

Bogong Development Scheme

By C. J. M. Cole.

A building has now been erected on the Staircase Spur of Mount Bogong, thus providing a suitable break in the journey and a safe retreat from adverse weather. By its use a winter ascent of Victoria's best ski-ing mountain is placed within the capacity of all ski-runners.

In the matter of this, the first good shelter to be placed in that locality, due appreciation is extended to Mr. Walter Maddison, the builder, who found it necessary to triumph over bad weather and lack of assistance, both of which prevented its erection last year. All things considered, its situation is admirable, and it will, being easy to find in any weather, provide protection to all who may pass that way. A well-defined path has been made from the Horse Yards, easily recognisable from a large fallen tree in a delightful glade of large gum trees, where a triangle has been blazed on a tree indicating the Mountain Creek crossing prior to the ascent of the Staircase Spur.

The first water is found at 4,350 feet altitude; here Walter Maddison erected a camp, split most of his timber and hauled it, together with water, to the hut site at 4,900 feet altitude, above which no water is obtainable until 6,300 feet is reached. Considering the kind of timber that had to be used, the distance it had to be brought, and the limited number of tools available, a very good result has been achieved. The hut measures 10 x 14 feet; its outer shell is galvanised iron; full protection is thus given to the heavy woolly-butt frame, the posts of which are sunk well into the ground. A life of 50 years may reasonably be expected. A well-designed fireplace, which so far has not smoked and which will be further improved when a lining of zinc is placed in position, adds to its comfort.



The New Shelter.

C. J. M. Cole.

Sleeping accommodation consists of a shelf, capable of holding six people, under and above which space is available for further similar use. Equipment is limited, as, apart from the bunk, it consists of a small table and a few seats only; later a large vessel, for the storage of water and cooking gear, will be added. A wider track has been cleared through the most thickly timbered section of the Staircase proper, rendering the possibility of obstruction to skiers during heavy snow remote.

This completes two items of the five mentioned in the scheme as outlined in full in the *Victorian Ski Year Book*, 1934, and it is, therefore, claimed that substantial progress has been made. The five items mentioned were: (1) The placing of a "bivouac" on the Staircase Spur; (2) the clearance of snow gums from a portion of the Spur; (3) erection of snow-poles from a position above the "Gap" to Camp Valley; (4) the building of a Club House in Camp Valley; (5) if it is found necessary, at a later date, a second hut could be built at the top of the Staircase, at "Bogong Gap" (6,000 feet).

It is due mainly to the forethought of Messrs. Weston and Cole, in forward-



Mt. Bogong.

ing an adequate supply of food to Maddison's Hut, in Camp Valley, that Mount Bogong was visited on four occasions during the last snow season. The first visit was in early June and the last in late September, and, notwithstanding the lean snow conditions which prevailed throughout the winter, the depth and quality of the snow was found to be superior to that reported at all other resorts. Those who were fortunate enough to make these excursions definitely confirmed the superiority of this ski-ing area—so far as our own State is concerned—in matters of terrain, of protection from bad weather, of snow, of slopes, of position for a Chalet, and of the pre-eminence of its approach, via Tawonga, thus justifying the enterprise of the promoter of the scheme, and the faith and vision of those who supported it financially.

It was hoped that their example, which resulted in the committee of the Ski Club of Victoria unanimously passing a resolution in support and giving authority to establish a fund, would have drawn substantial co-operation from all interested in ski-ing. However, now that conclusive evidence is produced and approval of the scheme has been received from the Department of Lands and Survey, together with "Permissive Occupancies" of three building sites, greater assistance will be forthcoming. Efforts will immediately be directed

towards raising sufficient money to commence the erection of a building which will ultimately become a Club House.

My recommendation is that a road should be constructed from Tawonga along Mountain Creek to the foot of the Staircase Spur, which it would skirt prior to crossing to the Eskdale Spur. From there the road would gradually ascend to Camp Valley, and it could be linked up with the Omeo State Highway, in the vicinity of either Mt. Wills or Glen Wills, thus fulfilling a triple purpose. In addition to providing a tourists' approach to the summit, it would open up good grazing country and provide a through road of great scenic value. Eventually, a modern chalet would follow, where visitors would find an abundance of snow for 8 months of the year during a normal season and, at any other time, a scenic aspect unapproachable on any other Victorian mountain.

Bogong Bivouac Fund Donors.—Messrs. Maddison, Potter and Hore (of Tawonga), and Tulloh, Shands, Mitchell and Cole (of Melbourne).

Bogong General Fund Donors.—Miss Beryl Kermode, Messrs. A. Brown, D. Gray, H. Montgomery, L. L. Henshaw, N. Davis, J. Dart, T. Keogh, O. H. McCutcheon, A. McCutcheon, A. L. MacGeorge, J. MacGeorge.

Visitors to Mount Bogong During 1934 Winter.—Miss B. Kermode, Messrs. Weston (2 visits), Gray (2), Cole (2), Maddison, Robinson, Tulloh and Brown.

Prominent
S.C.V.
Members



VII.—Kemble Henry Gibson.

Courtesy "Herald."

K. H. Gibson.

It was a cold day and bad enough for those running in the 1932 inter-State Slalom, who had all the excitement and interest to distract them from the keenness of the wind. For anyone not so placed it was uncomfortable in the extreme. The starter calmly dug himself a hole and disappeared from view, all but a keen eye and an enormous revolver. In spite of trouble with the electric timing, weather conditions and the general wear and tear of a starter's job,