from his map.From below the 10 hour Gorge, I think M.and we took the best route.I do not know what the access from ,say the Williamson flat,is like.Bad weather or lack of food must have stopped him,unless it was very bad going.
Mueller's account of the final peak of Mt Ionia is as follows "For well-nigh half a mile steps had to be cut into the frozen snow to get footing."This was the final cap where we turned back,tho Cox went on alone,he reported cutting higher up and two bad sohrunds which we could see from below,but not enough to tell their condition.I am always sorry that I did not go on with him,but my leg was pretty painful and I still think I was wise ,if it got much worse,I do not know how I should have got down..Mueller's party used a rope.
The point of rather rambling bit is that I know Douglas did not like snow and ice.Probably because badly equipped for it. The summit can only be reached by the snow of the neve of a glacier approximately above Williamson Flat on the other side (Eros side)the rock ridge which rises some 30 or 40 ft drops very steeply.Conditions may vary from year to year,but there will always be steep snow from Mueller's Point Q,where we turned to the top. There a nasty little glacier of hard

Douglas was in the upper Arawata above the 10 hour gorge to get to Leary's pass probably on Williamson Flat and wants to get high enough on the Ionia side to sketch it..I do not know and cannot find a photo in the N.Z.A.J that shows it but from the shoulder of Ionia the drop below the glacier on that side must be very steep, if not bush-free, cliffs..Of course he may have been short of tucker.

Certain general points

I know Douglas disliked Survey parties.Was this "theoretical" or the result ofexperience ?This ~~is~~ only implies "a" survey party Douglas certainly had the brains and prob. the mathematical education to pick up surveying from a book.1883 seems to b the first year he began to hunt for a low pass.A short trip with a survey party would enable him learn a lot practically. Mueller would hear that Douglas had been up the Arawata in '83 and do his best to get him.

Muellers party starting from a camp not more than a ¼ mile from our base ~~two camp~~camped a night on their way to our camp where we found the charred log.If that was not his camp his must have been close to it.Graham and Cox took a day to clear a track thro' the first bush- bad country with many bluffs.We went thro in 8 hours including an hour's halt. We were a slow party Two ladies and I had sciatica. Cox wa went on at the end and got there certainly ¾ hour ahead of the rest.If there had been a track I think Mueller's party would have gone in in the day.His first camp was on our line