

path at all. Such pathless conditions are common in the more remote districts of Iceland. So it often takes a long time to reach any particular mountain. Then the weather is subject to very sudden changes, and the method of travelling, though delightful, is slow. Accommodation at the farm-houses is quite clean though often rather rough. But the man who can spare a little more time, who loves *all* mountains for their own sake, who can be content even though his list of summits gained is short, so long as he himself is constantly moving among the mountains, who can enjoy the rather rough-and-tumble, open-air life that is forced upon him—this man will find in Iceland, with its primitive life and its unspoilt countryside, a land that will draw him back again and again. Nor will he get only mountain climbing. There is the joy of riding and fishing, the interest of the abundant bird-life, the scenes of historic sagas, and of course the extraordinary geology of the land.

It is said that two things are generally necessary to a successful trip in Iceland: good weather and a good guide. I have always had the latter and quite often the former. There is, however, a third necessity with which fortune has also favoured me—the ideal companion.

'MYSTERY MOUNTAIN.'

By W. A. DON MUNDAY.

'MYSTERY MOUNTAIN'¹ has been officially named Mt. George Dawson by the Geographic Board of Canada to commemorate the eminent Canadian geologist whose name is borne by Mt. Dawson, which is also in British Columbia in the Selkirk Range. The newly named mountain in the Coast Range is, according to Mr. J. E. Umbach, the surveyor-general of British Columbia, the highest mountain in the province, its height being 13,260 ft.

It has not yet been completely conquered, the writer's party in 1927 having reached over 13,000 ft. on the third attempt, but being defeated by a violent storm. A bivouac at 8700 ft. was rendered untenable by the storm, so the descent was continued

¹ See *A.J.* 38, 343, and 'Canadian Notes' of present number. We are in no way concerned in the matter, but the change of name seems regrettable.—*Editor.*

to the base camp at 4200 ft. ; we reached it 39 hours after beginning the climb from the bivouac. The other members of the party were Mrs. Munday and her sister, Mrs. E. M. McCallum.

The mountain stands 25 miles N.E. of the head of Knight Inlet, and its largest glacier extends to within 6 miles of tide-water and 500 ft. above sea-level. Its area is about 100 square miles.

We cut a trail 6 miles up the Franklin valley and 'back-packed' all our own supplies. This route was considered highly preferable to the 1926 route up the Homathko River, and will be used again for the 1928 attempt on the big mountain. It is our intention to place a climbing camp at 10,500 ft. on the mountain because of the length and difficulties of the summit ridge. The *personnel* of the party has not been decided but will include the writer and Mrs. Munday. The latter suggested the route which proved so nearly successful and which seems the only practicable one in view of the physical difficulties of the surroundings of the mountain.

From Chilko Lake for a hundred miles N.W. the Coast Range has something approaching a definite crest with scores of peaks over 10,000 ft. in height ; many are over 11,000 ft. (two have been triangulated at over 11,700 ft.) ; several probably exceed 12,000 ft., while the highest has been triangulated at 13,260 ft. as already stated.

The Bella Coola, Klinakline and Homathko gorges are incised completely across the range where it attains its maximum elevations ; 30 miles from its mouth the Homathko River is only 500 ft. above sea-level. Even the Fraser River cañon is flanked by no such uplifts as these.

The main river valleys have been explored long ago, but the areas between are so rugged and so defended by large glaciers that exploration will probably be left entirely to mountaineers as has been the case up to the present. The consistently rugged glaciers are apt to make strangers to the region seriously underestimate the time required to cover a comparatively insignificant mileage.

In spite of the tremendous snowfall in the Coast Range, the climate of the seaward slope is comparatively mild and the vegetation is very dense. Except in the matter of winter temperatures, conditions thus bear a considerable resemblance to those in the Selkirk Range. The scenery also more nearly approaches that of the Selkirk Range, with the difference, of course, of more extensive glaciers.



Phot. W. A. Don Munday.

"MYSTERY MOUNTAIN," 13,260 FT. FROM HEIGHT OF 5,000 FT.
from S.W., distance 12 miles.

[Mr. Munday writes :—

‘ I venture to enclose a brief reference to “ Mystery Mountain,” in which you showed some interest last year. As you will note, we failed to reach the top by about 200 ft., due entirely to the most violent electrical storm I have ever experienced. We were within that short distance of the North peak at 7 P.M. We still think we showed good judgment in retreating as we did.

‘ The next “ Canadian Alpine Journal ” will carry fairly full accounts of our two expeditions into this rather remarkable region—I say “ our ” and “ we ” because my wife is even more than my lieutenant in every phase of the task.

‘ The mountain is now recognized as the highest in British Columbia, 13,260 ft. We have waited two years almost for vindication of our claim of its pre-eminence, most local climbers having been openly scornful. It is a strange thing, indeed, that this nearness to the mountain should produce such unbelief when those far off were more readily convinced.’]

NOTE ON MT. OLYMPUS.

(I) **T**HO the list of books and articles on Mt. Olympus, which is to be found on page 96 of ‘ A.J. ’ 39, the following may be added :

Francis P. Farquhar : ‘ An Ascent of Mount Olympus, Thessaly, Greece,’ in the *Sierra Bulletin*, vol. ix. No. 4, January 1915.

Francis P. Farquhar : ‘ An Ascent of Mount Olympus in Thessaly, Greece,’ in *The Mountaineer*, vol. xiv., 1921.

The above two articles give an account of the author’s ascent to Skolion with A. E. Phoutrides in April 1914.

G. R. is the signature of an account of the celebration of Mass, according to the Roman Catholic form, on the summit of St. Elias in 1918. This account appears in *L’Illustration*, Paris, No. 3957, January 4, 1919.

Winona Bailey (‘ Eight Days on Mount Olympus in Thessaly,’ in *The Mountaineer*, vol. xv., 1922) describes her ascent with Mrs. Laurie Frazier on August 4, 1922. On July 31 they had reached the lower summit of Stefan, where they built the cairn ; but they were unable to reach its higher summit. On both occasions the ladies were accompanied by Kristo Kakalos.