

# Biological Reconnaissance

IN THE VICINITY OF

## LATHEAD LAKE

BY

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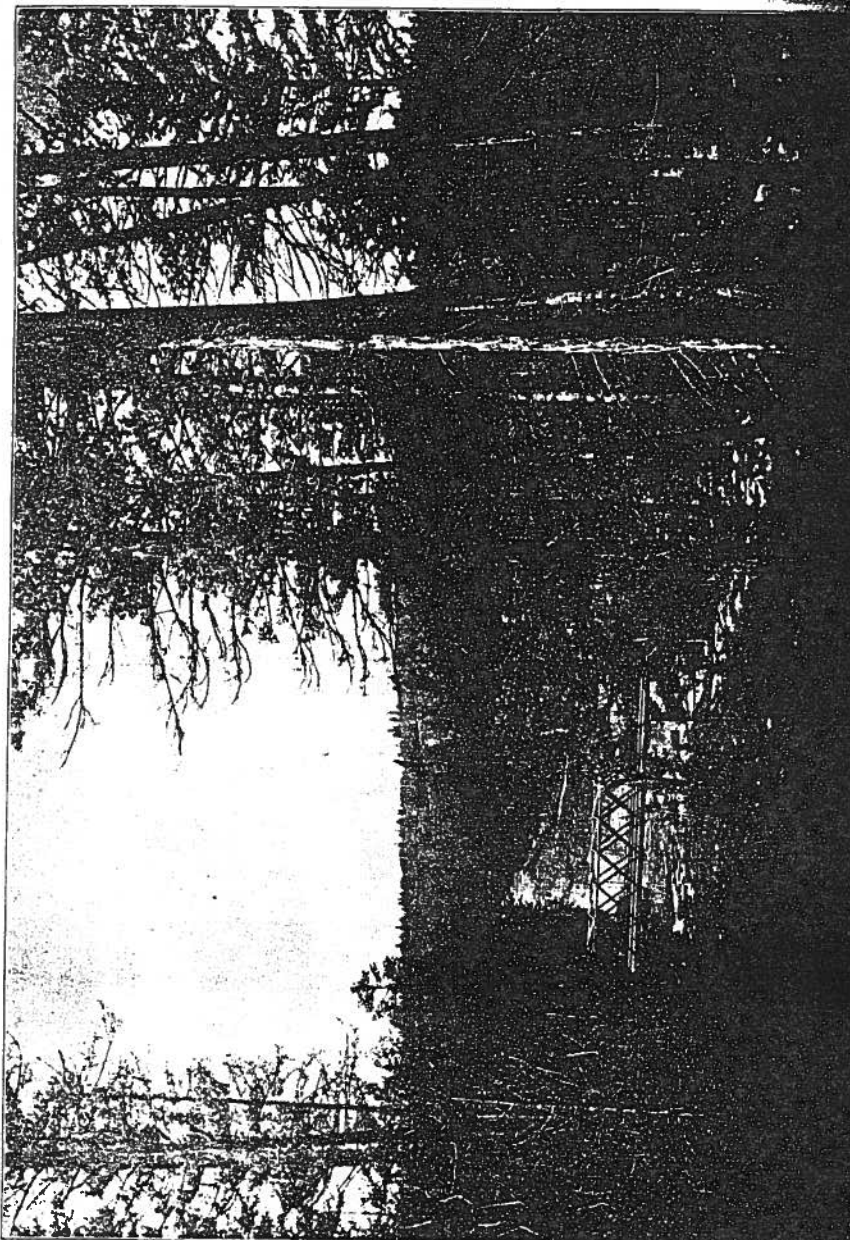
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parently a part of the same range, are the well known Jocko peaks, shown in the illustration from the mountain summit, Plate XXI.

The range extends almost due north and south, the meridian 37 passing along the western base of the range. The 46th and 47 parallel degrees approximately mark the southern and northern ends, though a large bend extends toward the east in the southern end of the range.

The drainage from the western side is across the Flathead Reservation, through several creeks, into the Pend d'Oreille river, and into Clarke's Fork of the Columbia. The drainage from the eastern side is into the Swan river, north around the range into Flathead lake, and then through the Pend d'Oreille river as before. From the southern end the waters are carried by the Jocko river into the Pend d'Oreille river. A portion of the eastern slope of Sinyaleamin mountain, as also the eastern slopes of the Jocko peaks, drains into the Clearwater river, then into the Big Blackfoot; from this into the Missoula, and finally into Clarke's Fork of the Columbia. It is thus seen that the entire drainage of the range is into the same stream, though by very different routes and over distances of varying lengths.

#### SINYALEAMIN LAKE.

The first place in the range at which work of consequence was undertaken was at Sinyaleamin lake. See plates XXII and XXIII. As has been stated, this little alpine lake is at the southern base of Sinyaleamin mountain. From the nature of the location of the lake the name is very appropriate. Locally the lake is called St. Mary lake. As there is no other larger and more widely known St. Mary lake in the northern part of the state in the Blackfeet reservation, the name Sinyaleamin lake is most appropriate for this beautiful little sheet of water, and should be retained.

St. Ignatius is about six miles from Selish, on the Northern Pacific railroad. From St. Ignatius to Sinyaleamin lake the distance is given as nine miles. The distance to the mouth of the canyon is nearly ten miles and the road up the winding canyon is about three miles. The road across the valley is excellent. A mountain road has been constructed up the canyon to the lake. This is passable in summer, is no doubt good in winter, and with a little work could be made very good indeed, save for a couple of steep hills. The road follows up the canyon carrying the waters from Sinyaleamin lake. This stream joins the main stream before it reaches the Mission. The waters from the branch stream are derived almost wholly from Sinyaleamin lake. The waters from the main stream of the Mission creek come from the mountain peaks to the north of Sinyaleamin mountain, tumbling over a high fall which may be seen miles away on the plain.

The lake is hemmed in on all sides by mountains, only a small space near the water affording a camping site. This camping site is on the top of an old moraine which is well covered with small timber. If the timber was cleared away there would be a good-sized camping site in an admirable location for scenery. Campers are continually widening this small space by cutting down small trees for fuel and it is now a delightful place for a camp for either outing or study.

Our camp at this lake was from July 7 to July 18, 1900. The party stayed 15 most of the time, and for a couple of days there were 23, including a number of distinguished visitors. The weather was perfect, nothing to stop work for the entire time.

A second visit was made in June, 1901, a month earlier than in the preceding year. A large collection of plants was made and further notes and collections of shells were taken. Dredgings were made for Entomostraca in the lake and in the ponds to the south of the lake. As the season was early there was much moisture. This made the material collections more abundant but made the work more laborious.

On the north side of the lake the mountain rises abruptly to a height recorded by our aneroid as 9,200 feet, probably 200 in excess of the true height. On the summit abundance of snow could be seen. The lower slopes are moderately wooded with small red fir, while the upper heights are bare jagged rocks. On these a few white-bark pine have a foothold. See Plate XXIV. On the east and south of the lake the summits are lower, sloping gradually to the south and then to the west where the ridge descends almost to the level of the waters of the lake. The mountain sides in this direction are densely wooded with small trees. The western end of the lake is the only part with what might be termed open country. Here the lake is dammed by a moraine which is now covered with small trees and other vegetation. This moraine extends across the ravine, which is here about a quarter of a mile in width, and down stream for nearly as far as nearly as could be determined. The present outlet is at the southern end of the moraine. There are indications that the outlet was formerly at the other end of the moraine, next the mountain side proper. From indications it would appear that the lake was formerly larger than at present, when the waters were dammed up, overflowing what is now the present camping place, and for some distance beyond. On the moraine the vegetation is different from that at other places, indicating that the period when the waters covered this part of the moraine is not so very far back in time. The time that has elapsed since the outbreak at the present outlet has not been great. When the lake occupied this addition it was deeper, and perhaps forty or fifty feet deeper. When the water first started at the present outlet the cutting was rapid, as shown by the abrupt and narrow declivity at the outlet, and resulted in the present low level.

By damming up the present outlet the level of the lake could be raised about fifty feet without overflowing the moraine.

The lake is about 7,500 feet long and 2,500 feet wide. The shape and outline are readily seen from the accompanying sketch. See Fig 1. The length lies east and west. The lake is clear, cold, and deep. At 8 A.M. July 9, 1900, the temperature was 15 degrees Centigrade. By means of a white net used for collecting entomostraca could just be seen at a depth of 30 feet. The dark rocks on the bottom could be seen only at much less depth than this.

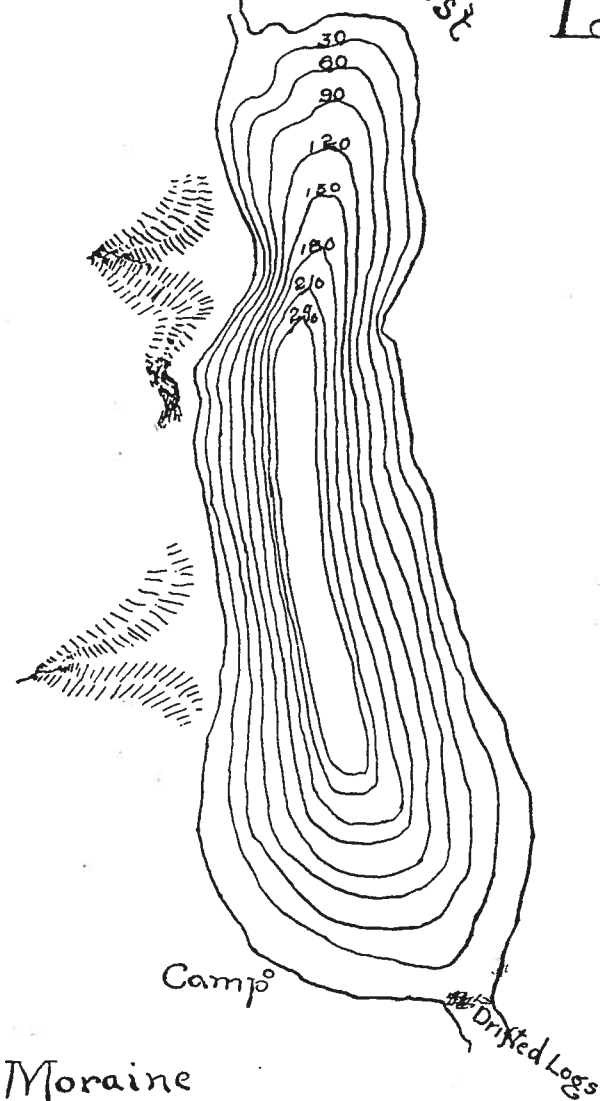
The banks of the lake are precipitous, no shoals or rocks being found. The largest shallow place is on the western end of the southern side where a small shallow place some 300 feet long by 50 feet wide slopes



# Sin-yale-am

Cedar Forest

Lake



Moraine

Fig. 1.

Diagram, showing shape of Sinyaleamin Lake.

from shore. At the upper end, around the inlet, there has been drilling, but it has been slow. The depth a few hundred feet from shore was 30 feet, but it shot down rapidly to 115 feet, and finally to the deepest recorded. This depth was taken opposite the rocky shore toward the upper end, but a glance at the map of the lake will show everywhere deep. But a few feet off shore near camp at the southern end the depth taken was 165 feet.

There is but one inlet, at the upper end, draining the eastern slopes of Sinyaleamin mountain and the Jocko peaks where there is abundant snow the year through. There are no small inlets save when snow is melting off the hills in the spring, but there must be a considerable underground seepage, as there is considerable water on the mountain sides high up that disappears before the stream reaches the lake.

The stream forming the inlet comes through a canyon from the north, Sinyaleamin mountain forming the western wall, one of the Jocko peaks forming the eastern wall. Along this creek for a quarter of a mile or so there is a growth of beautiful arbor-vitae trees, as shown in the illustration, Plate XXV. These continue until the canyon becomes so narrow there is room only for the stream, which tumbles over a cascade several hundred feet high, a portion of which is shown in Plate XXVI. This cascade continued for some distance and as far as could be seen or heard the stream continued. Later, from the summit of the mountain, the direct source of the stream was determined.

On account of the land locked position of the lake it is seldom disturbed by storms, although some strong gusts blow in from the west. The lake is usually calm and smooth, timber growing to the water's edge, and a beautiful reflection. It appeared from indications along the shore that the surface of the water in the lake varied some three or four feet at the time of our visit being at its lowest. There is very little drift in the lake. At the outlet there is quite a pile of old logs that have been driven down, but they show evidences of long submergence in the water, and are not in great quantity considering the timber around the lake. The shores are free from drift.

Three ridges lead up from the base to the summit of the mountain, making a comparatively easy ascent. The ascent of the mountain from the lake, whose altitude is 3,800 feet, was made in a day, returning very early in the night. We almost failed making it though within sight and hearing of the camp. This summit is really a long ridge, extending southeast and west, culminating in two peaks, and joined to the remainder of the mountain to the north by a low spur at the easternmost of the two peaks. To the north the drainage is into the main branch of Mission creek. The western peak drains into the stream below Sinyaleamin lake. The drainage from the country to the eastward and southward, as shown in the illustration, see Plate XXIII, is into Sinyaleamin lake.

On the 12th of July, 1900, the ascent of Sinyaleamin mountain was made. The start was made before seven in the morning, three of us preceded by our loads for the ascent. The outfit consisted of a camera with tripod, a loaded rifle, a shotgun, a botany can, provisions for a day, and

was common around the shores of the lake, and in the woods might be seen woodpeckers of several species. Cabanis's woodpecker was uncommon, Batchelder's woodpecker was occasionally seen and heard. One pair of red-naped sapsuckers was seen for a day, the lordly pileated woodpecker made announcement of his presence by his loud call and his slow pounding on the trees, while the red-shafted flicker was seen and heard daily. At dusk the western night hawk occasionally was seen in the air, while during the day, strange as it may seem, an occasional humming bird was seeking food from the various flowers about the lake. The sharp and far-away sounding call of the western wood pewee was frequently heard on the hillside. Wright's flycatcher was common in the timber south of the lake. The black-headed jay was not uncommon, and a single curious Rocky Mountain jay was one day seen lurking around camp. Higher up on the mountain, above 4,700 feet, Clarke's nutcracker was found. In the woods adjacent to the lake the American crow was common, and pine siskins were frequently noted in the air overhead or occasionally were seen in camp having come for crumbs. Everywhere on the reservation where observations were made the western chipping sparrow was found. Around the lake Shufeldt's junco is abundant. Black-headed grosbeaks were not seen about the lake, but at the ponds a mile to the south they were abundant. The brilliant Louisiana tanager was everywhere to be seen, while the handsome cedar waxwing was frequently noticed at the pond with the grosbeaks. The red-eyed vireo, warbling vireo, Audubon's warbler, Townsend's warbler, and Macgillivray's warbler were the insect feeders noted in the trees. The Rocky Mountain creeper was only occasionally seen, though the slender-billed nuthatch is common. Every walk brought to view the long-tailed chickadee. The notes of the olive-backed thrush were regular features of the woods. A single pair of western robins were feeding the young on the nest during the stay at the lake.

The region seems to be a place of resort for birds, where they come for a time and disappear, as is the case with the region as far as mammals are concerned. Later investigations may reveal more.

#### CONCHOLOGY OF SINYALEAMIN LAKE.

One would expect to find an abundance of shells in and around such a body of water as this lake. In this, as in many other points, there is disappointment. These clear cold lakes do not offer a large supply of food for such dainty feeders as shells and the supply is not abundant. The small alpine form, *Pyramidula strigosa*, var. *alpina*, has been previously referred to as having been found near the summit of a mountain. In the woods along the borders of the lake the larger *Pyramidula strigosa* Gld., var. *cooperi* W. G. B., was taken rather abundantly. With the preceding *P. solitaria* was found in less abundance. Only a few *Polygyra townsendiana* Lea, var. *ptychophora* A. D. Br., were taken. These two have so far been found together, the former most abundant, the latter much less so. These four land species were all that could be found. In the water three more species were taken, all sparingly. *Physa heterostrophus* Say was not abundant, but several large and very fine specimens were taken. Now and then *Planorbis trivialis* was seen.

An entire afternoon was spent at the outlet attempting to secure specimens of these two species, and the result was not very flattering. An Illinois snail would produce a thousand for one. The most noticeable snail, the most difficult to secure, was *Limnaea emarginata*, a small variety. This same species was found very abundantly in McDonald lake fifteen miles further to the north, and is also in Swan lake across the range east of Sinyaleamin lake the shells are for the most part singly on stones in the bottom where the water is shallow, or along the bank. They are bright in color and very conspicuous. To secure them it is necessary to take a boat, row slowly where the water is shallow, and when one has seen wait until the water becomes smooth and either pick it off with a net if not too deep, or by some other method. As there is much trouble to determine the depth of the water on such occasions the task becomes quite difficult, and the result is often a wetting. Our best success was to take an insect net, and with this gently pull the shell off the bottom by inserting the net under the snail, thus letting the animal fall into the net. Even this is slow work. The snails have the peculiar habit of holding all holds go when anything touches them, falling to the bottom among the pebbles, where it is very difficult to see them. An entire afternoon was spent fishing for these specimens, a couple of dozen being secured, and many getting away. It is readily seen from this that a small bottle may hold the entire catch of an afternoon. Notwithstanding the difficulties, the snails present many interesting points, and are well worth the effort. No bivalves were seen anywhere. By comparing these notes with the record of McDonald lake it will be seen that the snail life of the two regions is very similar.

The butterflies noticed were not numerous. Those seen were *Colias* species, *Basilarchia lorquina*, *Vanessa milberti*, and a species of *Lycaena*. These latter were collected in small places where the butterflies were as close together as they could get, as many as 75 or 100 being collected in one small space. No effort was made to make a collection of moths or butterflies, attention being diverted in other directions, but on account of the cold water and the limited vegetation it is not likely that this place to seek such insects in quantity.

#### ENTOMOSTRACA.

Druggings and surface catches were made during each day of the ten days at the lake. Altogether 39 vials were filled, each representing a day's catch. Usually the catch represented fifty strokes of the pump. It was the custom to take a surface pumping, then attach ten or fifteen feet of hose, afterwards 25 feet, then 50 or 75, then 100, afterwards 125 could be put together, 140 feet. It was soon discovered that during the day very few entomostraca were at or near the surface, though they were always to be found late at night or early in the morning near the surface. To seek a solution of the problem pumpings were made at night, before daylight in the morning, and during the day. It was found that light was not suited to these animals, and that as soon as they were turned they sank to a depth of 25 or 30 feet, remaining until dusk, when they again returned. These observations were verified later in McDonald lake, in Flathead lake, and Swan lake. It was found that to

## MCDONALD LAKE IN THE MISSION RANGE.

The road to McDonald lake from St. Ignatius Mission is good. The distance is about 11 miles. Most of the distance is across the valley, the last two miles being a very stiff up grade, causing a hard climb when there is a load.

Camping sites at the lake are scarce, owing to the nature of the lake. There is but one portion of the lake, the western end, free from rocks. Most of this is densely wooded with timber and heavy underbrush. By fording the outlet, possible in summer when the water is low, a camping site sufficient for the party was found, on the bank of the lake in plain view of the peak, free from underbrush, and above all, in a place where the cool breeze from the mountains after sundown drove away the mosquitoes, which are much of an annoyance in the region in summer. The camping site was a delightful place, and a stay of ten days in 1900 was made in order to make collections, and search for new species of the shell *Pyramidula elrodi* Pils., as well as to study the ostracodes of the lake. A camp of a week in June, 1901, was made for the same general purposes. Plate XXIX gives a good view of the lake from the outlet.

McDonald lake of the Mission mountains lies at the foot of McDonald peak on the northwest. Like Sinyaleamin lake, it is hemmed in on three sides except the west by mountains, save that they are much higher, more picturesque, and steeper. The lake was named McDonald back in the sixties, and according to priority the name should easily displace the name given to Terry lake, also called McDonald, which lies northeast of Kootenai.

The valley enclosed by the peaks, in which the lake now is, has been carved out by a glacier, or more properly by glaciers, as there were undoubtedly several uniting to form the main glacier which flowed down the valley. Remnants of these glaciers are yet seen on the mountains, there being three on McDonald peak, one in plain sight from almost any point on the lake. The rocks along the lake have been ground smooth, and show plainly the marks of the ice. At the outlet of the canyon a large moraine has been made, though not so advantageously situated for damming the water as at Sinyaleamin lake. But the water has at some time past evidently been much deeper than it now is. The rock on the north is fast disintegrating, and is filling up the lake with red mud and ooze. At the upper end is a wooded valley which formerly must have been a part of the lake. The filling in has drained this part of the lake, the remainder of the lake not yet being filled up. The present lake is therefore but a part of what it was formerly.

The lake is smaller than Sinyaleamin lake and not nearly so deep. It is a mile to a mile and a quarter long, the average width being less than a quarter of a mile. On either side the mountains come abruptly to the water, as may be seen in the illustration given, Plate XXIX. As has been stated, there is a valley at the upper end, so far unexplored, and densely wooded with arbor-vitae, several species of fir, white and red birch, and other smaller shrubs. The inlet divides above the lake, one branch receiving water from the glacier visible, the other bringing

water from the amphitheater toward the east, which has for drainage only the peaks visible, but also the eastern slopes of McDonald peak. A general view of the upper end is shown in Plate XXX.

The bottom of the lake is comparatively level and from the mud at the bottom the impression is gained that the lake is either older than Sinyaleamin or has filled up much faster. The depth from end to end is nearly uniform, the deepest being eighty-four feet. The lower end is lower, the outlet being crossed by a ford, hub deep in July. There is considerable shallow water. The mud at the bottom is of a reddish color, apparently from the decomposition of the rock on the north shore. At a point near the middle a ledge of rocks projects from either side, making the lake at this point quite narrow. The ledge is precipitous, and the water a few feet from the rocks is deep. These stones are worn by glaciation, and show deep and numerous glacial scratches. To the north, to the left in the illustration, Plate XXIX, the rocks are very steep for about 2,000 feet. Shale and cliffs alternate. By hard work one can reach the top of the talus. Above is a mass of igneous rock, not to be ascended from this side. Four waterfalls, small streams, tumble over the rocks. The waters disappears in the loose talus at the base long before it reaches the lake. The south shore is not so abrupt. Large masses of loose talus, with large boulders, line the water's edge, making a loose and spongy surface for the retention of moisture.

Life in and around the lake is not abundant. There are few frogs, probably no snakes, as but one of the former was seen during the ten days, and none of the latter. On the rocks at the water's edge, altitude 8,000 feet, several pika, *Lagomys princeps*, were killed. This is the lowest altitude known to the writer at which these peculiar animals have been seen. They are abundant on the peak at 8,000 feet and over, but none were taken, owing to the difficulties in getting them when killed among the rocks at these high altitudes. The banks of the lake are so steep and precipitous that it is all but impossible to climb along. Almost an entire afternoon was spent in going the length of the lake a few hundred feet from the water's edge. An exploration will probably show great possibility of increasing the size of the lake by overflowing the valley at the upper end, if it shall ever become a necessity to use this lake as a reservoir site. On the northern side the timber is not so dense, owing to the nature of the rocks. The banks are steep, and the cliffs afford poor hold for the growth of trees which have not gained much headway. On the mountain side, where the precipitous rocks the timber is quite heavy, being largely of yellow pine and fir. The southern bank is well wooded. The canyon at the upper end of the lake is densely wooded, through which there does not appear to be an entrance made by road or trail. At the outlet and along the lake near the lake there is fine timber, some of which has been cut for pulp and lumber. Everywhere there is much underbrush, making progress difficult.

The road to the lake is good, considering it is a mountain road. There is some travel over it. The lake is a great resort for the Indians and those who visit the reservation, on account of the excellent



fishing and beautiful scenery. There is no drift around the shores, of the drift having lodged in the outlet. Here there is a quite a jam.

#### CONCHOLOGY OF McDONALD LAKE.

Search was made daily for shells. In the waters there were numbers of a new variety of *Limnaea emarginata* Say, described in *Nautilus*, Vol. XV,\* as var. *montana*. This is the same shell that was previously taken in Sinyaleamin lake with so much labor, and was more abundant in McDonald like than in Sinyaleamin. Along the rocks in the middle of the lake they were taken in considerable numbers and at the outlet others were taken among the grass and weeds in shallow water. This species seems to relate *emarginata* to *stagnalis* some of the shells showing the malleations of *stagnalis* quite plainly. Placed side by side they have many points in common but are very much smaller than the variety *appressa* of *stagnalis* taken in western Montana.

*Physa ampullacea* Gld. was found sparingly, not so abundant as in Sinyaleamin lake. Strange to say, not a single specimen of *Planorbis* was seen. *Planorbis* seems to be a warm water species, and while a few were taken at Sinyaleamin lake, they were very scarce, and the few taken were small and badly broken. In the small ponds and lakes in the valley to the west of the Mission range *Planorbis trivolvis* is exceedingly abundant, and in the small lakes or ponds of glacial origin along Flathead lake these shells are found in great numbers.

Among the underbrush at the lower end of the lake *Pyramidula alpestris* var. *Cooperi* was found in large numbers, as also *P. solitaria*. These two species have been considered distinct heretofore. A large series of several hundred was assorted with the attempt to make two species. The most widely different were easily separated, but by the process of elimination those remaining were more and more difficult to place in one species or the other, and the last remaining could apparently go as easily in one pile as the other. From external appearance it seems difficult to distinguish some of those found at this lake as belonging to either the one or the other species. The two were found in the same locality, were picked up together, and were placed in the same receptacle. It was impossible to do anything toward working out their histories, and internal anatomy may reveal differences that external anatomy does not disclose. But as descriptions of shells are largely based on external anatomy it is doubtful if these two species are distinct. It may be well to note here that all the shells taken so far at the upper end of Flathead lake are var. *cooperi*, none having been taken that could be called *solitaria*.

Having found a very small variety of the shell *Pyramidula strigosa* called *alpina*, at high altitude on Sinyaleamin mountain, it was thought the same shell might be found on the heights of McDonald peak. A short description of the trip in search for this shell is given in the succeeding pages. Sinyaleamin mountain is almost due south of McDonald peak. In the same range, the distance between the two peaks in air line being

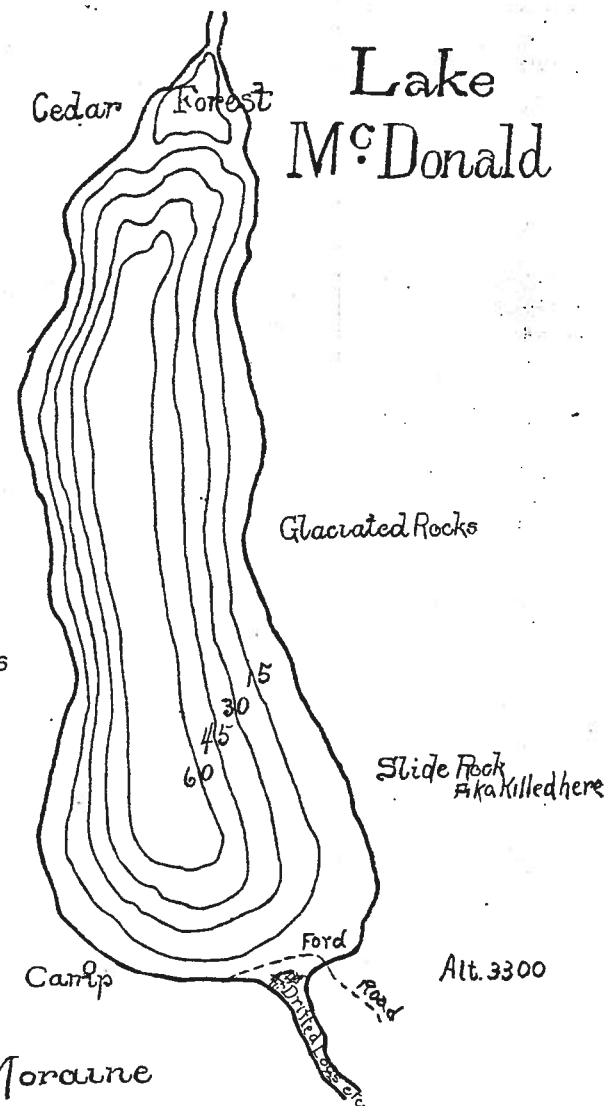


Fig. 1. Diagram of McDonald Lake, showing contour, depth and shore characteristics.

\* *Nautilus*, Vol. XV., p. 111.

The snow mass behind the spur to the left in Plate XXXV. flows into a small and beautiful lake, Leash lake. This lake is said by those who have seen it to be of surpassing beauty, usually full of snow, and visible only when almost upon it, so well is it hidden in the cliffs. The water entering the lake flows down the side of McDonald northward. After leaving Leash lake the water flows west, coming down and joining the stream from Teton on the north and the stream from the west glacier of McDonald.

Post creek, the outlet of McDonald lake, on the 30th of June, 1894, carried 473 second feet of water. The place at which the water was measured was some miles down creek from the lake, at a lower elevation than the lake by a thousand feet, and with considerable loss between place of measurement and lake through irrigation.

## The Mission Valley.

This beautiful valley is bordered by the Mission mountains on the east, the Jocko river on the south, the Pend d'Oreille river on the west, and Flathead lake on the north. The extreme length is about 35 miles, the extreme width about 15 miles. A terminal moraine separates the lake from the valley, bordering the lake on the southern end. The country immediately south of the moraine for a distance of ten miles is beautiful level land, rich, capable of making good farms, easily irrigated. A sand dune stretches across the valley about 15 miles from the lake, extending east and west. The eastern end is free sand, is not yet held in place by vegetation, and is slowly creeping eastward. The free and movable sand is 12 to 15 feet high, clean looking and white. Some eight or ten miles from this free sand westward one comes to the Pend d'Oreille river. The country abounds with depressions and coulees, with several large buttes from 100 to 200 feet high. It is in this region that the buffalo herd ranges.

The valley is crossed by four large creeks, as follows: Mission creek is the most southern. It takes its source in two canons, one the outlet of Sinyaleamin lake, the other Mission creek proper, with its high head visible for miles on the plain. Sinyaleamin lake receives water from the eastern slopes of the mountains, principally from Snow Lake, which is full of slush snow even in July. The stream leaving Snow Lake tumbles over a beautiful cascade just before it enters the lake. The lake is described elsewhere. The stream from this lake joins Mission creek proper a short distance from St. Ignatius Mission. A third and smaller branch emerges from the canon between Mission canon and McDonald lake. This branch takes its rise in two small and beautiful alpine lakes, Twin lakes, lying high up in the mountains, fed by melting snows. Except in early spring this water is consumed in irrigation. Mission creek flows a little to the north of west, receiving Post creek a few miles west of the Mission, finally flowing into the Pend d'Oreille river. Mission creek may be located by examination of Plate XIX. Post creek is the outlet of McDonald lake, which receives most of its waters from the slopes of McDonald peak. The creek forming the inlet of the lake has two forks, one taking the waters from McDonald peak, the other from the north immediately to the north. This northern branch flows through several small lakes, and has some beautiful cascades, seen plainly from McDonald peak. Neither of these branches is known save for a very short distance from the lake. Post creek flows southwest into Mission creek as previously mentioned. Crow creek takes its rise in the mountains still farther to the north, in the canon through which runs the Crow creek trail. This trail is the Indian route across the range to the Swan river and Big Blackfoot river country. As it crosses the range at a high altitude it is passable only in summer, and is the only passageway between the Jocko river and the northern end of the Mission range. The creek flows a little south of west, receiving Mud creek near the sand dune previously mentioned, and flowing into the Pend d'Oreille river. It is a large creek,

clear of brush, a famous fishing resort. Mud creek rises in the canyon near the southern arm of the lake, flows south of west, receives the water from Ronan Springs, passes the edge of the sand dune, and enters Crow creek a couple of miles from the dune. It is not a large creek, but irrigates several farms. A fair sized stream reaches Crow creek. From the sand dune to the lake is 15 miles. The land is level, and no streams cross it.

#### ORNITHOLOGY OF MISSION VALLEY.

The country between Crow creek and Post creek is full of pot holes of varying sizes and depths, containing water all summer. Hundreds of these small ponds may be seen from elevation on the mountains, the larger ones lying near the mountains. The pot holes abound in entomotrachean and insect life, prolific in quantity rather than species. Thousands of frogs line the banks all summer and garter snakes, feeding on the frogs, are numerous, large and fat. In the grass and reed bordered ponds water fowls breed and rear their young. In the fall large numbers of migrant water birds stop at the ponds, making an ideal field for the hunter and sportsman. In July the most abundant water fowl found with young was the American Golden Eye, *Glaucionetta clangula*, var. *Americana*, taken at several places. A camp of several days was made at Crow creek in July, 1900. Three years previously a camp of several days was made near the same place. In the creek three species of case worms were found. A quantity of bivalve shells, *Margaritana margaritifera* were taken in the sandy shallows. Several other species of shells were found, *Planorbis trivolvis*, *Limnaea palustris*, a *Physa*, *Polygyra townsendiana*, var. *Ptycophora*, *Pyramidula solitaria*, and *P. strigosa*, var. *Cooperi*. Dragonflies were not numerous. *Aeschna conscripta* was seen everywhere. *Sympetrum obtruncatum* was abundant; indeed, it is the most common dragonfly in western Montana, and is easily captured. Around one of the ponds near Crow creek *Sympetrum (Diplax) madida* was common. They were wary, and hard to catch. Two hours of hard work resulted in only about a dozen. *Lestes unguiculata* was the most abundant. Hundreds could easily have been captured had they been wanted. A few *Amphipylus saucium* and *Ischnura* were taken, making a total list of Odonata captured on the plain. In the stagnant water many Ostracoda were captured. Butterflies were not abundant. One catch of nearly a hundred Brenthids was very satisfactory. These were nearly always taken on the blue aster. *Colias eurytheme*, brilliant orange, were found in the grassy flats. *Pieris protodice* was not uncommon. A *Grapta* was occasionally seen. Among the shrubbery *Satyrus alope*, var. *olympus* was often seen. A single male *Argynnis leto* was captured. Several *Argynnis aphrodite* were among the captured. A single *Lycaena*, a few skippers, a *Thanaos* and a *Chrysophanus*, made the remainder of the list. Except along Crow creek and around the ponds there is no collecting.

Birds in the valley are interesting, and around the water are abundant. The list of the ornithologist shows 43 species. Many of these are quite abundant. The few days spent here were fully occupied by the ornithologists, and over 60 skins was the result of their earnest work.

were all prepared in rolled zinc holders to keep their shape until they could dry. In the few wheat fields several flocks of sharp-tailed snipes were flushed. Western meadow larks were everywhere abundant. A few mourning doves, *Zenaidura macroura*, were found around the fields. Solitary sandpipers, *Totanus solitarius*, were along the creek. In the bushes catbirds, *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, blackbirds, *Amphispiza cyanocephala*, yellow warblers, *Dendroica aestiva*, Audubon's warbler *D. auduboni*, flycatchers and others were always to be seen. The trees were black-headed grosbeaks, *Habia melanocephala*, and chickadees, Lewis', *Melanerpes torquatus*, and Harris', *Dryobates villosus*. It was a pleasure to sit in camp and listen to the notes of the various species of birds. Over twenty were counted the first forenoon in camp, either by sight or by note. The total number seen during the few days at Crow creek is 43. Remembering that the creek forms a narrow belt of vegetation in the valley, with dry plain and little water on either side, this number is quite large.

#### GLACIAL ACTION.

Mission valley is undoubtedly glaciated. Between Crow creek and Post creek the valley contains many potholes, depressions in the surface which catch and hold water during the rainy season. At the lower end of the valley, near St. Ignatius Mission, large boulders lie high on the hills while there are ridges and valleys plainly morainal. The valley and the mountain range are worthy of careful study, and will repay the person who makes the study.

The southern end of Mission valley has a much larger moraine than the northern end, at the foot of Flathead lake, mentioned in succeeding pages. It extends from the mountains on the east westward as far as Plains on the northern Pacific. It may extend farther as the writer has not been to the ground. The morainal matter in the vicinity of St. Ignatius Mission is several hundred feet high.\* The height of these above this level has not been determined, but it is certainly more than 500 feet. On top of these hills large boulders have been left stranded. The morainal matter here is badly broken and cut. The hills show plainly the presence of water in former times, beach marks being plainly visible for a long distance.

The entire Mission valley is made from glacial material, with high morainal deposit at both the northern and southern ends. The glacial material extends many miles westward. It has not been followed, and the character of the soil cannot be given. The Pend d'Oreille river has cut a channel through this valley, removing the glacial drift to bedrock. Whether this river drained the lake formerly covering Mission valley is for geologists to determine.

No doubt some of this material came from the Mission range. The possibility of it could not have done so. The Mission range extends north and south. The canyons opening into the valley open westward. In front of each of the larger canyons is a small morainal dam, extending generally north to south, or parallel with the range. The large moraines pre-

\*It is possible the morainal deposit may be on a foothill, covering the valley.



500. Now, there are large tracts of land leased annually for small to large cattle dealers. There are large tracts in Indian reserve which can be utilized for some such purpose more legitimately than lease to cattle men for stock. If a tract of land containing from 50 to 100 square miles were set apart for this particular use, with an appropriation at the beginning of \$15,000, and an annual appropriation of \$5,000 there certainly should be no difficulty whatever in developing a herd from a small beginning to one that would be a credit to the nation.

The government and care of the herd should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. The men in the Survey are keenly alive to the importance of an attempt to save the buffalo from extinction, and may be relied on to look after the animals as carefully as they are looked after in any zoological park.

It is hardly to be expected that the animals will thrive in the Yellowstone Park, where the winters are long and severe, the summers short and concentrated, and where protection is likewise afforded to the wild animals which prey upon the calves. The buffalo, unlike the deer and elk, seems to remain in a limited territory. If they are to thrive and multiply, they must be looked after and cared for. With a range in Montana, Idaho, Arizona or New Mexico as mentioned above, with a small herd under care of the Biological Survey of the Government, a small appropriation will, with proper handling, produce a large herd in five or twenty years.

It is to be hoped that the recent small appropriation made by Congress for the preservation of the buffalo will be sufficient to protect it from extinction. It is doubtful, however, whether they will ever thrive in Yellowstone Park without much care in the winter. A lower altitude with less snow and longer summer, similar to that of the Flathead Indian Reservation, will insure the safety of the herd with small amount of attention and expense.

## Flathead Lake.

The following report of the lake was prepared by Fred. D. Smith, formerly Professor of Chemistry and Geology at the University of Montana, now mining engineer at Sumpter, Oregon. The paper was prepared while he was connected with the University, after he had made an extensive trip around the lake and over a large portion of the country adjacent to it.

The lake occupies the lower portions of an immense valley that extends from a low range of hills along the Jocko river northward across the British Columbia line, and which has a total length of over 100 miles. The Plains on the north are a part of this valley though separated from the lake valley by a low range of hills. This larger valley may be considered made up of three smaller ones, viz: Mission, south of Flathead lake, Flathead, north of the lake, and Tobacco Plains still farther north. The Mission valley has a general elevation of from 100 to 250 feet above the lake level and a length of about 35 miles north and south with a width of from 5 to 10 miles. Flathead valley has a slight elevation of from 20 to 50 feet above the lake and is much more regular in its surface contour than the Mission valley. Its length is about 40 miles and the width 8 to 10 miles. The two valleys are the more important in this discussion as each illustrates a geological process bearing on the history of the lake. (The lower part of Flathead valley may be studied from Plate XXXVII.)

The present lake is the remnant of the much larger lake that occupied these valleys in Tertiary times, as shown by the lake beds in both valleys as well as in the valley through which the Jocko river flows. As little, if any, investigating for vertebrate fossils has been done in the lake beds though it is probable that they are of the same age as those in the Mission creek and Madison valley studied by E. Douglass.

The Mission valley and the lake are bordered on the eastern side by the Mission mountains, a range which rises abruptly from the plains to great heights. These mountains, with a very steep western slope, have their peaks within relatively short distances from the valley and consequently the streams therefrom are neither large nor of great volume in discharge. On the other hand the eastern slopes of the mountains are long and gradual, thus furnishing a larger drainage area to the Swan river and Blackfoot river, tributaries which receive the waters. This range, as such, appears to terminate at a point near the upper end of the lake where the Swan river, following its course from northward to west and south westward, flows into Flathead lake. Another range, the Swan range of the Kootenais, extends 15 miles to the N. E. continues to be the border of Flathead valley in a manner similar to that of Mission range just explained.

The history of these valleys or of the one larger valley, when all are considered as one, is very interesting. The Mission mountain range was formed by a fault, having a general direction of north and south, with a



Pass it would be to a stream leading into Clarke's Fork through Missoua where it has not been seen.

It is hoped soon to make an expedition to the headwaters of the Blackfoot and Swan rivers, when the question may be settled.

Few water birds were seen on the lake. It does not seem to be a favorite resort for them. Although there are several species of which they do not seem to thrive in the warm waters of the lake. It is possible later investigations may show this to be a good breeding place. Entomostraca are quite abundant. Other forms of animal life, such as larval Diptera and Odonata, leeches and worms have not been determined except in case of adult dragonflies.

Plate XLIV is a good view of this very interesting lake. The photograph was made from the bridge at the outlet. The lake is northeast, up the lake. In the foreground is a bed of pond rushes almost choke the stream. The dense vegetation along the shore line is plainly discernible. The wooded valley is a great shelter for white-tailed deer. During ten days stay in the region not a day passed without some one of the party either seeing or hearing an animal. Deer are abundant in the hills.

In the hills east of the lake mountain goats are reported. In former years an occasional moose is said to have reached this region, though none are now seen. Their spoor is found in the mountains shown in the background. Elk and black-tailed or mule deer were also formerly taken in this region. The former are no longer seen, and the latter only occasionally. But the white-tailed or Virginia deer roams the forests in summer from the settlements to the summits of the range, altitude 7000 feet. They have been seen on the snow banks almost at the summit. They are fond of lying in the open places on the high ridges in summer. Here they escape in part from their worst enemies, the flies. Food is abundant. They bask in the sun, rarely disturbed by man.

It was stated that the borders of Rost lake contained many sphagnum bogs, mud holes and swamps. In July we traveled miles of meadows and bogs with scarcely a dry knoll during the entire distance. In the marshes, which are no doubt deep in early spring, there must be an abundance of smaller life.

Among the interesting features presented by a brief stay at this lake was the information that all the deer were badly infested by a liver fluke. Numerous reports came regarding the "bloodsuckers" that were in the liver of every deer, etc. Coming from reliable sources these statements could not be denied. The first specimen examined after hearing these reports had two large flukes encysted in the liver. Old residents make the statement that "when you kill a big old buck in the fall, take out the liver and shake it, it is so rotten with bloodsuckers it falls to pieces." The life history of this fluke will be an interesting study for some time. From the shells thus far found the early stages are likely to be *Physa*, although *Planorbis trivolvis* should be present in the region.

Next to *Daphnia* pond Rost lake has greatest interest for students of the Biological Station.

## Echo Lake.

This interesting lake lies close to the Swan range of the Kootenai mountains, between the Swan range and Flathead river. It is but eight miles from the Biological Station.

The outline of the lake is very irregular. From the mountain tops the outline very much resembles the letter H, with small projections in several directions. This may be studied from examination of Plate XLII. The total shore line of the lake, including all the arms, is said to be from 12 to 14 miles. The width varies from a half mile to a narrow

depth is said to be great at the eastern arm, the head of the lake, soundings showed less than 20 feet.

The lake has no surface outlet. The waters are held in by glacial moraine, evidently a portion of a moraine. The waters escape through an underground outlet, finally reaching Flathead river, though just where the outlet is or how far it extends underground is not yet known.

A very recent, or present connection with some large body of water is indicated by the presence of at least four species of fish, the squawfish, *Salvelinus oregonensis*, Rich., whitefish, *Coregonus williamsoni*, Minnow, *Leuciscus*, probably gilli, and trout, *Salmo mykiss*. It is also reported to have suckers, *Catostomus*, also. A very large spring is reported at a distance from the lake on the west, but it has not yet been examined.

The lake has an annual rise of from five to seven feet, the waters fill with the melting of snow in the spring and summer, reaching the old stage again late in the fall or early in the winter. The drainage is from a small portion of the west slope of the Swan range, and a small portion of the timbered valley adjacent to the waters of the lake.

The lake lies in a trough or depression in the wooded valley. Its shores are steep slopes, leading up to the valley plain, densely wooded with tamarack, lodgepole pine, yellow pine, and an occasional white pine. Maple, alder, cottonwood and birch are present, but less numerous. In the year 1894 the surface of the lake rose during the freshet to a height of some ten or twelve feet above its usual height, and has remained at this elevation since. This elevation of water surface, and consequent submergence of land, appears to be due not to the submergence by sinking of the surface, but to filling up the underground outlet, preventing the water from escaping. This additional depth of water has drowned considerable vegetation, and in one case has submerged a meadow of several acres, including house, barn, and fences, the lake water covering a depth of several feet what was formerly a meadow and garden. The meadow at present has the water half way up the door, whereas previously to the rise it was on the bank of a creek emptying into the lake. It was formerly the mouth of the creek, and for a quarter of a mile it is now a part of the lake. This is plainly shown in Plate XLII. The bridge in the illustration formerly spanned the creek. The water is now in the lake.

This photograph was taken during the summer of 1901. In 1902 a



## Swan Lake.

From Swan lake to the Mission mountains westward the distance is perhaps not more than six miles. It lies in a direction north and south, parallel with Flathead lake. It was evidently formed by the same geological method, faulting, the western half of the uplift of the Swan range falling after the upheaval, thus making the valley between the Swan and mission ranges, in which Swan lake lies.

From the laboratory at the outlet of Swan river to Swan lake is perhaps eight miles. The road winds through the forests and along the river, mostly through unfenced country, scarcely touched by the hand of man. There are a few houses along the road, several more between the road and the mountains to the west. The timber close to the road is mostly lodge pole pine, *Pinus Murrayana*, Engl., and Douglas spruce, *Pseudotsuga mucronata*, Raf. Occasionally in the smaller timber there rises the tall trunk of a monster tamarack or yellow pine, showing that in days gone by a different forest growth covered the country. Toward the Mission range there is considerable low and swampy land, apparently the remains of a portion of the old lake before mentioned, where is to be found an abundant growth of arbor-vitae, or white cedar, *Thuja plicata* Don. Some of the mountain spurs have a dense growth of young timber of this species, so thick that the sun scarcely strikes the ground through the foliage, and where underbrush and other vegetation are entirely wanting. In passing through such timber one is continually squeezing between small trunks, often no thicker than one's arm, breaking limbs to make a passage, with nothing but dead leaves underfoot. It is impossible to see out in any direction. One must follow the compass, not knowing whether before there is a lake, a swamp, a steep slope, or open woods.

While exploring a portion of this region we came upon some blazes on the trees. At first these were supposed to be the marks of the surveyors. The compass showed them to be out of line with the direction which surveyors would take, and the question then was as to what the blazes would mean. It was decided to follow them up the mountain side through the dense timber. The way wandered much through the woods, apparently taking an uncertain direction. They were certainly made by some one who was undecided as to his bearings. They finally led up the mountain side to a tree well cut, barked almost around the trunk. From indications it was decided that some hunter a few years before had killed an animal at this spot, and had blazed his way out in order to be able to return for his game.

On this same trip, leaving the blazed trail before mentioned, we took the direction of the compass southeast, wishing to come out at a lake reported to lie between the river and the Mission mountains, a little north of Swan lake. The timber was very thick, and a view impossible. Following down a ridge which we had been ascending for some time, we came in sight of a small lake, covering but a few acres, lying in a pocket between two steep slopes. As we descended to the lake shore a pair of

golden-eye ducks started in affright. A kingfisher noisily resented our intrusion, perhaps the first for a long time. A flicker called from a nearby tree, and drummed loudly. Otherwise the woods seemed to be silent. The lake was almost choked by hydrophytic vegetation. The waters were of a beautiful blue color, causing exclamations of surprise and delight. We were not prepared to make examination of the water.

The ridge proved to be morainal, as shown by the rounded pebbles and stranded boulders on the surface. It continues to the lake, as we afterwards discovered, cutting the lake in twain, really making the lake double. This body of water is perhaps a mile or more across, somewhat elliptical in outline, timbered to the edge, and unexplored. The ridge cutting the lake in two meets the waters of the lake approximately in the middle, extending from side to side of the lake. The morainal ridge extends almost due east and west. The ridge is sharp and steep, and at the same time narrow. On the summit the distance across is but a few feet. In height it is perhaps a hundred feet above the water. It is well wooded with small timber. On the north the trees are arbor-vitae, on the south Douglas spruce. It is a place where the sharpest line yet observed is drawn between forest growth of two different species, showing plainly how slight differences in location may make sufficient difference to give one species an advantage over the other. The southern side of the sharp ridge faces the sun, is dry, and supports Douglas spruce. The north slope holds more moisture, gets much less sun, better suited to the growth of cedar.

A portion of this lake to the north has receded so as to uncover the ground, leaving a marshy meadow on which native hay grows in abundance. This is cut by thrifty ranchers for winter use. The lake is not named, is little known, and biologically is unexplored. As our trip on this occasion was hasty and merely for preliminary purposes no attempt was made to collect material. Indeed, it was late when we returned home for this hasty reconnoissance, much as we desired to make more careful examination. That must be left for future years.

On the ridge between the two portions of the lake a place was noticed where the grass and other vegetation was apparently trampled and trampled down as though a conflict had taken place. At first it was taken for the bed of a deer, but there was a marked difference in appearance between this and the ordinary deer bed. Examination disclosed the skeleton of a porcupine, yet covered by portions of skin, and abundantly protected by long quills. The fight had taken place at the foot of a fir tree. Evidently the porcupine had just descended from the tree when he was seized by an enemy, probably a wolf.

Along the bank of the old lake referred to as meadow was found a partly decayed skeleton of a fine white-tailed buck. He had a large set of antlers, which were still covered with velvet. His death can only be conjectured, but must no doubt be referred to the hunter. Unfortunately his antlers were badly eaten by rodents, hence they were useless. On the border of the meadow a fine buck was roused from his midday slumbers. The timber was dense, and the first bound put him behind such a mass of tree trunks as to make a shot impossible. Up in



and cool. Fishing is good. Mountain climbing may be indulged in almost any extent. The lower peaks near the lake may be scaled. The mountaineer may go south a few miles and find summits reaching 10,000 feet. The region is a botanist's paradise. In the swamp the entomologist will find a rich field. No doubt many new species are to be found by the collector. Artists may find ample scope for the brush, and the weary brain may find a haven of almost complete rest if such is desired.

## The Swan Range of the Kootenai Mountains.

Several excursions have been made into the Swan range in different years. In 1901, Dr. MacDougal, Mr. Harris, Mr. Ricker, Mr. Silloway and the writer shouldered packs and started over the trail to Haystack. We ascended along the south face of this about third way up, and northeast to the Hay mountain. The second day Mr. Ricker and Mr. Silloway returned to camp. The remaining three passed entirely around the head of the creek, ascended Craig mountain, followed its long ridge to the north, and descended through the woods to camp the third day without a stop.

The trail thinned out and disappeared early in the day. The slope was steep. The blazing July sun on the south side of the mountain was entering hot. The way was almost barred by dense growth of rock maple, alder, mountain ash, New Jersey tea and Menziesii scrub. This growth was bent downward by many heavy and sliding snows. In its effort to straighten the shrubby vegetation had become a tangled mass, exceedingly difficult to penetrate.

From nine in the morning, when this scrub growth was first encountered, until six in the evening we worried through this dense and tangled shrubbery. Excessive thirst drove us to a descent to the creek. At this time, as our canteens were long since empty. After a cool and refreshing draught the brush was again entered. It was worse than ever. It was impossible to see more than a few feet ahead, and it was often necessary to crawl on hands and knees to get through. Most of the time the head man was poking his gun between bent bushes with one hand and with the other trying to force the stems apart so as to slip through. Of course the others followed. The lead man was soon tired out with this threshing round he received and was relieved by another, and so on. It was the most trying, soul stirring, temper distracting and abominable thing the writer has ever had the bad fortune to be in. Guns, packs, and other paraphernalia made progress so slow as to be very disheartening. Some of the boys wanted to stop and sleep on the brush. But they pushed on. About nine in the evening we stopped on a large flat rock, fifty feet above the stream, and 1,600 feet below the ridge we hoped to reach by night. So tired were we that we threw ourselves down to rest without removing the packs. After a meal remembered only by the abundance or variety of food, but by the fact that it was very good, we crawled into our sleeping bags around the campfire for a quiet rest.

The next morning we were off before half past six. The slope was steep, and smoothed annually by spring avalanches. We reached the ridge summit at 9, prospected the three ridges to the mountain, as also the lake. As stated, two of the party returned from here to camp. The other three followed the ridge southward, skirted Actomys on the west, crossed over some rocky cliffs into the pass of faulted rock between Arcadia and Craig, spending the night between huge snowbanks. Our

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