PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Tuesday evening, May 5, 1914, at 8.30 P.M., the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

Mr. O. L. V. S. de Wesselow was balloted for and elected a member of the Club.

Sir EDWARD DAVIDSON said :—Gentlemen, before we proceed to the ordinary business of the evening I should like, with your permission, to interpose for a few moments. Since we last met in this Hall the King has been pleased, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, to appoint our President to be a Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal and also to be a Member of His Majesty's Privy Council. In these circumstances I am quite certain that the Club, over which he so worthily and so ably presides, will desire to take the earliest possible moment of offering to him their most sincere and hearty congratulations on the signal distinction that has been conferred upon him. The advancement which has been so recently bestowed upon him is, I feel sure, merely a presage of further honours which will come to him in the future, and which we earnestly trust he may live many, many years to enjoy.

In my capacity as the immediate Ex-President of the Club I am told that, according to precedent, it is my privilege to offer on behalf not only of those members of the Club who are here, but for all members of the Alpine Club in whatsoever part of the world they may be, our joint and united congratulations on this most auspicious occasion.

For myself I am indeed very glad that it has fallen to my lot to convey our congratulations to the President on his new appointment, and I know that he will believe me when I say that no more pleasant or agreeable duty has ever fallen to me in the course of my life.

The PRESIDENT expressed his gratitude to Sir Edward Davidson and the members of the Club for their kindness to him on his appointment, and hoped that one result of it would be that he would be able to give more attention to the affairs of the Club.

He then said :—Before I call upon Mr. Mumm to read his Paper I have again to call the attention of the Club to the death of one of our members.

He was an old member of the Club and was probably unknown to many of the younger members. Mr. ALFRED CADDICK was elected in 1879. Though he had not climbed for many years, his interest in the Club was as keen as ever, and he always made a point of attending the Annual General Meeting in December and also the Annual Dinner. He died quite suddenly a few days ago.

There is another matter to which I must call your attention, and it is to ask you to return thanks to Mr. SYDNEY SPENCER for

the way in which he has managed and arranged our Exhibition. He has taken a great deal of trouble over the Exhibition, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that his efforts have been entirely successful. He has collected an admirable Exhibition, which has been admirably hung, and I am sure that you will all be as anxious as I am myself to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Spencer for his work.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

Mr. A. L. MUMM then read a Paper entitled 'A Trip up the Whirlpool River,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Dr. J. NORMAN COLLIE said: This is a part of the Rockies that I have only seen in the very far distance. It is a part that few people have seen, and, in fact, there are only two climbers besides Douglas, viz. Professor Coleman and Mr. Mumm, who have ever been to the Athabasca Pass, for it used to be a very difficult pass to get to; but now, as it is only about fifty miles from Jasper, it seems rather strange that so few climbers have been there. It was thought that Professor Coleman had finally solved the mystery surrounding Mount Brown and Mount Hooker, but it seems now that Mr. Mumm has started a new hare, and the old theory that these mountains stood on either side of the pass may have to be altered. I think Mumm's ideas seem to be right, because from the photographs of the south side of the pass there does not seem to be any obvious peak; and the only two peaks that are there are on the north side, and these may be Mount Brown and Mount Hooker.

The weather in the Rockies seems to get worse and worse the farther north one gets. The weather near Mount Robson was worse than the weather we experienced near Mount Columbia. The mountaineering round Mount Robson and the Yellow Head Pass opened up by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will, therefore, have to be carried on under less favourable circumstances than those which obtain farther south. The farther south one gets the better the weather seems to be. Mumm seems to have been particularly unfortunate last summer in this respect.

One point I should like to impress upon members is that a great deal of the country photographed by Mumm was unknown, and there is still a great deal of unexplored country quite close to civilisation which now is not difficult to reach through the various valleys, but I have no doubt that very soon there will be quite a trail up the Athabasca and Whirlpool Valleys. If anybody is thinking of going out there I should advise them to go as soon as possible. There is one very fine piece of country, quite unknown, south of the Whirlpool, towards Fortress Lake, which Lake was discovered by Professor Coleman.

Some of the photographs Mr. Mumm has shown us this evening were very beautiful, and very typical of the Canadian Rockies.

Mr. GEOFFREY E. HOWARD said: Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I think Mr. Mumm is a little too modest about the map, as it was only his help that enabled me to make the sketch at all. I do not think there can be much doubt that the course of the North Whirlpool River is correct on the map, unless there is some phenomenal freak of Nature which diverts it from its well-marked valley.

As Dr. Collie has said, there is an enormous amount of work to be done out there, and although, so far as I was concerned, practically no climbing was accomplished on this trip, there were very interesting mountains on every side. I think myself that it will be quite a long time before the district is properly known, as at present one has to cut one's way to the mountains, and in this manner a good deal of time is lost. You see a mountain and say you will go up that: it looks quite easy, but the best part of the day has gone by the time you get out of the timber, and until trails are made it will always be this way. In another ten or fifteen years it may be quite a tourist centre, but if people go out there now they will have a much better time, as it is such a glorious country and is as yet quite unspoilt.

Mr. L. S. AMERY said: The only part of the Paper I can say anything about has reference to the beginning: that is, the route down the Grand Forks Valley. When I was there the first time with Keller we did go up some 1500 feet on the right-hand side of the valley mainly to avoid heavy timber and other obstacles. We got fine views of the west side of Mount Robson, and we also got occasional glimpses through clouds of all the range of peaks between the source of the North Whirlpool River and the route of the Tête Jaune Cache, but as the weather was very bad we were unable to get any clear views. I only mention this to show that we did get up some little way on that side. I quite agree with Mr. Mumm that there is a lot to be done out there. I think one of the best ways to get a good preliminary view of the Northern Rockies would be to start up the Grand Forks Valley and then work up on the left-hand (*i.e.* true right) side.

Mr. HUGH E. M. STUTFIELD said: Mr. President and Gentlemen, Mr. Mumm has made an interesting journey to what used to be a region of mystery. I well remember how, in the late nineties, I used to sit at the feet of Gamaliel—Dr. Collie, I mean—and heard a great deal about the Athabasca Pass and that queerly-named mountain tarn, the Committee's Punch Bowl. I pictured to myself in those days a narrow defile, flanked on either side by an enormous mountain, forming the portals of a natural gateway leading to the unknown country to the north; and I had dreams of some day climbing those mountains. Now, alas! the mystery, like so many other mysteries in our time, has been rudely dispelled. Of the two great peaks, one, Mount Hooker, appears to be a sort of second Mrs. Harris, having a very dubious existence; the other, Mount Brown, is shown to be a shocking old fraud. It is curious

to note how, in spite of all the proofs to the contrary, the legend of its great height still survives. Canadians were long unwilling to surrender the honour of possessing the highest peak in English-speaking North America, and to-day the British schoolboy is still taught that Mount Brown is king of the Canadian Alps. After Mr. Mumm's investigations, and the interesting Paper we have just listened to, there can be no excuse for the propagation of these very serious geographical errors. I congratulate him on his journey, and thank him for giving me a very pleasant evening.

The PRESIDENT said: As no other member seems to have anything farther to say on the subject, I will ask you to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Mumm for his Paper. We have listened to him with the greatest interest. It is a new district, but I have no doubt that when trails are made it will soon be overrun with people, and I think it is much better to hear accounts of the country before it is overrun than when it is more easy of access. Mr. Stutfield told us that where the railway comes mystery goes, and I agree with him. I think Mr. Mumm's suggestion as to the solution of the question concerning Mount Brown and Mount Hooker is a very possible one, and I am sure there are a good many members who will desire to visit this new country. I will now ask you to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Mumm for his interesting Paper and the beautiful slides he has shown us.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Mumm briefly returned thanks.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, London, W., on Tuesday evening, June 9, 1914, at 8.30 P.M.; the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club, viz.: Dr. G. O. Dyhrenfurth, Mr. V. Le Neve Foster, and Mr. D. G. Murray.

The PRESIDENT said: I am glad to say, and I think it is the first time since I have had the honour of occupying this Chair that I have been able to say so, that there are no deaths among the members of the Club to report. I think it is a matter of great satisfaction to us all.

The next matter I have to mention is that we have amongst us this evening two climbers from Japan, introduced by our member, the Rev. Walter Weston—Mr. Kondo and Dr. Tsujimura, who are members of the Japanese Alpine Club. We are very glad to have an opportunity of welcoming them here. They have both done a great deal of climbing in Japan, and they intend to do more climbing in Switzerland this year, and I am quite sure that any members of the Club who meet these gentlemen in Switzerland or elsewhere will be only too delighted to do anything that is in their power to make things pleasant and comfortable for them and to give them any assistance they may require. I may say that

Mr. Kondo has brought over some slides representing climbing in the Japanese Alps, and he has very kindly offered to show them to us at the informal meeting on June 23. I am quite sure that his slides will greatly interest many of the members, and I have no doubt that a good number will avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing them.

I feel that we ought not to let this occasion pass without recognising the honour that has been conferred on a very old and valued member of the Club. Mr. Douglas Freshfield has been a member for a great number of years now, and has done a great deal of climbing and exploring. He has held the offices of President, Vice-President, and Editor of the JOURNAL, and has been a constant attendant at our meetings. I think that the Club will be glad of the opportunity of recognising the honour that has been paid to him in his election to the Presidential Chair of the Royal Geographical Society, and I propose a hearty vote of congratulation to him.

This was carried with acclamation.

The PRESIDENT then said: I now have to bring before your notice for confirmation the arrangements for the Winter Dinner as set forth in the circular dated May 22, 1914, a copy of which has been sent to each member. If there is no objection I will declare them carried.

The Winter Dinner arrangements were carried *nem. con.*

Mr. WM. T. KIRKPATRICK then read a Paper entitled 'On the Outskirts' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT said: Some members of the Club, I think, must know this district, and we shall be very glad to hear their remarks on it.

Sir EDWARD DAVIDSON said: As the President has called upon me to try to set the ball of discussion a-rolling, I feel bound to obey his commands, although I have very little to say. Some years ago (I think it was in 1899) I went up Monte Viso by the same route as that by which the reader of the Paper made his ascent. It is extremely easy, and although we had a rope with us we did not put it on either going up or coming down. The view from the summit, which we were fortunate enough to enjoy in perfection, was indescribably beautiful—one of the very finest that I have ever seen, and this far more than compensated for the dirt, the food, the flies, and the other horrors to which Mr. Kirkpatrick has so eloquently adverted. In most of these North Italian villages or hamlets the sign of the principal inn is 'Al Gallo' and the tough old rooster which swings crowing on its signboard is only too typical of the staple *pièce de résistance* which awaits the unfortunate wayfarer. I think that I have now fulfilled my orders, and I trust that Mr. Hope, who took part in this series of ascents described in the very interesting Paper which has just been read, may be induced, as he is here to-night, to say a few words to us about them.

Mr. R. P. HOPE said: I have not much to add to what Mr. Kirk-

patrick has said. Mont Aiguille is, I consider, well worth doing as a training walk; it can be done in one day from Grenoble. It is only two hours from Grenoble to Clelles on the way to the Central Dauphiné Alps. To get to Monte Viso from Dauphiné, it would be best to reach the railway from Vallouise. Thence one rather long day will take you to the Italian Club Hut with the help of the motor-bus to Abriès, and crossing the frontier by some col further south than the Col de la Traversette. It is not advisable to descend the Forcioline glen late in the evening. Mr. Coolidge found it troublesome many years ago, and it is a bad place to get down in the dark.

The Brec de Chambeyron has little interest, except that it is probably the only mountain for the ascent of which a reward has been offered. A reward of 200 frs. was offered by some section of the French Alpine Club to anyone making the first ascent. Mr. Montagnier made a new route up from the French side, but apparently a very dangerous one. The ordinary route is very round-about, though the couloir we descended would save a lot of time, if the conditions were safe. It might be possible to ascend by a couloir that joins it on its left bank low down, and comes apparently from near the summit. Maljasset is a horrible place, and the country all round is very dull and desolate. The Sirac is best done from Le Clot, as the ascent from the south is very long and dull. Though Mr. Coolidge, in the 'Climbers' Guide,' advises 'the couloir or the rocks on its left,' I see that in the account of his ascent in the 'A.J.' he says he kept to the rocks. The top part of the couloir is very steep. The chief thing that impressed me in these parts was the bad accommodation. Each night we hoped for something better than the last and got something worse.

The discussion was continued by Sir ALEXANDER KENNEDY, Dr. T. G. LONGSTAFF, and Capt. J. P. FARRAR.

The PRESIDENT said: If nobody else has anything to say I will ask the Club to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Kirkpatrick for his Paper, which has been very properly described as fascinating. We have all listened to it with the greatest interest; it has contained a very great deal of information and a very great deal of real, unforced humour, two excellent characteristics. We have all listened to the Paper with very great pleasure, and I feel sure you are all anxious to join in passing a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Kirkpatrick.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation. Mr. Kirkpatrick briefly returned thanks, and said that he specially wished to acknowledge his indebtedness to Monsieur Henri Ferrand, of Grenoble, who had most kindly lent him several very interesting slides which had been so much appreciated by those present.