

"The second track is that to the top of Mount Barron (5,660 ft.) by way of Goat Creek. The Public Works Department's approach to the water intake leads to a height of 600 ft. above the railway. From the intake we have formed a track of easy grade, so that the climb has been greatly simplified, and beginning as it does from near the railway-station should, when better known, prove a popular one.

"(3) *Bridge over Bealey to Punchbowl*.—While your committee appreciate the advantages gained by the erection of a bridge in this locality, it was considered inopportune to proceed with its construction. The finance available was diverted to less costly and more general amenities. In order that access may be provided when finance is available, Mr. Johnston, of the Public Works Department, kindly visited the locality to secure preliminary data, and he will be furnishing a report at a later date.

"(4) *Fires*.—Two bush fires were reported this summer, the more serious one being in the lower Bealey Valley. Mr. Warden succeeded in securing the aid of several assistants, and took the necessary measures for combating the fire. His actions and the expenditure thus entailed were approved of. Your Committee has since drawn up suggested rules to guide the Ranger on future occasions. The second fire was near the park boundary at Aitkens, but being confined largely to dead timber, did no material damage.

"(5) Your committee recommend that the Board approach the Post and Telegraph Department with a view to having a post-office installed at the Pass. This would be of great convenience to the public, as at present one has to rely, in the case of delivery of telegrams or telephone messages, entirely on the good nature of the railway officers.

"(6) *Mingha River District*.—Many enthusiastic climbers and trampers have been making renewed explorations into this district. As detailed accounts of these efforts have from time to time appeared in the press, and much geographical information supplied to the Board, these excursions have proved of much value besides directing attention to the possibilities for rugged mountaineering existing in this district.

"(7) *Damage to Native Vegetation*.—While visiting the upper valley of the Otira River members of the Committee were made aware of the great damage being done by deer or chamois to some of the native subalpine plants. Over extensive areas the damage could be traced, particular execution having been carried out on the seed heads of the famous "Mountain Lily" of New Zealand—the giant *Ranunculus Lyallii*. All specimens seen had these parts cropped off. A continuance of these depredations will have results not difficult to forecast.

"The Grounds Committee wish to record its appreciation of the service rendered by Mr. J. McKay (Honorary Surveyor) whose co-operation has made possible the achievements to date."

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