

Blanche and the Grand Cornier which the creators of that Col assigned to it in 1864, *viz.*, the 'Col du Grand Cornier,' and of the recognition of the name of 'Col de la Dent Blanche' for the Col between the Dent Blanche and the Pointe de Zinal.

The Swiss Alpine Club map calls the Col between the Dent Blanche and the Grand Cornier 'Col du Grand Cornier (Dent Blanche),' and the Siegfried Map polishes off the name 'Col du Grand Cornier' from it entirely, by calling it 'Col de la Dent Blanche' pure and simple, in 1892. Dufour's—Swiss Federal—Map, in Blatt XXII, styles the Col between the Trifthorn and the peak marked 3540 by giving it the name of 'Col de Zinal o. Triftjoch.'

Bear in mind also that the English Alpine Club Map calls the Col between the Mt. Durand and the Pointe de Zinal by the name of 'Col de la Dent Blanche,' whereas the Dent Blanche is *not* the peak immediately on *either* side of that Col (the Mt. Durand being on the E. side of it and the Pointe de Zinal on the W.), and I think you will fully, then, realize altogether the *pot pourri* of confusion which ranges all around the district referred to, as regards the nomenclature of its passes.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. T. WETHERED.

[I will take care that this correspondence is seen by the Swiss Topographical Service. Mr. Wethered must for the moment be satisfied that they have in their latest map left the Col at the E. of the Dent Blanche without any name. This may be the first step towards the resumption of the old nomenclature which he advocates which such refreshing enthusiasm.—J. P. F.]

BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE, VOL. II., PART 2.—Mr. Broke reports that the whole of the text of this Volume was in paged proof by the middle of April, and that he then began the arduous task of the Index. This, together with the final revise, preface, etc., will take at least two months, and possibly more, but he hopes that the Volume may be finally complete for publication during the month of July.

'ALPINE JOURNAL' xxv. 443, line 13 from bottom, for 'sly humour' read 'dry humour.'

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, February 7, 1911, at 8.30, Sir Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., K.C., *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. Freeman Allen, A. M. Kellas, Victor von Leyden, J. D. Patterson and Erhard Schiess were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT : I much regret to say that since our last meeting four eminent members of the Club have passed away. By the death of Mr. A. P. Whately, we have lost one of the oldest members on our books. He joined the Club in 1858, was one of the earlier members of its Committee, and in 1861 succeeded Hinchliff in the important post of Honorary Secretary. He also contributed to Ball's Guide. He was eighty-one when he died, but even so it is sad when, as time flows on, these old links are severed. We have also suffered a grievous loss in the death of Mr. Hereford B. George, one of the earlier members of the Club and a very distinguished mountaineer. He had the good fortune to secure the services of that invaluable and incomparable guide, Christian Almer, in the prime of his skill, and with him accomplished for the first time three or four of the finest snow and ice expeditions ever made in the Alps. With Almer he was of the party which made the first passage of the Jungfrauoch ; he, also in 1862, made with him the first passages of the Sesiajoch, of the Col de la Tour Noire, and of the Finsteraarjoch, as well as the first ascent of the Gross-Viescherhorn, while in 1865 under Almer's leadership he made with Sir George Young the first ascent of the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp.

Mr. George was also the first editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL, and established for that publication a standard of good taste, literary merit, and accuracy which has been worthily followed and maintained under later editors. He founded—and this appeals to me almost beyond all his other great merits—the Oxford Alpine Club, that excellent nucleus and recruiting ground for this its parent Club. He was always specially associated in the minds of all Oxford mountaineers with that Club. It is pleasant to me now to recall that almost the first letter of congratulation which I received when you did me the honour of nominating me to this chair was from him, reminding me of the sacred duty of the President of the Alpine Club to stay with him at New College over the annual summer dinner of the Oxford Alpine Club. I am glad to see that there are here to-night others who are even older friends of Mr. George than I am, and who will no doubt wish to add something to this imperfect tribute to his memory.

We have lost also, most suddenly and unexpectedly, Mr. Christopher James, who both in this Club and outside of it possessed a circle of very devoted friends. No man of his time was more respected and beloved by his colleagues of the Equity Bar, and it will be long before his memory fades in Lincoln's Inn, of which Honourable Society he had been for many years a Bencher. He was elected a member of the Club in 1874, and was, between 1870 and 1880, a mountaineer of considerable enterprise and distinction, visiting more than once the Eastern Alps (which were then little frequented by English mountaineers) as well as their more familiar Swiss neighbours.

Lastly Mr. Alfred Puckle, who joined the Club in 1873, has passed away at the age of seventy-five. He had not been much at the Club lately, but had always kept up his interest in it. He was at one time a very active mountaineer and established, in an expedition of the highest merit, what is now the generally followed route up the Dom from Saas.

Another death has occurred which deserves mention in this room, for, although the victim was not himself a member of the Club, he was well and favourably known to many of us. A few days ago a very brave and competent guide, Louis Theytaz of the Val d'Anniviers, had the misfortune to lose his life through a ski-ing accident, on the Pigne d'Arolla. Full details of this lamentable occurrence have not yet been received.

Mr. PRICKARD : As a very old friend and colleague of Mr. George I will add a word or two to what the President has said. My earliest memories go back to the days of his memorable expeditions. Two things struck me in connexion with the Oxford Alpine Club—his immense geographical knowledge of the Alps was always at the service of the younger members, and he was singularly able to attach and to retain old friends, such as C. E. Mathews, Horace Walker and Miss Walker, Christian Almer and others. There are many here to whom his figure was not so well known as to the older members of the Club. I should like to say what a dignified and respected old age he lived, full of activities, trusted very much by his College circle, and ever continuing to gather younger men round him for very various interests. During his latter years he brought out a memorable book on military history. He was in temperament and bearing a somewhat impatient man, but only when he felt that people came short of his own high standard of duty.

Mr. FRESHFIELD : I have little to add to what has been well said by the President and by Mr. Prickard. Those of us who knew Mr. George as a young man recognised that as he grew older he became more and more genial and friendly and anxious not only to keep up the old Alpine links but to create new ones with a younger generation. In his work 'The Oberland and its Glaciers (1866)' he was among the first in this country to use photographs for book illustration. I may be allowed to mention that another distinguished man has passed away in a ripe old age, who, though not a member of the Alpine Club at the time of his death, was for some years a member, Sir Francis Galton. He took some part in the early travels in the high Alps, and wrote a note in the ALPINE JOURNAL on the avalanches of the Jungfrau: he travelled and climbed in the Pyrenees, and there he was struck with the sleeping-bags used by the shepherds. Galton's Sleeping-bag, with some improvements suggested by Mr. F. F. Tuckett, is what we all now use on distant expeditions.

Mr. C. SCHUSTER: I would like to add one word about Mr. George. He was my tutor, and to me, and to many others who since became members of the Club, he was the oldest friend we had in the Club. He endeavoured to keep Oxford close to this Club. This Club owes him a great debt for that generation of members who have been associated with him in this way.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. George had left to the Club a drawing by Mr. A. Adams-Reilly.

Dr. W. INGLIS CLARK read a paper entitled 'Some Climbs in Tyrol, illustrated by photographs in natural colours.'

Mr. SHEA: The same change has taken place in Tyrol as at Zermatt compared with twenty years ago. I knew Tyrol seven years before Dr. Clark. To see what remains of primitive Tyrol, you must go as soon as possible.

Mr. FRESHFIELD narrated some incidents illustrating the primitive character of Tyrol when he climbed there with Mr. Tuckett in 1865. He believed that travellers who disliked a crowd, and roped and marked paths, might still find refuge in some parts of Italian Tyrol. He asked if the Brenta Group was among those overcrowded.

Mr. E. R. CLARKE said he was astonished to see what results could be obtained by colour photography. He knew that there were many valleys in Tyrol which were still quite quiet, if one kept off the parts reached by the northern railways.

Mr. SYMONS said that in 1904 he found places quite unspoilt, especially towards Italy.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry that no members have made any observations with regard to the scientific aspects of the wonderful process which has just been shown to us. We are all of us however capable of appreciating its artistic merits, and are, I am sure, extremely grateful to the lecturer for the extraordinarily beautiful display of natural colour-photographs to which he has treated us. I beg to move a most hearty vote of thanks to him.

This was unanimously carried.

Dr. INGLIS CLARK: South of Cadore and in the Brenta group there are still many unspoilt valleys. For these colour slides, I think that the autochrome process is the most accurate. As regards the length of life, I have used the plates a year old and found them thoroughly good.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, March 7, at 8.30 P.M., Sir Edward Davidson, *President*, in the chair.

Dr. T. G. LONGSTAFF read a paper on 'The Saltoro Pass and Beyond,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Dr. STEIN said that he had been across the Karakorams, but it was only being carried after he had been frost-bitten in the Kun-lun.

He already knew Dr. Longstaff's work from the excellent paper that he had read before the Royal Geographical Society. In that part of the world, as Dr. Longstaff had truly said, everything was on a larger scale than one was accustomed to elsewhere, and he thought that one's love for the country was also on a larger scale. There were a number of points in the paper which had deeply interested him. Geologists he thought had much to learn from observations on glaciers and their supposed action. Dr. Longstaff's remarks agreed absolutely with his own observations on the Kun-lun and the Nanshan. There was a local tradition about the Saloro Pass having once given access to Chinese Turkestan. This tradition deserved attention, as it had been recorded by early European travellers and still subsisted among a population which was not given to reading books of any sort. He had many experiences as to the disuse into which passes might fall in those regions. Their abandonment need by no means be always due to a change in physical conditions. Those high glacier passes have always been dreaded by the people near as dangerous; but there were dangers which in the old days people dreaded even more—their enemies. And the risk of enemies often forced people to make use of a pass they would not otherwise think of attempting. He had himself known of a pass of 20,000 feet in the Kun-lun, now quite abandoned, being used at different historical periods when political conditions prevented the use of the ordinary route across the Karakoram. He had been glad to hear the speaker say that the Baltis made good coolies. Years ago he himself had an experience of that. They combined pluck and endurance, but required careful treatment; for they were physically not as strong as some hill tribes in the Hindu Kush immediately to the west. Before he had made Dr. Longstaff's acquaintance, he had heard him spoken of in India as an admirable power for making coolies go in difficult places. He had been glad to hear Dr. Longstaff refer to the early European pioneers in those parts who had over-run those regions with remarkable rapidity. Moorcroft, Vigne, Strachey, and Hayward had explored much and told their story with great modesty. The Survey of India's work there under Colonels Godwin-Austen and Montgomerie was only now being slowly appreciated at its full value. Native surveyors trained by the Survey of India would, he believed, be always available for any members of the Alpine Club who may follow in the footsteps of Dr. Longstaff, provided there was an intention of giving them a fair chance of work on interesting ground. He himself had found them always most willing to attempt high peaks for Survey work. He was convinced that 27,000 feet would turn out to be too low an estimate for the great peak first discovered by Dr. Longstaff. He wished to add his hearty admiration for the excellent work done, which had been so modestly described, and for the magnificent slides shown.

The PRESIDENT : It is my pleasant duty to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Longstaff for the excellent and interesting description of his exploration which he has given us, illustrated as it has been by very beautiful lantern slides. I think that his observations merit fuller discussion, but unfortunately we have few Himalayan explorers here to-night. I cannot help thinking that the native chief of the lecturer's staff, who moved on the recalcitrant coolies by the singular but effective method of expectorating in their ears must have been a near relation of the Grand Lama of Tibet. I regret that Dr. Longstaff's original estimate of the probable height of the grand mountain which he saw in the far distance, viz. 30,000 feet, should have been so belittled by further investigation. We all of us hope, however, that Dr. Longstaff will be able to make the first ascent of it some day, though it be *only* 27,000 feet in height! A person like myself, who has never had the good fortune to go beyond the ordinary mountains of Europe, is apt to compare the views of other mountains with what he has seen in Switzerland and elsewhere in the Alps, and I have been—to compare great things with small—much struck with the resemblance of some of the peaks in these pictures to the forms of the Aiguilles at Chamonix. Those of us who cannot go so far afield must take our pleasure in the accounts of those who can, and from that point of view also, we heartily congratulate Dr. Longstaff on the great deeds he has already done and hope that in the future he will do still greater things.

Dr. LONGSTAFF : Dr. Stein has spoken about the Saloro Pass having probably been used. I omitted to say that before we came to our second camp, we were given a name by the coolies, 'Alibransa.' When we got to the camp there was nothing but a very steep slope of stones, but on the next day about a quarter of a mile further on, there was a recess at the side of the glacier with three semicircles of stones made by men. They never take goats or other animals there, those circles could only be used by people who crossed the pass. I am very glad that Dr. Stein appreciated my references to the early explorers, for they gave us a very wonderful knowledge of that country and did not get much for it. It is uncertain if Moorcroft died in Afghanistan or was murdered in Lhasa. I do not think that a more veracious or competent traveller existed. Strachey made many of Sven Hedin's discoveries long before Sven Hedin was born, and is still alive. As regards the height of Teramkangri there is no scientific way of determining the height of any high mountain. As to the estimated height, I have given my observations to the Survey at Dehra Dun, who pointed out the most likely errors.

A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Longstaff closed the proceedings.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, April 4, at 8.30, Sir Edward Davidson, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. R. C. Ashby, R. P. Bicknell and P. J. de Carteret were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry to say that since we last met we have lost two very old members of the Club. Mr. R. Spence Watson, who was elected in 1862, was not probably associated in your minds with any record-making ascents, but he loved the Alps very dearly and went there every year for many years. The last time I met him in the Alps was about three years ago when he stayed for some time at the Riffelalp. He distinguished himself much in other branches of life not associated with this Club, especially in the field of politics. He was a man of very sincere convictions to which he consistently adhered through good and evil report; and opponents and friends alike rejoiced when towards the end of his days the great honour of membership of His Majesty's Privy Council was conferred upon him. The other member who has passed away was Mr. Philip Gosset, elected in 1859. He had a miraculous escape in February 1864 from a sudden and terrible death in the avalanche on the Haut de Cry in which Johann Josef Bennen, the well-known and favourite guide of the late Professor Tyndall, lost his life. He was always an active member of this Club and also of the Swiss Alpine Club, and his loss will be deeply felt.

The HONORARY SECRETARY presented the accounts for 1910, which were unanimously adopted.

Mr. H. O. JONES read a paper entitled 'Some Climbs on the South Side of Mont Blanc,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Dr. CLAUDE WILSON: The region near Courmayeur has always been one of my favourite districts in the Alps. It is not so popular as many others, and one generally has the huts to oneself. But many expeditions can be made without sleeping out, and I trust no fresh huts will be built if the district should become popular. There are many expeditions both major and minor to be made from Courmayeur. The Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret traverse is one of the finest of the former and there are plenty of small climbs, as on the Triolet—every ridge from the Courmayeur Valley affording various expeditions. I think that some members of the party, of which I have been one, have been on all those ridges, and many of them are practically unknown to the local guides. Perhaps the most interesting of all is Gruetta, on the east face of which there is a mass of black rock so steep as to be quite free from snow even in a year like last. So vast a mass of smooth black cliff is unmatched in the Alps, so far as I know. I have no doubt new climbs will be made there; certainly new attempts. Hardly anyone knows anything about this mountain, but we went there last summer and made two expeditions. Though we have often been to Courmayeur, the only year we made full use of it was in 1904 when Wicks,

Bradby and I kept a complete kit at the Montanvert and one at Courmayeur. We crossed the chain by six different routes and made many other expeditions. On none of these occasions did we need to sleep out. We crossed to the Montanvert by the Col de Miage, and we crossed the Col de la Brenva without sleeping out, to the Grands Mulets. I have never seen photographs more interesting to me than those of the difficult bit near the top of the Col de la Brenva. We did not go up through the séracs, as all previous parties had done: there was no possible way through them, and we went below them to the right: a most difficult piece of ice-work. This is doubtless the wrong way in most years, but we went because we had to; otherwise we should not have got over, and it was too late to turn back. I had no idea that Mr. Jones had so splendid a series of photographs. I have never seen pictures of many of these places before. They are unique views.

Captain FARRAR: I have listened with great interest to the paper. It is said that there is not much done from Courmayeur. There are two reasons for that. There is a very good hotel there and the expeditions are very long, and the two things do not agree. Mr. Jones said that sleeping out on the way down rather implies a want of finish. I have slept out many times and I think that it means a determination to finish. His account of the ascent of the Aiguille Blanche takes me back many years to the second ascent which I made in 1893 with Maquignaz.

Mr. BROOME said that many had had delightful expeditions in the district and he could himself tell of many, but he thought that probably no one in the room knew the district better than the President.

Mr. C. PILKINGTON: The last time I was at Courmayeur I saw Mr. Wilson's party starting on an expedition in the evening to climb through the night. That is how he avoids sleeping out.* They said they like climbing at night. My experience of the south side of Mont Blanc goes a long way back, but it is smaller than it ought to be because of the bad weather I, like so many others, have experienced there. It is a magnificent district.

Mr. SCHUSTER: I met Mr. Jones at the Géant hut in August 1910, and he assured me that the Quintino Sella hut was his favourite in the Alps and he had often been there, and that the hut was convenient and was in a good condition. We walked slowly up till we had to scramble rapidly over the stones towards the end because a storm came on. We reached the hut. We found a great hole in the roof through which the rain came in.

Dr. TEMPEST ANDERSON: I should like to say a word about the fog-bows. It is a curious coincidence that I have seen at the Col du Géant not a bow and not a circle but a sinuous rainbow

* The earliest start we ever made was 8.20 P.M. We were probably starting for the Col du Géant.—C. W.

below the summit of Mont Blanc, in quite a thin cloud of ice-particles, and the spectrum colours were extremely bright, more than in a Brocken spectre, and in a sinuous line irregularly varying from time to time during the quarter of an hour that I watched it.

Mr. MORSE: The only time that I have seen a circular rainbow was on the Meije. There was a whole circle of the rainbow, but in it we were not visible as in the Brocken which belongs to fog.

The PRESIDENT: I did not expect to be called upon to give my reminiscences of a district many of which are now so ancient that I have nearly forgotten them. One, however, that I recall goes back to 1878 when we made the first descent of the Italian side of Mont Blanc by the Rocher du Mont Blanc which was then known as the 'Aiguilles Grises' or Kennedy route. It was a terribly hot and cloudless day and in the descent we became involved in a tremendous fall of stones. This had one good effect—in expediting our movements—so that in four hours from the top of Mont Blanc we reached the old hut. It was an unwise proceeding and one that I do not take any pride in now. Another interesting expedition, also in 1878, was the second passage of the Col Dolent and the first from the Argentière to the Courmayeur side. Instead of following the ice couloir all the way up—an endless piece of step-cutting—Laurent Lanier found a way up the steep rocks on the right side (proper) of the couloir, and established the route which has since been followed on the few occasions on which the pass has been crossed. I need hardly also say that I made the usual (possibly it was the first) attempt of the young and ambitious on the Grandes Jorasses from the Col des Hirondelles—and with the usual result.

We also ascended one or two nameless but virgin pinnacles on the ridge to the immediate East of the Col de Talèfre* under the mistaken impression that the Aiguille of that name was where at any rate it is not now. Most of the other new expeditions I have made in the Mont Blanc range (such as the first ascents of Mont Maudit and of the Cardinal) were on the Northern side of the range and seem scarcely germane to the special subject of this paper. The expeditions made by Dr. Wilson's party and by Mr. Jones are of the highest value. I hope that they will be continued in years to come. I am not sorry that Mr. Jones did not make the first passage of the Colle Emilio Rey, and I hope he will not make the second either; for it seems to be one of the most dangerous expeditions to be found in the Alps or elsewhere. I happened to be reading an account of it a little while ago and gathered that the party who accomplished it had to sleep out no less than three nights

* One of these was, I think, the point marked 3679 on the Imfeld-Kurz map of the chain of Mont Blanc, 1876.

during the passage of the Col and that the continuous falls of stones made them begin trying to sleep out under overhanging rocks at 12 o'clock in the day. Is the game worth the Alpine lantern? We owe a great deal to members of the Club such as Messrs. Wilson, Bradby, and Jones for investigating these recondite peaks and ridges and with or without guides accomplishing climbs which at any time would be considered remarkable. It is my pleasant duty to propose a hearty vote of thanks for the admirable paper read and the exhibition of beautiful and novel views which accompanied it.

A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Jones, who briefly replied and the proceedings terminated.