

with, on your left, the warm brown of dead bracken and heather on the slopes of Carn Mor Dearg, and on your right the ice-clad ridges and gullies of Ben Nevis all glistening in the sun. I know of nothing to compare with these.

I am not here to advocate one kind of sport or the other. I was a member of this Club before Slingsby introduced me to the cliffs of Cumberland or Collie led me to the Highlands. I say that both are good. The honoared founders of this Club built better than they knew.

The sport that was once limited to dons and barristers and others with a long vacation is now the pastime of thousands. It has reached an ever-widening social circle of men, and lately of women. It has promoted the love of nature and the open air, and in a small way is one of the features of English life that may help to bind all classes together in the ways of right living and good fellowship.

THE LATE DR. KELLAS'S EARLY EXPEDITIONS  
TO THE HIMALAYA.

[The following letters and records of one of the most indefatigable explorers whom this Club has had the honour to count among its members deserve a place in the JOURNAL ]

*November 11, 1918.*

DEAR CAPTAIN FARRAR,—I have pleasure in sending you herewith the complete itinerary of my tour in 1907, but sincerely trust that you will not waste a line of the ALPINE JOURNAL with it at any time. Our attempts on Simvu were less difficult than an attack on Mt. Blanc from the Grands Mulets after a little fresh snow, and I would as soon think of sending you for publication an itinerary of a traverse of Switzerland from Brigue to St. Moritz *via* Furka, Oberalp, and Julier, as one of the crossings of the Pir Panjal. I suppose you want the notes in case they might be useful for subsequent reference.

The trip of 1907 was interesting enough as an introductory tour, but I do not count it as one of my mountaineering expeditions at all, because the climbing done was negligible in quantity. The first mountaineering expedition was in 1909. Any impressions of the tour of 1907 so far given are mere fragments in the contributions to the 'A.J.,' and such notes are more liable to misconstruction than a consecutive

account, because, being more or less parenthetical, they have to be abbreviated as far as possible. One cannot, for example, compress a guide to the Pir Panjal route into a paragraph. Perhaps a few further notes might make my estimate of this tour clearer.

As regards the Pir Panjal (which would probably make a delightful tour in June or September), there was nothing even during the height of the monsoon to stop a well-grown schoolboy except a few of the fords between Poshiana and Baramgella. North of the mountains there was no difficulty except the Rambiarā, and it would be possible to make arrangements by which it would be unnecessary to cross it. At the first village on the S. side (Poshiana), the people so disturbed my guide that he declared we must wait some days before the crossings would be practicable, but, as I insisted on proceeding without even a day's delay, he took seven extra men, some of them fine muscular hillmen, to help at the fords, so that we made a strong party. I think we avoided a few fords by traversing along the rocky banks, but am uncertain on this point, as my guide could give me no definite information. Greatly to the surprise of my guide (and the others), I crossed a few of the easier fords alone to gain experience. Some, however, I could not have crossed unaided, as the rush of water was too great.

Our stalwarts all left us at Baramgalla, and south of that place we were a weak party. At Rajaori, the man who tried to take me across was unequal to the task, and I got rather wet, and just missed immersion by help from a man I had fortunately summoned alongside. There is no danger at that place as there is a tract of meadowland, and depth was the only difficulty. It is probable that we did not cross at the right place. The river here runs like a canal between embankments, and some cattle were swimming not far off. There was no opportunity for investigation of the mountain or river relationships here, because of weather conditions, and we were off at 5 A.M. next morning for a double march. I am uncertain why three men attempted an aberrant crossing in the circumstances, with all the rivers in flood, but have no reason to doubt the guide's statement, made immediately we reached the first villages. In some ways he was unreliable (*e.g.* in connection with ornithology), but not as regards current events.

Although three double marches were effected in the aggregate, yet three days were lost (Rembiara, Naoshera, Railway), so

that the actual time taken for the transit was exactly the normal. This might be accounted passable for a beginner, considering the monsoon conditions, but it was far short of what was intended, and although greatly interested with the route, I was not satisfied with the results. The unfulfilled programme had included camping on the summit of the pass, and ascent of a peak 15,000 ft. high to view the Vale of Kashmir, and examine the Nun Kun Peaks to the N.E. and the Nanga Parbat group to the N., pioneer scientific work, and sufficient double marches to enable one to get a glimpse of the hills N. of Simla and to visit Agra (Taj Mahal, etc.). The discrepancy is considerable, and these ambitions have not been fulfilled so far. It was necessary to be back at Darjeeling by August 19 as the guides were expected, and we arrived together.

As regards the tour from Darjeeling to the Zemu Glacier, it was certainly of a very mild order. I had expected to ascend Simvu (22,300 ft.) and perhaps to attain 23,000 ft. on Kangchenjunga. Our failure on the former mountain, and the negligible scientific results, owing to breakage of some glass apparatus on the Pir Panjal, made me determined to return and try climbing with Nepalese coolies, who seemed to me more at home under the diminished pressure than my European companions. I do not think it necessary to add anything to the notes of this part of the tour, as Mr. Freshfield's book fully explains the whole route.

Yours truly,

A. M. KELLAS.

#### TOUR IN INDIA 1907.

*3rd August.* Leave Srinagar with 3 men and 2 ponies about 4 p.m. after heavy day's rain to cross Pir Panjal to Gujerat. (Ultimately reached Kharian instead.)

*5th August.* Near Shupiyān, but delayed because unable to cross the Rembiara River (trib. of Jhelum).

*6th August.* Ford river to Shupiyān on right bank, but forced to reford, because a bridge near Hirpoora is reported down. Entire day lost.

*7th August.* High camp on the Pir Panjal, a few miles E. of Alliabad Serai. Transient superb views to N.E.

*8th August.* Cross Pir Panjal Pass (11,400 ft.) to Poshiana. Mist and rain on flat and grassy summit. Nearly lose a pony at river crossing. Preceding party lost one.

9th August. Reach Baramgalla after numerous river crossings, a few being awkward because rivers in flood. Seven extra men taken to minimise difficulties of fords.

10th August. Across Ratan Pir Pass (8,200 ft.) to Thanna Mandi. Heavy rain.

11th August. Reach Rajaori. Smooth deep ford—good place for swim. Probably easiest ford of all under normal conditions (3 villagers drowned on preceding day below ford).

12th August. Double march to rest-house near Naoshera. Thunderstorm. Guide unwell. Remain with him one day, and when quite recovered send him back to Srinagar.

14th August. Double march to Bhimber across the Aditak Hills.

15th August. Start about 3.30 A.M. and make easy double march to Kharian, but unable to catch E. bound express and lose a day.

19th August. Darjeeling.

22nd August. Leave for visit to Kangchenjunga district.

26th August. Gangtok.

30th August. Chungthang.

31st August. Arrive at Lachen.

2nd September. Leave Lachen.

7th September. Reach Green Lake, 8 miles N.E. of Kangchenjunga.

8th September. 1st attempt on Simvu (22,300 ft.) with 2 European guides.<sup>1</sup> Forced to turn back at 19,000 ft. Snowstorm.

10th September. 2nd attempt on Simvu with guides. Snow considered dangerous at about 20,700 ft. (Note.—The first estimate was about 21,000 ft., which was made on the assumption that the N. tops showed the highest summit. This is not the case. The highest peak lies to the S. It was not seen during this tour.)

12th September. Attempt on Nepal Gap with guides. Mist and snow. Turn back at 18,000 ft.

13th September. Start for Lhonak.

14th September. Cross Tangchung La.

15th September. Cross Thé La.

16th to 20th September. Peregrinations in Lhonak.

21st September. Recross Thé La.

22nd September. Snowstorm. Remain near Tumrachen Chu.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Swiss guides were taken, but they proved unsatisfactory' (*Geog. Journal*, Sept. 1912).

23rd September. Cross the old Tangchung La (2 miles W. of new pass) and reach Green Lake. Fresh snow on mts.

25th September. Ascend hill above Green Lake (about 17,000 ft.).

27th September. Attempt Nepal Gap, but forced to turn at 19,000 ft. by crevasses.

30th September. 3rd attempt on Simvu with guides. Start about 2 A.M. and cross the Zemu glacier by moonlight. Snow found to be deep and soft at 20,000 ft. Weather turned bad.

9th October. Darjeeling.

April 10, 1919.

DEAR CAPTAIN FARRAR,—I send herewith the promised itinerary of what I term my first Himalayan Expedition, as the visit to India in 1907 was merely a tour. I don't think I need add much to the summary. When I arrived at Darjeeling, I found that Mr. Righi (the hotel manager) was to start for his month's holiday at the end of the week, and, hoping that he would do some climbing, I waited a couple of days for him. Mr. Righi, however, proved somewhat easily affected by altitude; he was a pleasant companion, and a good walker, but his participation in the Kangchenjunga Expedition of 1905 had not improved his adaptability to altitude.

You will see from the itinerary that there were many failures, but also a few successes, and I learnt a great deal regarding Himalayan snow conditions. It must be noted, however, that we were greatly handicapped, because I was carrying out scientific experiments when possible.

The incident which pleased me best of all was the ascent of the Langbu Peak (22,800 ft.),<sup>2</sup> which was my first completed Himalayan ascent, and as I managed to finish it after both the coolies with me had refused to move at 21,900 ft., it gives me a slight satisfaction even now. There was no real difficulty because the snow was in excellent order on the final peak, although deep and troublesome below.

Mr. Hinks on Monday last suggested that I might write to you regarding a contemplated attempt on Kamet (25,447 ft.), about which I believe Dr. Freshfield informed you in the end of the year, but, for various reasons, it may be better to defer until next week.

Yours sincerely,  
A. M. KELLAS.

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<sup>2</sup> Langpo Peak (Freshfield's *Round Kangchenjunga*).

EXPEDITION TO N. SIKHIM 1909.

- 2nd August.* Darjeeling.  
*7th August.* Leave Darjeeling with Mr. Righi and 62 coolies.  
*14th August.* Chungthang.  
*19th August.* Cross Donkia La (18,131 ft.).  
*20th August.* Move up to high camp on Pawhunri (19,000 ft).  
*21st August.* Mr. Righi, being indisposed, make attempt on Pawhunri with 2 coolies. Reach 21,700 ft., but driven back by snowstorm. Snow very deep and powdery.  
*22nd August.* Camp at Tso Lhamo.  
*24th August.* Reach Tangu (12,300 ft.).  
*27th August.* Cross Lungnak La (17,300 ft.) to Pokri. 10 yaks and 12 coolies.  
*30th August.* Camp at end of Lhonak Glacier.  
*31st August.* Move up to high camp under Jongsong La (18,500 ft.).  
*1st September.* Return to low camp on right of Lhonak Glacier.  
*2nd September.* Mr. Righi returns to Darjeeling.  
*4th September.* Camp on summit of Jongsong La (20,300 ft.)  
*5th September.* Camp at Confluence of S. Jongsong and S. Langbu Glaciers (19,000 ft.) approx.  
*6th September.* Explore S. Langbu Glacier.  
*7th September.* Descend to Kangchenjunga Glacier.  
*8th September.* Camp near Pangperma.  
*9th September.* Cross Kangchenjunga Glacier to examine W. face of Kangchenjunga.  
*11th September.* Back to S. Langbu Glacier.  
*13th September.* Attempt Langbu Pk., and reach Langbu Saddle at 21,000 ft., but driven back by snowstorm.  
*14th September.* Ascend to Langbu Gap (20,000 ft.), between Langbu Pk. and Hoongkoong (Pyramid).  
*15th September.* Ascend Langbu Peak (22,800 ft.),—last 900 ft. with one coolie.  
*17th September.* Recrossed Jongsong La to camp at end of Lhonak Glacier.  
*19th September.* Started for W. Arête of Jongsong Pk. Ascend to head of Lhonak Gl. and cross.  
*21st September.* Ascend to Col at 21,500 ft. (approx.)  
*22nd September.* Ascend ridge to over 22,000 ft. Dense mist. Stormy.

23rd September. Descend W. side of Lhonak Gl. to near Chorten Nima La Cirque.

24th September. Ascend to near Chorten Nima La. Stormy.

25th September. Camp at bottom of Thé La.

26th September. Cross Thé La (16,750 ft.) and cross near Tangchung La (camp, 15,600 ft.)

27th September. Cross Tangchung La (16,300 ft.) and ascend Zemu Gl. until opposite Little Siniolchum.

28th September. Ascend Tent Pk. glacier, and camp opposite affluent from Nepal Gap.

29th September. Attempt Nepal Gap. Reach 20,000 ft., but driven back by a snowstorm, which forced a rapid retreat to Green Lake.

30th September. Snowed all night of 29th, and all day of 30th.

1st October. Snow over 2 ft. deep, and still snowing steadily. (Coolies, who should have come up on preceding day from Lachen with provisions had turned back.) Rapid retreat to end of Zemu Glacier. Snow diminished in depth after 6 miles.

2nd October. Camp at confluence of Lonach Chu and Zemu.

3rd October. Thango.

6th October. Giagong.

7th October. Tso Lhamo.

8th October. Camp on Pawhunri (19,300 ft.).

9th October. Ascend Pawhunri to 23,000 ft. Forced to retreat after sunset by deep snow and high wind. Reach camp after dark.

10th October. Recross Donkia La and reach Moma Samdung (double march).

11th October. Lachung (double march).

12th October. Chungthang.

13th October. Darjeeling.

#### MAPS OF THE ALPS OF NEW ZEALAND.

IN acknowledging the maps which, as stated in 'A.J.' xxxiv. 295 seq., had been presented to the Club by the Surveyor-General of New Zealand, I wrote to Mr. Harper :

'Many thanks for your letters of January 16 and 26. The maps have since arrived, and I enclose a formal letter of thanks to the Surveyor-General. . . .