

than Conrad Kain was that this would not go, but we were still sure that we must go to the right. The corner behind looked hopeful, and I climbed up onto a flake and from there to two small ledges on a vertical face. The gendarme now towered on my left, forming a square corner with the face on which I stood. In this corner, about 7 or 8 ft. up, several rocks projected. These appeared quite loose but tested firm. About 10 ft. above was a broad ledge.

"Using the projecting rocks as handholds, and with my feet against the gendarme in a sort of modified layback, I worked my way up until I could reach the platform and haul myself over. A 10-ft. pitch above this brought us out on the ridge, where we discovered a piton and several rope slings. We had climbed up where more sensible people rope down!

"This is the most difficult pitch I have seen in the Canadian mountains and compares with the best of the British rock climbs. I did not get a chance to return and compare this route with the line usually followed, but from descriptions it sounds as if the latter is more delicate and possibly hardly justifiable in view of the exposure and lack of support from the rope."

*Howser Spire: New Routes.* On 23 July 1946 F. D. Ayres, J. C. Oberlin, Edward Little and D. M. Woods climbed Howser Spire (10,950 ft.) by a new route. From a bivouac at the foot of the W. ridge of Pigeon Spire, they left at 5.30 A.M.; and they made good time across the snow slopes to the base of the very large bergschrund of the E. face. They easily crossed this bergschrund and climbed the rock of the N. E. ridge to its crest, a distance of 200 ft. The snow crest of this ridge was then followed for 600 ft., an extremely steep, narrow and corniced snow ridge. Woods led to the spot where the snow ridge ended in a dark rock tower that forms part of the main ridge. Ayres led from this point on. The face of this tower was ascended, with two difficult pitches requiring pitons for safety. The difficult rock climbing was for a distance of 150 ft. A series of snow-covered ledges and chimneys now led to the main ridge, which was followed without difficulty except at a very large gendarme, passed to the left (E.). The ridge from here to the summit, although spectacular, was quite easy. The summit was reached at 3.30. No record was visible. Descent was by the same route, with two long rappels—one at the gendarme on the main ridge, and the other down the rock tower to the top of the steep snow slope. Each rappel required the two 120-ft. nylon ropes tied together. The snow on the ridge was unconsolidated, and the descent was made slowly with belays. The party arrived at their bivouac at 10 P.M.

On 24 July 1946 Rex Gibson led Tom Johnston, Dave Wessel, Alan Styles, Ethne Gale and Margaret Finlay on another new route on Howser Spire. They camped on a bench several

hundred feet above the "Boulder Camp," left at 4.45 A.M. and went via Snowpatch-Bugaboo col directly to the N. ridge of Howser Spire. They ascended steep snow slopes, traversed around to the W. face of the N. Peak and reached the summit ridge by a 20-ft. wet chimney climb. They were four hours on the ridge, including passage of the big gendarme, and reached the summit at 2.05. Their descent was by the same route, with a rappel down the cliffs to the N. of the wet chimney. They reached camp at 8.30 P.M.

D. M. W.

*Taurus Peak: First Ascent.* At 7 P.M., on 26 July 1946, Edward Little, Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy and A. C. Fabergé left the main A.C.C. camp for several days to attempt the first ascent of Taurus Peak (10,000 ft.), several miles S. of Bugaboo Pass. They made the ascent and returned to camp on July 29th. They found the going fairly easy, but said that the trek over to Taurus was long. Details will appear in the next issue of the *C. A. J.*

D. M. W.

*Purcell Range of British Columbia.* The Department of Lands, Victoria, B. C., issued in 1943 a new map which has just become available to the public: 4G Windermere (two miles to one inch, uncountoured). To mountaineers its chief interest will be in the section between Horsethief and Findlay Creeks, but unfortunately it covers only a short stretch of the main watershed and does not extend far enough westward to include Farnham Creek or the Lake of the Hanging Glaciers.

Among the higher mountains, the following are indicated: Mt. Slade, Mt. Farnham, Mt. Delphine, Mt. Peter, Nelson Peak, Monument Peak and Coppercrown Mountain.

A portion of the watershed between Dutch and Farnham Creeks contains the following new names, which apparently may now be considered official: Saffron Peak, Mt. Rowand, Trikootenay Peak, Mt. Morigeau. St. Maur Mountain appears between Dutch and Findlay Creeks.

All elevations agree with those presented in my *Purcell Range of British Columbia* (1946).

The companion map, 4F Lardeau, is soon to be issued on the same basis. It will cover the remaining major portion of the Purcell watershed, and should be watched for with interest.

J. M. T.

*Mt. Kerkeslin: First Ascent by W. Face and First Traverse.* The second ascent of Mt. Kerkeslin (9790 ft.) was made on 8 July 1946, from about Milepost 22 on the Jasper-Banff highway, about one mile and a half S. of Athabaska Falls. E. R. Gibson and R. C. Hind ascended a stream bed, which developed into a canyon, until it seemed advisable to climb out on the N. or true