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Exploration in the Rocky Mountains North of the Yellowhead Pass: Discussion

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trunks of the pines, festooned with moss, were lit up by the last rays of the sun and the mysterious forest darkened by contrast. A faint evening breeze sighed through the upper branches of the pines; we were alone in a new land, and it was a good land. The Canadian Rockies can give much to those who love the sunshine, the fresh air, and a country as yet unspoiled by man.

But it was high time for us to go, we had put off the evil day when we had to start on the home trail to the very last moment, and had calculated to a day how long it should take us. We should have to travel rain or shine, and we therefore hoped for fine weather, for a dripping pine forest is good neither for men nor baggage, and to camp in the evening wet through in a swamp is to say the least dismal. Fortunately, we were treated very much better than in 1910, when we made our way from the Smoky river and down the Stoney river through a series of snow-storms. From the day we left Mount Bess till we went on board the cars of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway not a drop of rain fell. The summer of 1911 in the mountains was certainly a very open one; it was the only summer out of six that I have spent in the Rocky mountains when we did not have snow down in the valleys, and I have never seen the foothills so free of snow.

On September 15, we crossed the Athabasca at Prairie creek, and were once more in touch with civilization and a railway. No longer should we sit over the camp fires in our tent and listen to the stories of Fred Stephens about bear hunts, prospectors, hunters, and the endless other subjects that are of interest to the dwellers in the wilds. No longer should we laugh over the small jokes and the small happenings that go to make up life in camp; we were soon to be engulfed by the great whirlpool of everyday life where the dollar counts for more than the man, and where the chains of custom bind one to the conventional life of civilized society. Those who have never tasted the freedom of camp life amongst the great mountains can hardly understand the immense peacefulness that it all means. One does not trouble much either about the yesterdays or the to-morrows, and the hours do not fall heavily. Yes, the camp life is healthy for both mind and body, and the wanderer amongst the great mountains can sleep peacefully and dream of the snows and mighty woods, of the rushing rivers, and the clear lakes reflecting the white clouds, and the rock peaks, and can feel with far more certainty than most that "all's well with the world."

Major LEONARD DARWIN (Chairman, before the paper): I regret to have to say that our President, Lord Curzon, is laid up with a cold in the country, and much regrets he is unable to attend here to-day.

Major DARWIN (after the paper): Many who have listened to this extremely interesting paper, especially those who did not hear Prof. Collié's last lecture, must have felt a certain surprise at learning what vast areas there are of unknown land in Canada. We most of us picture Canada as a land of rolling prairies, rapidly

being brought under the plough, where the emigrant is moving in all directions; but now we learn that there are miles and miles of utterly unsurveyed districts, which have never been traversed by man, and certainly never mapped before. I think the Government of Canada is probably wise, as regards surveying, to devote their first efforts to those regions which are likely to be most productive; but surely before long they ought to turn their attention in their own interests to those vast mountain regions. It is perfectly true, as Dr. Collie has told us, that they are composed mainly of limestone, and are therefore not likely to contain great mineral wealth. What, then, is the future of that district? Why, it will be the playground of all America; and if we look to Switzerland we can see how valuable is the possession of such a playground if developed. It will only be when systematic surveys are undertaken that the full value of this pioneer work will be appreciated. Dr. Collie has shown us by his remarks that he appreciates the work that was done by his predecessors in that field, and I am very glad that he should have mentioned their names here to-night, because amongst those names there are many that are not sufficiently well known. I should like to mention one name particularly, that of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, a name far too little known amongst geographers. He was the first white man who ever crossed from the Atlantic to the Pacific in North America, and that was one of the greatest of geographical feats. Yet his name is altogether unknown—almost forgotten—by us. As to the reason for this, he possessed qualities which, to say the least, are not common amongst explorers. He was excessively reticent and he was excessively modest, and his fame has suffered from his having done the reverse of exaggerating his own feats. Prof. Norman Collie knows what good work those pioneers did, how their work helped him. The work of Prof. Norman Collie will not be sufficiently appreciated for many years to come, but in time it will be appreciated in the same way that he has appreciated the work of his predecessors. Prof. Collie was accompanied by his faithful friend Mr. Mumm, who shares with him the honour of this work, and I hope he will say a few words to us on this occasion.

Mr. A. L. MUMM: A few months ago, when Dr. Longstaff was reading a paper on the Spillimacheen section of the Selkirk range, I made some random and unconsidered remarks about Canadian scenery; amongst others, one to the effect that the Canadian mountains were very deficient in the matter of waterfalls. I gladly seize this opportunity of qualifying that remark; I really had in my mind the kind of waterfall which leaps from above into a valley in the manner of the Staubbach. But there are waterfalls of another kind which are formed by the main river at the bottom of the valley; a familiar instance in Switzerland is the Falls of the Aar at Handeck; in the Alps they are not so frequent, but that is the kind of waterfall in which Canadian scenery is, in fact, very rich, and of which you have seen some very beautiful examples this evening. But it is quite true that they are not exactly conspicuous features of Canadian landscape. That fall in the Moose valley which Dr. Collie showed at the beginning of his lecture, I passed twice within a few hundred yards without seeing it. It was only on my third journey that I found my way to it; so too the falls in the Stoney river are quite close to the trail, but if one did not know they were there, one might easily pass without seeing them, and only be aware that there was something there by the roar of the water. Well, one might ask, If you heard the roar of the water, why not stop and go and look for the waterfall? There are two reasons—one is that when you are travelling with a pack-train, it is extremely difficult to stop; and the explanation of that is to be sought in the temperament of the cayoose, or Indian pony. The other reason is, that though you may have heard the waterfall roaring 200 or 300 yards away, and may think that probably you will be able to get to it in ten

minutes, it is always possible that it will take an hour or two hours, or that you may not be able to get there at all. I dwell upon those two things because, quite apart from waterfalls, they are the two most characteristic features of Canadian travel. Canadian travel has a very distinct individuality of its own, and the causes of that are, firstly, what you may call the psychological make-up of the cayoose; and secondly, the almost diabolical ingenuity and resource of nature in planting all sorts of unforeseen obstacles to human progress. That particular region we passed through is in a very interesting state just now; it has only been recently begun to be made accessible. I suppose that next year or the year after the railway will be running from Edmonton to Prince Rupert, and there will very likely be half a dozen hotels between Prairie Creek and Tête Jaune Cache. But that is only a line down the middle, and there is an immense hinterland on both sides waiting to be explored. It will provide work for a generation of explorers, and it will be endlessly long before that country is exhausted in a mountaineering sense. I should like to add one word of cordial endorsement to Dr. Collie's reference to the merits of John Yates as the path-finder. He is one of those born pioneers with whom it is a pleasure to travel, and I hope to make yet another trip with him into the tributaries of our old friend, the Smoky river.

THE YALE PERUVIAN EXPEDITION; PRELIMINARY REPORT.

By Prof. HIRAM BINGHAM, Director.

THE Peruvian Expedition, as approved by the Yale Corporation, consisted of seven men: Prof. Hiram Bingham, director; Prof. Isaiah Bowman, geologist-geographer; Prof. H. W. Foote, collector-naturalist; Dr. Wm. G. Erving, surgeon; Mr. Kai Hendriksen, topographer; Mr. H. L. Tucker, archæological engineer; and Mr. P. B. Lanius, assistant.

We landed at Mollendo, the chief seaport of Southern Peru, in June, 1911, and went at once to Cuzco, the old Inca capital.

The first field of operations was the Urubamba river and its affluents, including the hitherto unknown Rio Pampaconas. The second was a cross-section from the head of canoe navigation on the Urubamba south over the Andes to the Pacific ocean. The third was the neighbourhood of Mount Coropuna and Lake Parinacochas. For this last, Arequipa was used as a base. The field work occupied five months. The expedition was divided into three parties to do archæological, geological, and topographical exploration.

The Peruvian Government, acting on the initiative of President Leguia, gave the expedition free entry for all their supplies, and loaned the services of several soldiers and non-commissioned officers. Through the courtesy of President Taft, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey loaned the necessary topographical instruments, and the Army a complete medical equipment, including typhoid vaccine.

The topographical work was in charge of Mr. Kai Hendriksen, formerly of the University of Copenhagen, and later of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey on the Canadian boundary. Mr. Hendriksen