

Extract from report by Gerhard Mueller

Douglas was in the upper Arwata 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.N. that shows it but from the

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from his map. From below the 10 hour gorge, I think M. and we took the best route. I do not know what the ascent from, say the Williamson flat, is like. Bad weather or lack of food must have stooped him, unless it was very bad going <sup>from the upper Arwata</sup> 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 schrunds 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 nave 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 Muellers Point Q, where we turned to the top. There a nasty little glacier of hard

ice just before Point Q

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some legible fragments include:]*

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