Annual Survey Camp.

Among the many places proposed for our Annual Survey Camp for 1914 was that ideal spot, "Lorne." Ideal in two respects, first, that our work never took us too far from camp, with the result that we were enabled to partake of a hot lunch; secondly, that the ocean beach being in close proximity, a great amount of fun was obtained by bathing in the shallow breakers on the beach, even at the early hour of 7 a.m. Our worthy lecturer, Mr. Lupson, was known to take his dip before 6.30 a.m., a record some of the students would have liked to emulate, but they should bear in mind that "Early to bed, and early to rise, makes a student healthy, wealthy and wise."

To get back to the subject, Lorne having been chosen as the scene of operations, the advance party set out and arrived on 3rd December, and after a bit of trouble, lessened to a certain extent by the local storekeeper offering to drive them—which offer was kindly and eagerly accepted—they selected a site on the east side of the Erskine River, just between the rapids and the bridge. This proved to be a very acceptable spot, since it enabled all the tents, some fifteen in number, as well as the large marquee, to be erected, so as to give convenience in every way.

After a lot of preliminary work necessary in a large camp, the site was made ready, and a few tents erected, before the main body arrived, which took place on Saturday, 5th December. Due to the good work of the advance party, the erection of the tents was not a difficult matter, so that everything was ready by sunset. At this stage it must be stated that we were fortunate to engage, and keep, a very good cook and a very capable assistant. The cook proved to be a very good camp culinary artist, and served us up some dishes which probably could hardly have been improved upon in our own homes, even to the large jam tarts, which on being measured proved to reach the dimensions 8ft. x 1ft, and they, in the words of the camp party, were very good lining.

As a University Survey Camp had been held in Lorne in 1911, the natives of the place took the advent of some 25 students without any signs of excitement, with the result that the social part of the stay was somewhat a failure. It might be stated here that, due to one of the party becoming acquainted with the daughter of the licensee of the "Hotel Lorne," the members of the committee were somewhat frequent visitors to that "desirable spot," and they seemed to progress so well that the young lady proposed a dance to celebrate the coming of such important visitors.
Well, it even got to the fixing of the date and the fixing up of the room, when the pianist was called to town, with the result that the dance was postponed. Well, the pianist came back, but, well, perhaps due to the arrival of some more important visitors, or to the inability of the committee to keep their “fair friend” sufficiently interested in their doings, at all events, the dance never took place, and so ended the first social attempt.

Well the next attempt to try and provide some social entertainment was made by some half-dozen of our members, who arranged with some young ladies—the number was not specified—to hold a beach tea. Well, it took place, so we are told, but the only part of the show the remainder saw was a figure in white running, as if he were training for the next Marathon, in the direction of the camp. Well, dear readers, you will be sorry to hear that our worthy secretary was not able to take sufficient care of himself, with the result that he was precipitated into the river. Here we pull down the blind. So ended the second attempt. We might, in passing, say that we spent a very enjoyable evening at the “Pines,” so enjoyable that the writer is sure that they were glad to get rid of their guests. Here it might be added that the young lady in whom one of our party, who is now at Broadmeadows, was particularly interested, said that she could take us out to the place in their garden where Mr. Olive placed a peg—(you gay old sport, Bill)—but the writer was never made acquainted with the fact whether such offer was accepted; perhaps some of our readers know more about it.

As most of the beauty spots of the district lay some eight or nine miles from the camp, trips to such places were held on Sundays. The places visited were the Phantom Falls, the Erskine Falls, and the Cumberland Falls. Each of these trips were made by most of the party, even to our lecturer, who, in the opinion of the writer, can still give a few of the younger ones some wrinkles on long distance walking. As most of our readers have probably visited these places, we will pass on, but it might be mentioned that one member of the committee received a “bull ant injection” on his hand, due to his inability, as some of our readers would say, to keep from practical jokes. As regards bull ants, our friend Mr. Lupson can tell us about their particular habits, and what to say when stung.

To provide amusement for the camp followers, the committee tried to arrange a cricket match with Lorne; but, alas, there were not enough athletic young fellows to make up a team, so to overcome the difficulty, we borrowed the cricketing material and arranged a match Second Year versus Third Year. Well, the Third Year managed to lead on the first innings, but, due to the fine bowling of “Kesorl,”
of the Second Year, and the advent of rain, they were unable to maintain their advantage, and were beaten by five wickets. Newton was the leading light of the Third Year, and finished with a batting average of 52, while Kesori was the main factor of the Second Year's success, and he took 9 wickets for 14 and made 36 not out. The Third Year again tried conclusions with the Second Year, but, alas, showed that even though they had greater brain power, they lacked athletic ability. The "social success" of the Second Year was the prominent man, since Kesori was not permitted to bowl, and he finished with 8 wickets for 9.

Now, with regard to the principal part of our programme, namely, the complete survey of Lorne, we might say that we managed to carry out the work set out by Mr. Lupson in a satisfactory manner. The work included all the branches of surveying, and served to give the Third Year men their chance with the instruments. Our lecturer, Mr. Lupson, has said that he was pleased with the work done, and believes that it will make a very complete and comprehensive plan. This plan is now in the hands of the present Third Year men, and does not seem to cause them as much trouble as in previous years; in fact, it seems as if Mr. Lupson's belief will be fulfilled.

As in previous camps, the afternoon tea was the principal object in view. Since at one particular part of the town it took quite four days to survey one house, perhaps some of our graduates could tell us how long it should take.

Towards the end of our stay there were two important events; the first was the presentation of a group photograph to Mr. Lupson. The presentation took place at a camp dinner, to which Mr. Littlejohn, headmaster of Scotch College, and Mr. Donald MacDonald, of the "Argus," were invited. The presentation was made, and then Mr. MacDonald was asked to relate some of his experiences as war correspondent in the South African War. His stories were very interesting, and helped us to pass a very pleasant evening. Mr. Littlejohn said a few words concerning the "esprit de corps" of the engineering students, and said that he was pleased to note the complete understanding between the students and lecturer. Before leaving the camp both Mr. Littlejohn and Mr. MacDonald inspected our quarters, and seemed quite taken with our efforts. At this stage it may be stated that the students surveyed a site for an ornamental lake as proposed by Mr. MacDonald. The work was carried out under Mr. Lupson, and proved to be of an interesting character. The proposed dam wall will be some 50 ft. high, and greatest width 180 ft. Of course, it is only a proposition, but the students will be pleased to hear at any time that their labours have not been in vain.
The proposed lake lies about a quarter of an hour's walk from the town, and could be used as a reservoir to supply the town.

The second event was the visit of that worthy animal, "the cow," to our store tent. It ate up all our potatoes, all the buns which the cook had baked for our excursion lunch, and besides that mixed up jam, sugar, salt, and everything that came in its track. The complete damage was somewhere near £2 worth. The words the cook said—well, the least said soonest mended. It may be said that any cow that visited our camp after this event received such a pressing invitation for another visit that it did not come again.

Well, to complete this article, it was unanimously agreed that the camp had been highly successful, and that thanks were due to the secretary, treasurer and committee for the capable manner in which they carried out their duties, and thus enabled the camp to be run at the low cost of £2/10/- per member; also to Mr. Lupson, for the able way in which he laid out the work and supervised its performance.

25th April, 1915.

FRANK M. SHAW.