

there is a two-way divide (3200 ft.) to the Columbia, highest point on the road.

Mile 47. Bush River bridge, from which Mt. Sir Sandford is said to be visible. It is two miles to the Columbia at this point, almost opposite the mouth of Gold River. Trumpeter swan are found on the nearby Bush lakes.

Mile 51. Surprise Rapids. Mile 57. Swan Creek enters from the Selkirks and is a possible approach to the Adamant Group.

Mile 68.5. Sullivan River. Wide flats; glacier said to be 30 miles upstream, with retreat of 1500 ft. since 1918. This point is opposite Windy Creek in the Selkirks, where, according to E. Feuz, there is a peak higher than Trident.

Mile 71. Kinbasket Lake, a widening of the river. Mile 72. Middle River enters the lake. Trappers say it takes two days to reach an ice tongue 10 miles in length. Mile 75. Trident Peak is seen across the lake. Mile 76. Tsar Creek, which trappers (despite the map) say is non-glacial, enters Kinbasket Lake at its lower end.

Mile 79.5. On the Selkirk side there are many waterfalls, with ice descending below timberline and Mt. Chapman rising above. Mile 84. Cummins River. Mile 93. Red Canyon of the Columbia.

Mile 95. Steel bridge across Columbia just below position of old cable ferry. 200 yards above bridge an old lumber road leads to a cabin at Wood River and a bridge to the point of land between it and Canoe River. This is the historic site of Boat Encampment, where the trail from Athabaska Pass reached the Columbia. It consists of huge stands of cedar and other fine timber, but no ancient blazes or cuttings could be discovered.

J. M. T.

PURCELL RANGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Bugaboo Group. A Sierra Club party composed of E. Koskinen, F. Lippman and J. Pionteki made the second ascent of the S. Tower of Howser Spire in August, 1941, on the day following the first ascent made by members of the Seattle Mountaineers (*A.A.J.* iv, 422). The Sierra group also ascended the main Howser Spire and made the second ascent of Snowpatch Spire. On the latter they followed closely the Bedayan-Arnold route of 1940 (*A.A.J.* iv, 219), except for a deviation to the right above the Vein Pitch to a sloping crack with a 120-ft. lead in it. Climbing time to summit was 6 hrs.

WHITE MOUNTAINS

Mt. Washington. The summer of 1942 marks the 300th anniversary of the first ascent of Mt. Washington by Darby Field. Looking for a route to the fur country, which was enriching the traders of Quebec, he had gone up the Saco River, climbing the

highest mountain, which the Indians called "Agiocook," and which the white men would later call Mt. Washington. In 1869 Marsh completed the railroad up the western slope, and *Peppersass*, the engine, pushed its first load of passengers to the summit.

MEXICO

In view of various articles on the Mexican volcanoes in the *American Alpine Journal*, the following data, not readily accessible, may be of interest:

Orizaba. The Aztec name "Citlaltepētēl" or "Star Mountain" is connected with the legend that the body of the serpent god Quetzalcóatl was consumed by divine fire in the crater of the mountain.

The first ascent was made in 1848 by Lieut. William F. Reynolds, accompanied by Maynard and several soldiers, during the occupation of Puebla by General Scott's army. They left an American flag on the summit with the date carved on the staff, which was found by a Frenchman, A. Daignon, in 1851.

The last eruptive period was 1545-66, and the volcano is now considered to be extinct, although Humboldt records that smoke was seen issuing from its summit as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Orizaba was first measured in 1796 by Ferrer, by means of angles taken from the Encero, with a resulting figure of 17,879 ft. for the elevation. Humboldt, early in 1804, measuring from the plain near Jalapa, obtained a figure of only 17,375 ft. No carefully conducted measurement was made thereafter until 1877, when a Mexican scientific commission, composed of Plowes, Rodriguea and Vigil, made an ascent from San Andres and secured a figure of 17,664 ft. Ferrer's figure was generally accepted until Dr. Kaska's determination with mercurial barometer, almost a century later, increased it to 18,045 ft.

In April, 1890, Prof. Angelo Heilprin (1853-1907), later a member of the American Alpine Club and its first vice-president, led an expedition from Philadelphia whose purpose was to examine the physical features of the great volcanoes, with special reference to the vertical distribution of animal and vegetable forms. Within three weeks he ascended Orizaba, Popocatepetl, Ixtaccihuatl and Nevado de Toluca, making numerous measurements of altitude with a registered aneroid, tested and corrected at Philadelphia, at the sea level of Vera Cruz and at the observatory of Mexico City.

The results were published in the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, xlii (1890), 251. Heilprin's figure for Orizaba was 18,205 ft., and this elevation was then thought to be the loftiest in North America, since it was believed