

**FIRST ASCENT OF
UNNAMED PEAK**

**WATAROA RIVER VALLEY
IN SOUTH WESTLAND**

**UNMAPPED GLACIERS
TRAVERSED**

The first ascent of an unnamed peak at the head of the Wataroa river valley, South Westland, and the traversing of two unnamed glaciers were accomplished in the New Year holidays by a small party, Messrs M. Sweney and D. V. Apperley, of the Canterbury Mountaineering Club, and W. Barrowman, a goldminer, who guided the party over some of the journey.

The Whymper Glacier, which lies to the head of the Wataroa river, and which was first traversed in 1897 by Messrs Ross and Fyfe, was the main objective of the party; but as no topographical survey had been made of the adjacent valley of the South Buller stream, a little exploration work was undertaken.

On Boxing Day the party left Wataroa township for a camp on Scott's beach, eight miles up the river.

Heavy rain on December 27 and 28 delayed the start of the party; but on December 29 good progress was made up the left bank of the river to a miner's cage which enabled the party to cross. On the opposite bank the party found better travelling conditions.

A mineral spring pouring out a stream of hot water from the base of some rocks proved an interesting sight to the party. The air was heavy with the odour peculiar to thermal springs, while the sand nearby was covered with a yellow deposit of sulphur.

In many places where the dense bush reached the water's edge a blazed trail had to be made, and the party did not reach the Whymper Glacier until December 31, after three days of heavy swagging.

A camp was made on a small flat just south of the terminal face, from which the party obtained some excellent photographs of the glacier and the surrounding virgin peaks of the Callery Range.

The Whymper Glacier

The Whymper Glacier, which is about four miles in length and half a mile wide, has its neve under the Hockstetter dome, while hanging glaciers off the Whymper saddle, Elle de Beaumont, and the Callery Range fall away to the glacier below. Although the Wataroa river issues from the clear ice, the glacier is moraine covered, and, like most New Zealand glaciers, is receding fast.

On January 1 the party left the terminal face camp for an unmapped valley, which promised to give access to the main divide between Mount Mannering and Mount Brodrick. This valley, which was apparently free of deer and chamois, was white with flowering mountain lilies. Near its head, under Mount Mannering, a small lake, with floating masses of ice on the surface, was passed.

By travelling up a glacier which gives rise to the lake, the party reached a rock and snow couloir which led to the summit of the range.

Dense fog restricted the view; but Classen Glacier could be seen through the periodical breaks in the mist. This the party did not visit because of the tedium of a descent down the steep face under Mount Mannering.

Ascent of 7500ft Peak

A fine unclimbed rock peak, some 7500 feet high, at the head of the South Buller Range, between the main divide and the Wataroa river, was ascended on January 2.

From a high camp in a basin under the peak an unnamed glacier was traversed to its head, allowing the climbers to reach a low col under the summit. The main leading ridge was narrow and broken; but by descending to the rock slabs on the face of the peak the party made travelling possible by making use of many rocks, cracks, and hand-holds. On the northern side of the peak there was a vertical drop of about 2000 feet into the South Buller stream.

The summit of the peak was reached about 1 p.m. A cairn was built, and the descent was started immediately. The surrounding Godley Peaks were covered with mists; but photographs were taken of some fine unclimbed peaks in the region.

Subject to the approval of the Geographical Board the party intend to call the peak Mount Barrowman, and the glacier which flows off the mountain Barrowman Glacier.

On January 3 the party started the return trip down the river. The journey from the ice to Scott's camp was accomplished in one day.

Many excellent photographs of this region were obtained for the first time, while the information gained will be of the greatest value in preparing a map of this unsurveyed region.

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**MOUNT LA PEROUSE
CLIMBED**

**THREE VIRGIN PEAKS
TRAVERSED**

**ONE MEMBER OF PARTY
INJURED**

An ascent of Mount La Perouse (10,101 feet), the first traverse of the south branch of La Perouse glacier, and traverses of three virgin peaks on the Balfour Range, have been achieved, in a three weeks' expedition to the head of the Cook river, by a party comprising Messrs A. J. Scott (Christchurch), who was injured during the trip, R. S. Dick (Oamaru), and D. H. Lewis (Dunedin).

The party left Weheka on December 18 and established their base under a big boulder near Gulch Creek four days later. A high camp was made on La Perouse glacier above the first ice-fall at 6000 feet. On December 24 an attempt was made to reach the main divide north of Mount Dampier (11,323 feet). The summit rocks of Dampier were reached after a 10-hours' climb; but a high wind made the party turn back at a height of 10,600 feet. The result of the day's work suggested that there was no easy access to Mount Dampier from the west.

Three Attempts at Ascent

During the following week, on four evenings, the party bivouacked high up on a spur of Mount La Perouse; but on three mornings unfavourable weather caused a return to the base. January 1 was, however, gloriously fine, and a successful ascent was made by the route of the two previous climbs from Westland. The party spent an hour on the summit admiring the impressive bulk of Mount Cook, the nearest peak.

Injured by Flying Rock

The descent was made down the snow couloir on the western face. A little below the 8000 feet level flying rock struck Mr Scott, making his right arm useless; but a return to the base was made without undue difficulty. As Mr Scott would not be able either to climb again or to begin the outward journey for a few days, the other

two members of the party went to a high bivouac on La Perouse glacier. On January 3 they climbed a peak on the Balfour Range west of the only mountain (Point A) on the range which had previously been climbed. In a long day of 18 hours they continued along the range and traversed the next two peaks.

Bad weather intervened, and on Thursday, January 6, the party struck camp and began the homeward trip down the valley to the Main South road. The journey took two days.

Injured Man Attended

At Weheka, by a coincidence, Dr. Foote, of Westport, had stopped. Mr Scott's injury was found to be a fractured bone in the elbow. Later, Dr. Bird, of Greymouth, devised a temporary splint from a biscuit tin.

Floods made it necessary for the party to remain at Weheka; but on Sunday Captain Mercer was able to bring an aeroplane from Waiho, and yesterday Mr Scott flew from Waiho to Greymouth, returning to Christchurch last night.

*Two Climbers
Hebert
Jan 11 1938*

*He descended & then in
1906
See the Second Ascent
then certain was clear of
snow & the descent of
the same route to the
ascent*