Notes

CHAPTER 1

1 Papers Relative to the Exploration by Captain Palliser of the Portion of North America which lies between The Northern Branch of the River Saskatchewan and the Frontier of the United States; and Between the Red River and Rocky Mountains; Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, June 1859. (George Eyre and William Spotiswoode, London, 1859 and 1860), 3.

2 Ibid., 4.


CHAPTER 2


CHAPTER 3


CHAPTER 4

1 Wallace Stegner, Beyond the Hundredth Meridian (University of Nebraska Press, 1982), 256.

2 Ernest Thompson Seton, Lives of Game Animals: An Account of those Land Animals in North America, North of the Mexican Border, which are considered “Game,” Either because they have Held the Attention of Sportsmen, or Received the Protection of Law (8 Volumes), Charles T. Branford Company, Boston, 1953. See also Dan Flores, The Natural West: Environmental History in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains (University of Oklahoma Press), 187.

3 David Thompson’s Narrative of His Explorations in Western America, 1784–1812, Edited by J.B. Tyrrell (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 1916), 441.

4 Paul Kane, Paul Kane’s Frontier, including Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America (University of Texas Press, 1971), 87.

5 William T. Hornaday, Our Vanishing Wildlife (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1913), ix.
CHAPTER 5


CHAPTER 6


2 If you have visited the Middle East you may have noticed that most of the mountains described in the Bible fall within the category of hills by Canadian standards. Though we will never know the exact nature of the plant and animal communities that may have existed upon these hills two thousand years ago, it seems unlikely that they would have differed in a wholesale way from what existed on the lower slopes or on the valley floor.


6 Ibid., 40.

7 Ibid., 47.

8 There are two good books on the Otzi Iceman: See Brenda Fowler, Iceman: Uncovering the Life and Times of a Prehistoric Man Found in an Alpine Glacier (New York: Random House, 2000), and Konrad Spindler, The Man In The Ice: The Discovery of a 5000 Year-Old Body Reveals the Secrets of the Stone Age (Toronto: Doubleday Books, 1994).


12 Johnson’s Chart of Comparative Heights of Mountains (London, 1864).

13 Donald Creighton, John A. Macdonald, The Old Chieftain (Toronto: Macmillan, 1965), 120.


15 Ibid., 60.


20 Ibid., 9.


22 Letter dated September 25, 1896, from D. McNicoll to T.G. Shaughnessy, Vice President, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal, Canadian Pacific Archives.


27 Ibid., 17.
This information provided by Linda Heywood of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides, and is correct as of September 8, 2007.

CHAPTER 7


CHAPTER 8


5. Walter Dwight Wilcox, *Camping in the Canadian Rockies* (G.P. Putnam and Sons, 1897), 16.
6 James Outram, In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies (London: Macmillan Company, 1905).
9 Originally published in 1911, Mary T.S. Schäffer’s book Old Indian Trails of the Canadian Rockies was republished by Rocky Mountain Books in 2007.
12 Ralph Connor (pseudonym of Rev. Charles William Gordon), The Sky Pilot: A Tale of the Foothills (Fleming H. Revell Company / Grosset & Dunlap, ca. 1899); The Black Rock: A Tale of the Selkirks (Street & Smith, 1900); The Man from Glen-garry (Grosset and Dunlap, 1901); The Patrol of the Sundance Trail (New York: Hodder & Stroughton, and George Doran, 1914).
18 Sid Marty, The Black Grizzly Bears of Whiskey Creek (McClelland & Stewart, 2008).

CHAPTER 9

2 Wes Jackson, Becoming Native to this Place (Washington, DC: Counterpoint, 1994).

CHAPTER 10

1 Ronald Rees, New and Naked Land: Making the Prairies Home (Western Producer Prairie Books, 1988).
2 T.E. Lawrence, Seven Pillars of Wisdom (1926; Penguin Modern Classics, 1975).
5 Ibid.
CHAPTER 13

2 Ibid.


CHAPTER 14
1 Any examination of Coleman’s technical work will put to rest the notion that the science of geology was not well advanced by the time Coleman took his degrees in Canada and Europe. For those without a good grounding in geology, Coleman’s technical work can look as if it were written in a foreign language. A melanphyre is a porphyritic igneous rock with dark-coloured aphanitic groundmass and varied phenocrysts.


4 Ibid., 187.

5 As Coleman’s description of this ascent is vague, there is some confusion as to which mountain he climbed to get his bearings in the Fortress Lake area. Since they could look east toward Fortress Mountain and Mount Quincy and still see the White Pyramid to the south, it is likely they ascended the ridge to the east of Chisel Creek that overlooks Fortress Lake to the north and Mount Quincy to the east.
The assertion that Coleman made the first ascent of Sunwapta Peak has been made before by other historians. Coleman’s description in the text of his book, however, casts some doubt. The problem is that he describes the mountain as being at the headwaters of the Sunwapta. The actual headwaters of the Sunwapta River is the Athabasca Glacier below Mount Athabasca. The peak directly east of this glacier is Nigel Peak, which is generally held to have first been climbed by surveyors in the employ of the Boundary Commission in 1918. It is almost certain, given the time that it took and his description of the mountain, that the Coleman party did climb Sunwapta Peak, which lies slightly south and east of where the party camped on the confluence of Jonas Creek and the Sunwapta River. See Robert Kruszyna and William L. Putnam, The Rocky Mountains of Canada North, Seventh Edition (1985). The first ascent is not credited to Coleman but to J. Simpson in 1906.

In terms of maps, it is also interesting to note that, in the back cover of the book, we find a Canadian Pacific Railway map of its transcontinental route, complete with the names of every community along the main line. In exchange for assistance in making his eight trips through the Rockies, Coleman was not reluctant to quietly promote the railway in his widely read and highly popular account of exploration and science in the mountains of the West.

H.E.M. Stutfield and J. Norman Collie, Climbs and Exploration in the Canadian Rockies (Longmans, Green and Company, 1903), 153. The publication of Douglas’s actual journal notes from the upper reaches of Athabasca Pass three years after the first printing of The Canadian Rockies: New & Old Trails, exposed the extent to which Douglas’s text had been transformed before his notes were first published in the Botanical Magazine in England:

After breakfast at one o’clock, being as I conceive on the highest part of the route, I became desirous of ascending one of the peaks, and accordingly I set out alone on snowshoes to that on the left hand or west side, being to all appearances the highest. The labour of ascending the lower part, which is covered with pines, is great beyond description, sinking on many occasions to the middle. Halfway up vegetation ceases entirely, not so much as a vestige of moss or lichen on the stones. Here I found it less laborious as I walked on the hard crust. One-third from the summit it becomes a mountain of pure ice, sealed far over by Nature’s hand as a momentous work of Nature’s God. The height from its base may be about 5500 feet: timber, 2750 feet; a few mosses and lichen 500 more; 1000 feet of perpetual snow; the remainder, towards the top 1250, as I have said, glacier with a thin covering of snow on it. The ascent took me five hours; descending only one and a quarter. Places where the descent was gradual, I tied my shoes together, making them carry me in turn as a sledge. Sometimes I came down one spell 500 to 700 feet in the space of one minute and a half. I remained twenty minutes, my thermometer standing at 18°; night closing fast in on me, and no means of fire, I was reluctantly forced to descend. The sensation I felt is beyond any description, striking the mind with horror blended with a sense of the wondrous works of the Almighty.

This original journal account makes no mention of the heights of either Mounts Hooker and Brown which were obviously added later. A botanist with any amount of experience in the Rockies would be able to figure out instantly from this description that Douglas must have known, at least approximately, the true altitude of Mount Brown. Treeline in this part of the Rockies is, depending upon slope and exposure, at between 6,800 and 7,200 feet (2,072–2,194.5 metres). Douglas puts treeline at about 2,700 feet (823 metres) above the pass, suggesting that the pass would be at about 4,100–4,500 feet (1,250–1,371.6 metres) in altitude, not all that far off from its actual 5,736 feet (1,748.3 metres). It seems impossible that Douglas wouldn’t have known that treeline could not deviate to a very great extent at this northern latitude. Why a reputable botanist like Douglas would choose to exaggerate the heights of these mountains remains a mystery.

Chapter 15

CHAPTER 16

1 The historical information about the history of the automobile in the mountain West is abridged from R.W. Sandford, Roads to the Future: The History of the Alberta Motor Association (Alberta Motor Association, 2001).

2 Sandford, Roads to the Future, 6.

3 See Bob Hahn, Kootenay National Park (Rocky Mountain Books, 2000). Bob Hahn is a Park Warden with a lifetime of experience in Kootenay. This book should be cherished for its loving insights into a national park that does not receive the attention it deserves because of the highway focus visitors and locals bring to their appreciation of it.

CHAPTER 17


2 Rudolf Aemmer spoke these words upon being awarded a special citation by the American Alpine Club in 1909.

3 This quote is from the same 1920 brochure produced by Arthur Wheeler, in the possession of the author.

CHAPTER 18

1 See Joseph Epes Brown, Animals of the Soul: Sacred Animals of the Oglala Sioux (Element Books, 1997), xiii.


3 Ibid.

4 Some researchers believe that the uncanny similarity of the bear’s hind foot is at the root of many Sasquatch and Yeti stories.

5 Doug Peacock, Grizzly Years (Owl Books, 1990), 186–7. Peacock described a grizzly grasping a six foot log between its paws and moving it back and forth to scratch his neck.

6 Rockwell, Giving Voice to Bear, 5.

7 Brown, Animals of the Soul, 22.


10 Ibid., see introduction to the year 1690, page 3, following the French version of the introduction by the editors.

the fact that many people mauled by bears suffer head injuries that include the tearing of the scalp, facial lacerations, damage to or loss of eyes and the breaking or tearing off of the lower jaw. For this reason most recommended strategies for playing dead in the presence of an attacking bear stress protection of the face.

**CHAPTER 19**


5  All of these reports are abridged from *Climate Change and Canada's National Park System*, edited by Daniel Scott of the Adaptation and Impacts Group, Environment Canada, and Roger Suffling of the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo, published by Parks Canada in May of 2000.

6  One of the concerns here is that the depletion of glaciers may result in a diminished later summer flow in the Bow and other rivers that rely on glacial melt to sustain year-round volumes. Depending on the extent and nature of local changes, some rivers like the Bow could potentially stop flowing late in dry summer seasons.

7  See *Climate Change and Canada’s National Park System: A Screening Level Assessment*, Daniel Scott and Roger Suffling, Eds. (Adaptation and Impacts Research Group, Environment Canada, 2000), 80.

8  David Sauchyn et al., *Assessment of Biophysical Vulnerability, Report to the Government of Alberta, Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative* (University of Regina, 2006).