an elevation of 3,800 feet. It lies below the timber line; but nevertheless parties of campers have succeeded in burning up every tree within a hundred yards of the edge which overlooks Capilano valley.

From this point the panorama is very extensive, embracing many square miles of land and sea. In the foreground the harbor and city of Vancouver are spread out like a huge map. The picture is beautifully outlined after dark by the myriad points of light along the streets. Mount Baker, in the State of Washington, rises to the south-east. It looks only twenty or thirty miles away instead of eighty, because the flat lands of the Fraser delta occupy the middle distance. To the south lie the island-studded waters of the Straits of Georgia; whilst in the distance the snow-capped peaks of the Olympic Range are visible unless the atmosphere is very hazy. The snow-filled cone of Mount Rainier