

ascended the one really bad place barefoot. The moral to be deduced is this :

Never say that a rock face is impracticable when merely studied from the front. Always see it in profile.

I can, however, say something more about this mountain, but not now. Meanwhile, I heartily congratulate the party on their success, but, at the same time, I heartily regret that I do not now know any mountain in Norway or elsewhere which I can say is 'invincible.' This paper will recall to several Alpine Clubmen many happy days spent in Lofoten with genial companions.

Tönsberg's second paper is a masterly review of the growth of mountaineering as a sport in Norway, in which he fills up many of the gaps left in the paper on 'The History and Development . . . ' which latter he had presumably seen in manuscript, and in doing this he is merciful, and very flattering to the writer of this English paper, who ought to be duly grateful. Tönsberg is especially qualified to write with authority on the sport, owing to the fact that he is not only a first-rate rock climber, but is also an adept in the higher branch of mountaineering—snow-craft—and is a prudent and capable leader.

He points out the fact that as his countrymen were rather late in the field, the principal peaks in the Horungtinder and other fine ranges in Central Norway had already been ascended by their obvious lines of least resistance before the N.T.K. came into being and that, consequently, new expeditions meant usually new and often very severe routes up mountains, on which for years the inevitable cairns had been built. This led to very difficult ascents and sufficed for a while. Lastly, it became fully realised that in Arctic Norway there was still a host of noble peaks which had yet suffered no desecration from the human foot.

The list of new ascents, and ascents of great severity too, which have been made by this small Club from 1908 to 1913, and which appears at the end of the book, clearly shows the activity and versatility of its members.

WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Tuesday, February 2, 1915, at 8.30 P.M. The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

Mr. Reginald Graham and the Rev. John Pearce were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT said: I need only interpose between the Club and the Lecturer for two or three minutes, as I have few matters

to mention. I am glad to say I have no deaths of Members of the Club to announce. I should like again to draw the attention of Members to the fact that, at the last Meeting of the Club when a Member asked whether any record would be kept of Members serving in His Majesty's Forces, I told him that the Committee thought that it would be desirable to keep such a record and requested Members so serving to send in a note to that effect to the Hon. Secretary. Up to the present the Hon. Secretary has received the names of some thirty Members, but there are a good many others who have not, so far, sent in their names. There may be some Members present who are in touch with these and I hope their attention will be drawn to the existence of the List, as we should like it to be as complete as possible.

Mr. HAROLD RAEURN then read a paper entitled 'In the Caucasus—1914,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT invited discussion on the paper.

Mr. H. SCOTT TUCKER said: Our thanks are due to Mr. Raeburn for his lecture this evening, and the Members of the 1914 party are much indebted to him for a remarkable holiday which resulted in the realisation of a long cherished hope. It would be impertinent for me to offer any criticism of Raeburn's leadership, but I feel that climbers generally are obliged to him for having shown that the Caucasus is open to men of limited leisure and moderate means. Without approving the wisdom of naming parts of mountain chains after individuals, I think that if this is done there should be recorded the name of the leader of the two successful expeditions of 1913 and 1914.

Mr. W. N. LING said: I am afraid I cannot add anything to what Mr. Raeburn has told us about his 1914 Caucasian Expedition as, unfortunately, I was prevented from accompanying him as I had hoped to do, but I wish to thank him for, and congratulate him on, the very interesting paper he has given us to-night. I was out there with him in 1913 and we had a very successful time, and the conditions in 1913 seem to have been somewhat better than they were in 1914. The soft snow in 1914 made their work very arduous and they accomplished a great deal in the time they had at their disposal.

Mr. A. L. MUMM said: In the first place I wish to congratulate Mr. Raeburn on his paper, and more especially on the fact that, in the face of the conditions prevailing last season, he was able to snatch such a successful expedition. But my main object is to summarise, briefly, the history of the peak climbed by Monsieur de Déchy.

He visited the Caucasus in 1884 and claimed that he had made the first ascent of Adai Khokh; in fact, he wrote a paper with that title in the JOURNAL. That was the first stage. Then about 1889 Messrs. Holder and Cockin went up Adai, and they reported that de Déchy's mountain was not Adai but the double-topped peak which Mr. D. W. Freshfield had seen in 1868, I think from the heights

above Gebi; and it is remarkable that everyone, including de Déchy himself, was perfectly satisfied that they were correct. So matters stood for many years till de Déchy began his book on the Caucasus. Looking over his own notes again in the light of later information, he reconsidered the matter and came to the conclusion that after all it was Adai that he had ascended in 1884. The whole subject was reviewed by Mr. Freshfield in a note in the *JOURNAL* from which I gathered that he agreed with that conclusion. And with that I thought, till this evening, that finality had at last been reached. But now comes Mr. Raeburn and we learn that de Déchy did not ascend either Adai or Mr. Freshfield's double-topped peak, but a third mountain which has never appeared in the story before. As a humble searcher after truth in Alpine matters, I have, of course, encountered difficulties of this kind before, but I know of no case quite so curious as this one.

The PRESIDENT said: I am sorry that there are not more Members here able to continue the discussion on the very interesting paper we have had to-night, but I think he must be a very bold man who will get up and amplify anything that Mr. Raeburn has told us about his expeditions in the Caucasus. I am afraid that the question raised by Mr. Mumm will be found hard to settle on the spot, as neither of the routes taken by Mr. Raeburn, either to the Caucasus or back to England, is available at the moment, and it may be that de Déchy himself cannot give us any more light on the subject, as we have reason to believe that he died some time last year. All we can do, therefore, is to wait until another Raeburn arrives who, we hope, will be able to relieve Mr. Mumm's mind on the subject. I think we are all at one with Mr. Scott Tucker in our admiration for the way in which Mr. Raeburn must have managed the expedition from the beginning, and all that now remains for us to do is to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to him for his most interesting paper and a very pleasant evening.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Raeburn in returning thanks said in reply to Mr. Mumm's point that he had read everything written by M. de Déchy on the subject: his papers in the 'A.J.' for 1885, his long paper with the map in Petermann's 'Mitteilungen' for 1889, and his full account of the ascent in his great work (published in 1905).

He had carefully compared these various accounts on the spot, and he had seen and studied Adai and its neighbouring peaks from every side.

His conclusion was that M. de Déchy, led by Alexander Burgener, one of the boldest and most determined guides Switzerland ever produced, certainly ascended a summit in the Tsaya basin. M. de Déchy's description can only be made to fit the line of ascent of the great double-peaked mountain called Mamison or the 'Curtain.' It lies between Adai and Tshantshakhi—the peak first claimed by M. de Déchy, and called Adai—and is lower than either.

It was misty when M. de Déchy reached his summit.

The first ascent of the true Adai¹ was undoubtedly that of Messrs. Holder and Cockin with Ulrich Almer in 1890, and the first from the Tsaya basin that of Dr. Vittorio Ronchetti in 1913.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Tuesday, March 2, 1915, at 8.30 P.M. The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

Mr. Thorleif Ferdinand Schjelderup was balloted for and elected a Member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT said: I have really nothing to announce to the Club of any interest and I will, therefore, ask the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer to present the accounts for 1914.

The Honorary Secretary and Treasurer presented the accounts and balance-sheet for 1914, and Mr. E. H. F. Bradby moved that they be adopted. Sir Edward Davidson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT mentioned that Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield had very kindly presented to the Club a photograph of François Dévouassoud, as the Club did not possess one, and that the thanks of the Club had been accorded to Mr. Freshfield through the Committee.

Mr. NEVILLE S. DONE then read a paper entitled 'Some Common(-) Places,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT invited discussion on the paper.

Mr. JOHN J. WITHERS said: There was one thing that struck me in the very interesting paper we have heard. Mr. Done mentioned that when coming down the Argentière Glacier he had observed a curious phenomenon, namely a stream of water spurting upwards for about four inches out of the ice, and he wondered what had caused the upward pressure. That was very odd, as I noticed practically the same thing, except that the water was spurting up to a height of about four feet and the stream was about three inches broad.

SIR ALEXANDER KENNEDY said: One remark in the paper afforded a striking illustration of the way in which detailed features in a glacier remained constant over long periods. I have myself been twice upon the Col des Grands Montets between fifteen and twenty years ago, and on each occasion I found in a most unexpected position close to the summit of the col the very large crevasse or bergschrund found by the author in 1913. No doubt the neck of rock between the Aiguille Verte and the little Aiguille des Grands Montets may be a very deep and sudden depression, which causes fracture on the little glacier coming down the ridge of the Verte. I congratulate the author on having shown the most beautiful series of slides which the Club has seen for a very long time.

¹ Mr. Raeburn's topographical note in the present number of the Journal, giving the history of the name peak Adai, will, he trusts, clear up the mystery and confusion hitherto surrounding the question of the first ascent.

Mr. H. V. READE said : I, like the reader of the paper, found the Col des Grands Montets rather more of an expedition than I expected. On the Montanvert side it was easy to lose the way below the glacier, and on the glacier my party had some step-cutting, and certainly required a rope.

Capt. J. P. FARRAR, at the invitation of the President, gave some particulars of the new expeditions in the Mont Blanc Range done last summer, fuller particulars of which will be found in this (the May) number of the JOURNAL.

The PRESIDENT said : If there is to be no more discussion on the paper, we have now only to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Done for his paper. It is a most interesting paper, and we shall certainly all agree with Sir Alexander Kennedy that it has been illustrated by some admirable slides, and we all offer Mr. Done our very hearty thanks for his paper and the slides he has shown us.

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

DEATH OF JOSEF LOCHMATTER

At the moment of going to press, we learn with very great regret, that this very well-known guide died of brain fever, at Brieg, on April 19. Aged about 40.

Particulars of his career will appear later.