

23rd September. Descend W. side of Lhonak Gl. to near Chorten Nima La Cirque.

24th September. Ascend to near Chorten Nima La. Stormy.

25th September. Camp at bottom of Thé La.

26th September. Cross Thé La (16,750 ft.) and cross near Tangchung La (camp, 15,600 ft.)

27th September. Cross Tangchung La (16,300 ft.) and ascend Zemu Gl. until opposite Little Siniolchum.

28th September. Ascend Tent Pk. glacier, and camp opposite affluent from Nepal Gap.

29th September. Attempt Nepal Gap. Reach 20,000 ft., but driven back by a snowstorm, which forced a rapid retreat to Green Lake.

30th September. Snowed all night of 29th, and all day of 30th.

1st October. Snow over 2 ft. deep, and still snowing steadily. (Coolies, who should have come up on preceding day from Lachen with provisions had turned back.) Rapid retreat to end of Zemu Glacier. Snow diminished in depth after 6 miles.

2nd October. Camp at confluence of Lonach Chu and Zemu.

3rd October. Thango.

6th October. Giagong.

7th October. Tso Lhamo.

8th October. Camp on Pawhunri (19,300 ft.).

9th October. Ascend Pawhunri to 23,000 ft. Forced to retreat after sunset by deep snow and high wind. Reach camp after dark.

10th October. Recross Donkia La and reach Moma Samdung (double march).

11th October. Lachung (double march).

12th October. Chungthang.

13th October. Darjeeling.

MAPS OF THE ALPS OF NEW ZEALAND.

IN acknowledging the maps which, as stated in 'A.J.' xxxiv. 295 seq., had been presented to the Club by the Surveyor-General of New Zealand, I wrote to Mr. Harper :

'Many thanks for your letters of January 16 and 26. The maps have since arrived, and I enclose a formal letter of thanks to the Surveyor-General. . . .

‘Of, course, I know we can always rely upon your goodwill in all matters concerning the Club.

‘I am printing in full in the next JOURNAL the whole of your notes, except the notes endorsed on the maps themselves, but I have drawn attention to these endorsements.

‘Of course, from a mountaineer’s point of view, the maps are rather primitive, and I was surprised to see how very much rough country you have, part of which is still unexplored.

‘I imagine that your Surveyor-General is very limited for funds, and that there is thus no prospect of working the available material up into better maps.

‘The Swiss, no doubt, helped greatly by their magnificent mountain maps to build up their tourist business, but, of course, they had the whole of Europe as customers, so that the expense was justified. They, no doubt, hold the palm for map-making over every nation in the world. . . .’

I have now received the following interesting explanation.

J. P. F.

‘DEAR FARRAR,—Your criticism of our maps is quite just, they are certainly “rather primitive from the mountaineer’s point of view,” but when you realise the facts you will, I think, admit that these maps are really very creditable to our Survey Department.

‘You express surprise at the extent of rough country we have, though the maps I sent you only show a small part of it. As a matter of fact, the sheets only take in the main chain. From the extreme S. up to Aspiring is a very large tract of exceptionally rough mountainous country running up to about 8000 ft., and for 3500 ft. covered with very dense forest. In the latitude covered by the sheets I sent, the rough country extends to the E. of the areas shown—this is open but very rugged country and just below the snow line, running up to about 6600 ft. N. of Harper’s Pass, again, the mountain areas, reaching 6000 ft., spread out still further, and are also heavily timbered, except the Karkouva Range, which reaches nearly 10,000 ft.; and though this is open country it is extraordinarily rough. Even in the North Island there are extensive areas of mountainous country touching 5000 ft., and, like the W. coast of the South Island, it is heavily timbered (except in a few localities). Much of this has now been cleared and settled, but much is still in its natural state. . . .’

‘In such circumstances you will see that the first triangulation over both Islands would fix the main features, this would be followed by reconnaissance surveys and explorations such as mine and Douglas’s, filling in the main courses of rivers and valleys, and thus getting a map of the country on a broad basis, leaving minor details to be filled in. Then as settlement advanced and properties are arranged, the traversing of boundary lines would fill in the minor details on those lines. Thus, in the ordinary course, outside

the settled districts the Government have not been able to devote much attention to topographical details, as there was little practical use in so doing.

‘ You refer to Swiss maps and tourist traffic, and you show that you realise our distance from populous centres; but you must also realise that we have *more than ample* fine scenery already opened up for our tourists, without going off the beaten tracks, therefore a closer survey of many localities would not help the ordinary tourist traffic. Maps of the localities favoured by tourists are quite good enough for 95 per cent. of those who come, and the best maps in the world of these or others equally attractive would not bring appreciably more visitors than we have now.

‘ What we do want, and the N.Z.A.C. is advocating this, is better facilities of travel and better exploitation of the tourist centres already open. As a matter of fact, to put it shortly, we have, out here, more than one Switzerland, and from our distance away only a very small number of travellers to show them to!

‘ As far as exploration is concerned there are some small areas in the South Island really unexplored; but these are not snow and ice country, parties are working in them, but they would not attract the alpine man very much. The main alpine districts, practically every glacier and river, had been traversed and explored by 1895, but minor topographical details had not, and still have not, been recorded on maps. We have much of this information in hand to record, as a result of voluntary work, and I am glad to say that Government is about to compile a new map of the central portion of the Alps to record these details and bring it up to date. I have been asked to help on this, and we shall get others as well. . . .

‘ Excuse this long screed, which I hope will justify in your mind our “somewhat primitive” alpine maps!

‘ Yours sincerely,

‘ ARTHUR P. HARPER.

‘ Wellington Club, Wellington, New Zealand,
May 22, 1922.’

AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE Third Dinner of the Association was held on May 6, 1922, at the Harvard Club in Boston, members present being: Messrs. Charles E. Fay, Freeman Allen, Allston Burr, J. Ellis Fisher, Howard Palmer, J. Duke Smith, and H. B. de Villiers-Schwab, with the guests: Messrs. Allen Carpe, Henry S. Hall, jun., Alonso R. Weed, George M. Weed, and George N. Whipple.

In the absence of Mr. William Williams, Prof. Charles E. Fay occupied the chair. The Chairman spoke a few words in memory of the late President of the Club, Lord Bryce, following which everyone rose for a moment in silent respect. The present officers

of the Association were unanimously re-elected, and the Secretary announced the election of Lt.-Col. W. W. Foster (Vancouver), Messrs. Howard Palmer, J. Duke Smith, H. O. Frind and Dr. W. Hunter Workman.

Mr. J. Ellis Fisher then showed slides dealing first with the Wellenkuppe-Obergabelhorn-Arbengrat traverse, and the Z'Mutt and Italian routes of the Matterhorn; then with numerous climbs amongst the Chamonix Aiguilles, including the Géant, Requin, Charmoz, Verte, and d'Argentière, the routes being described in interesting detail. In conclusion, some slides of several climbs around Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies were shown.

The Secretary also showed slides from the Wildstrubel to the Sustenhorn, including the ascent of the Finsteraarhorn by the Agassizjoch from Schwarzegg, the traverse of the Balmhorn, ascent by the Wildsigengrat, descent by the entire Gizzigrat, and an unsuccessful attempt on the Ochs from the Strahlegg Hut.

Informal discussion followed the lectures, and the Dinner broke up about 11.45 P.M.

H. B. DE VILLIERS-SCHWAB,
Hon. Sec.

ABBOT NICHOLAS ON THE ALPS.

BY W. P. KER.

[Read before the Alpine Club, April 8, 1922.]

AN invitation to read a paper to the Alpine Club is too great an honour to be declined. It is also a great danger; many peaks, passes, and glaciers are less troublesome. But the subject I have taken is good enough, if the Icelandic Itinerary from Norway to Rome and Jerusalem be as Mr. Coolidge describes it, the first Swiss Guide-book. What it tells directly about the Alps is not very much; the whole thing is no more than ten pages. But it has its own character, and it is pleasant enough to follow the pilgrims' road, the path to Rome, over 'Mundióþjall,' the Fell of Mont Jou.

Nicholas was a monk of the order of St. Benedict; the first Abbot of the monastery founded at Thverá in the N. of Iceland in 1155. His travels were earlier: he came back to Iceland in 1154. He is described in the note at the end of his work: 'This road-book and guide to towns, with all the information it contains, is written on the report of Abbot Nicholas, a man of wisdom, well renowned, ready of wit, rich in learning, tried