

E. Feuz, Jr., earlier reports on which will be found in *A. A. J.* i, 410; iii, 220 and *C. A. J.* xxv, 116; xx, 138.

The Freshfield Glacier has retreated 2100 ft. since 1922. In that time the great boulder on the ice has advanced 1723 ft., being now 1478 ft. from the terminus. The line of numbered stones set out in 1922 is entirely off the ice. The stream from Coronation Mtn. now cuts across the snout of the glacier and forms a large lake, the main river emerging from the extreme eastern angle.

The Lyell Glacier has retreated 2500 ft. from Lake Moraine Station, with the rocks of which it was connected by an ice bridge in 1926. The terminal ice is now directly below the grassy gully leading to the bivouac from which the ascents of Mt. Forbes were made in 1939. The tongue now ends in a lake 300 ft. long, containing large stranded icebergs. It is believed that this lake will be a permanent feature. A cairn was built close to the stream on the N. lateral moraine in the line of the terminal ice.

From the S.E. angle of this lake, Glacier River emerges and shortly enters a second lake, shallow and 1050 ft. in length, the middle of its S. side receiving the stream from Mons Glacier. The latter tongue has retreated far up into its canyon.

The tongues of both Freshfield and Lyell Glaciers, in addition to their retreat, show correspondingly great lateral contraction and subsidence. This disappearance of ice is making the approaches to peaks of the region more difficult and less attractive than was the case a quarter of a century earlier.

J. M. T.

Traverse of the Mitre (East-West). On July 19, 1944, Peter Vallance and the writer made the ascent to the Mitre by the usual route, climbing unroped. Time from A.C.C. Camp., 2 h. 55 m.

We started descending by the large couloir to the S. to a point immediately above 50-ft. cliffs formed by a brown band of rock, which forms the "seat" of the "armchair." (Two buttresses jutting out in a southwesterly direction connected at the base by this 50-ft. rock band provide the semblance for the "chair"). A descent of these cliffs proved difficult as the lower twenty ft. are overhanging. No suitable belay could be found for rappelling. After lowering Vallance, I descended to a point about twenty ft. above the base of the cliffs and found it necessary to jump on to the snow-covered scree slope below. From this point we descended by a series of rock ledges to the top of the 500-ft. cliffs which skirt the base of the mountain from the E. face right around to the Lefroy-Mitre col. After considerable investigation a steep rock couloir on the S.W. face seemed the most likely route. There were, however, two points in the couloir which could not be seen from above. These subsequently proved to be overhangs and had it not been for the solid nature of the rock at these points, would have been impossible to

negotiate. The couloir was very steep; holds were small but good, and because of its steepness there was very little loose rock in the more difficult pitches. There were no suitable places for belaying, hence rappelling without pitons, which we lacked, was not possible. Vallance climbed down the full extent of the rope, and when a suitable stance was found, the writer followed. The couloir debouched at the extreme tip of the E. lateral moraine of the Horse-shoe Glacier.

This is a very exacting climb and should not be attempted by more than two in the party. Danger of falling rock and lack of suitable stances make it long and tedious. The descent was made in 5.5 h.

ERIC BROOKS

PURCELL RANGE

Sultana Pk. (10,500 ft.). 1944 first ascent by Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Richards. The mountain is one mile W. of Mt. Nelson, its N. glacier draining to Bruce Creek (*App.* xii, 360; map). It is the snow speak to the right in the lower illustration of *C. A. J.* xvii, facing p. 80, ascent being made over the E. ridge from the Nelson-Sultana col. Mts. Nelson and Delphine were also ascended from the same camp.

CASCADE RANGE

Accident on Mt. Baker. Mr. Burge Bickford sent to Mr. Norman Bright the following information, which was forwarded to the American Alpine Club:

Here are the facts regarding the Strathdee case as far as we know. Larry and Jack Schwabland [members of the Seattle Mountaineers] went in to climb Glacier Peak on the 18th and 19th of August, and then came out and headed for Mt. Baker. However, they failed to check in with the ranger. In order to save weight they did not carry sleeping-bags to their high camp. Mt. Baker from this side (Boulder Creek) is easy and has been climbed many times by average and less than average parties. However, this party was violating some of the most elementary rules: 1. Party of two instead of three; 2. No adult in the party, one aged 16, one aged 17; 3. Carried the rope but did not rope up.

When they arrived nearly at the top about noon, they had a choice of a hard way and an easy way. Larry insisted on going the hard way and Jack tried his best to discourage his route. As a matter of fact, Jack would not go the way Larry did and Larry went on alone. His route was up a steep ice sheet above a big schrund. He was unroped and was not cutting steps. He was using the army crampons, which are not as good as the Eckenstein pattern. Apparently Larry lost his footing and began to slide down