

Some Notes on the Chalet Opening

Congratulations to Director Lamble upon getting together a congenial party, and to Chief Secretary Chaffey for proving an ideal host, who did credit to his Government.

George Aalberg, who is a more familiar figure on ski, was found by the visitors, on arrival, when crossing a water-logged valley between the road and the new chalet, perched on a load of provisions, stacked on a bush sled, and hauled by a caterpillar tractor. Rain relentlessly poured down, but as everyone had on ski boots no one seemed to mind it.

A notable visitor at the opening was the Chief Commissioner for Railways, and, as ski enthusiasts watched the classic profile of Mr. Cleary while he sat plunged in deep thought, they had memories of another great Railway Commissioner, Mr. Eddy, who promulgated a plan for a railway up the Snowy Valley right under the hoary Summit of Kosciusko itself. Whether he has visions of such a railway or not Mr. Cleary showed by his conversation that he has a most intelligent appreciation of the possibilities of our great mountain range. His practical interest he demon-



THE OFFICIAL PARTY AT THE OPENING.

strated on the day of his departure by walking 17 miles from the Summit of the mountain through pouring rain to the Hotel and fording en route two waist-deep mountain rivers. Nothing of the arm-chair Commissioner about Mr. Cleary. In him ski-runners will have a good friend, as the country has a devoted and a tireless public servant.

Sleeping in a dormitory was a new experience for some of the visitors, but great comfort was provided. The heat at night did not diminish, and, instead of having to get up to throw more logs on the fire in order to prevent immediate dissolution from frost, as was the need in old Betts Camp days, blankets were tossed off the beds in endeavors to cool down.



TAKING PROVISIONS TO THE CHALET.

There was at least one among the company who remembered the present manager of the chalet, Mr. Day, on the occasion of his acting as mentor to the first party of skiers who made their way on ski from Kiandra to Yarran-gobilly, en route to Tumut and Sydney. This was as long ago as 1907.

Owing to the heavy and persistent rain all snow had disappeared from the vicinity of the chalet, and the only outdoor relaxation was tramping in the hills. This proved very enjoyable, and in the wet quite a novelty to some. Mr. Allan Box, who was among the visitors, found his memories of Scottish moors stirred by the peat and the

heather and granite in the glen in which the chalet is situated, and, further, by the general dampness. A noted golfer, he distinguished himself by driving the first green during his stay at the hotel. Mr. Box is a traveller in many countries. He has represented his country abroad in London, and has carried out many important diplomatic missions to France and elsewhere in stirring days. He has skied in New Zealand and in Switzerland, and gave voice to the opinion that the chalet is the best equipped mountain hut extant.

In this opinion Mr. Box was supported by Mr. Tom Lang, a visitor from abroad, a member of the British Langlauf Club, and the British Ski Jumping Club, Ski Club of Great Britain, and other kindred organisations. Mr. Lang, who is a brilliant ski-runner, hopes to be with us on the snow at Kosciusko this winter, and he will be a most welcome addition to our ski-ing ranks. He was discovered by



Map showing the Terrain in the vicinity of the new Chalet at Charlotte's Pass, Mount Kosciusko.

Dr. John Laidley, while abroad last year, and persuaded to make the trip to Australia. Everyone at the chalet voted him a very good sort.

Of course there were speeches. Australians seem to be, next to the Americans, the greatest speech makers and speech listeners in the world. Some of the addresses were quite brilliant and full of erudition. Those from Mr. Cleary and from Mr. Harkness fell into this category, while, of course, Dr. Bertie Schlink's remarks were full of point and pith. Mr. Speet, too, proved himself quite an orator.

When the Hotel Kosciusko was opened, although snow had always been plentiful about that time before, none was available while the big party invited for the ceremony were at the Hotel. But the day they left, down it came and promptly snowed the place in, the road being impassable for days. So it was at the chalet. Up to the time of the departure of the guests on Monday, May 12th, heavy rain fell. But as soon as they took their seat in the cars for the descent to the Hotel, down came the snow in royal fashion.

Everyone is agreed that the chalet opens a new chapter in Kosciusko ski-ing history, and that for its purpose it is a most admirable building. The thanks of all ski-runners are due to the Government Architect, Mr. Evan Smith, for his excellent plans, and to Mr. Cameron, the constructing engineer, and to Mr. Tom Grogan, his director of works, for the speed and fidelity with which it was built.

"Climbing should not be started too soon after food and should be begun at a slow pace, and the number of steps per minute that suits you worked up to gradually. Once you have got going fairly, adjust your rate of progression to the nature of the ground. Take as long strides as you can conveniently on the level—not so long on a moderate slope, and very small strides (even to sliding the ski a few inches only at each stride), on very steep gradients."—Claude M. Browne, in "Ski Notes and Queries."