

NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE.

In addition to longer articles suitable for the body of the magazine, the editor would be glad to receive brief memoranda of all noteworthy trips or explorations, together with brief comment and suggestion on any topics of general interest to the Club. Descriptive or narrative articles, or notes concerning the animals, birds, forests, trails, geology, botany, etc., of the mountains, will be acceptable.

The office of the Sierra Club is at Room 45, Merchants' Exchange Building, San Francisco, where all the maps, photographs, and other records of the Club are kept.

There are but a few copies on file of No. 3, Vol. I., of the BULLETIN. The Club would like to purchase additional copies of that number, and we hope any member having extra copies will send them to the Secretary.

The present number of the BULLETIN has been delayed by errors in making some of the illustrations. J. S. H., JR.

A CORRECTION.

In a small map of the region near Tower Peak, in Vol. II, opposite page 279 (Plate XXXV) of the BULLETIN, the scale of miles is given as two miles to the inch. It should be four miles to the inch.

PROPOSED SUMMER OUTING OF THE SIERRA CLUB—REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Realizing that the Sierra Club has heretofore neglected one of the most effective means for promoting its objects, a committee has been appointed by the Directors to investigate and report on the feasibility of having a general club outing during this coming summer. An excursion of this sort, if properly conducted will do an infinite amount of good toward awakening the proper kind of interest in the forests and other natural features of our mountains, and will also tend to create a spirit of good-fellowship among our members. The Mazamas and Appalachian Clubs have for many years shown how successful and interesting such trips may be made.

The committee have canvassed the situation thoroughly, and after considering possible routes have decided that our initial trip should be made to the Tuolumne Meadows. It is essential that this first trip—inaugurating, as we hope, a series of annual out-

ings—should be as complete a success as possible. We have chosen the Tuolumne Meadows as our objective point for many reasons. The first trip should combine comparative ease and comfort with the opportunity of seeing some of the grandest scenery of the Sierra, not too commonly visited as to lack distinction. The Tuolumne Meadows is the most attractive region in the High Sierra proper which can be reached by road, thus admitting of travel thither by stage. It is particularly fitting that our first trip should be into the very heart of our grandest and most widely known mountain scenery. The old Tioga mining road, over which we will travel, passes between the Yosemite and Hetch-Hetchy Valleys, and within a few miles of each. Our present plan is to give the entire party an opportunity of seeing the Hetch-Hetchy, and arrangements will be made so that all those who wish to visit Yosemite may do so at a small additional expense.

The Meadows are described as follows, in the words of those whose names will lend added weight to what they say:—

Prof. Joseph Le Conte, in his "Ramblings Through the High Sierra," says: "The Tuolumne Meadow is a beautiful grassy plain of great extent, thickly enameled with flowers, and surrounded with the most magnificent scenery. Conspicuous amongst the hundreds of peaks visible are Mt. Dana, with its grand symmetrical outline, and purplish red color; Mt. Gibbs, of gray granite; Mt. Lyell and its group of peaks, upon which great masses of snow still lie; and the wonderfully picturesque group of sharp, inaccessible peaks (viz: Unicorn Peak, Cathedral Peaks, etc.), forming the Cathedral group. Soda Springs is situated on the northern margin of the meadow. It consists of several springs of ice-cold water, . . . pungent, and delightful to the taste.

. . . To any one wishing really to enjoy camp-life among the High Sierra, I know no place more delightful than Soda Springs. Being about nine thousand feet above the sea, the air is deliciously cool and bracing. The water, whether of the spring or of the river, is almost ice-cold, and the former a gentle tonic. The scenery is nowhere more glorious."

Referring to this same region, the U. S. Engineers report as follows: "Peaks capped with perpetual snow are numerous. Mts. Hoffman, Conness, Gibbs, and many others raise their heads to an elevation in excess of 12,000 feet, while Mts. Dana, Lyell, and McClure (over 13,000 ft.) have in addition living glaciers of great beauty, equal in interest to those of Switzerland. . . . Following along the Tioga road a series of lakes and streams are passed that are unequalled for fishing. The scenery is particularly grand, and there are found here a number of mineral springs

which are equal to any of the famed springs of the country. . . . Through this section of the park wood, water, and grass abound, making it a paradise for campers."

In reply to an inquiry relative to this proposed trip, our honored President, Dr. John Muir, writes: "I think the trip to the Big Tuolumne Meadows the best possible."

Our route over the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads takes us through some of the grandest and most varied forest belts in the State, and the flora, ranging as it does from the foothill varieties to those of the highest Alpine growth, is instructive and wonderful beyond description. On the Tioga road particularly, we cross numbers of beautiful meadows and streams; and after rounding the base of Mt. Hoffman, to use again the words of Prof. Le Conte, "Lake Tenaya bursts upon our delighted vision, its placid surface set like a gem amongst magnificent mountains." From our permanent camp in the Tuolumne Meadows the interesting Mono country, with its lake and volcanic craters and chemical springs, can be easily reached in a day. The grand cascades and rugged scenery of the head of the Grand Cañon of the Tuolumne can be visited and return to camp made the same day. Nowhere is there such an opportunity for variety of wonderful and interesting trips, taking not more than a day or so each, which can be made from the same starting-point, as here in the meadows. It is our intention to make the ascent of Mt. Lyell as a party, and for one night at least we will camp at its very foot. The ascent to the summit can be made in a few hours from this point, and takes us over its glacier, one of the largest and finest in all the Sierra. On the summit of Mt. Lyell is a record left by a member of the German Alpine Club to this effect: "The view from this point equals anything I have ever seen in the Alps."

Dr. John Muir has promised to go with us on this trip and in all probability Prof. Joseph Le Conte will accompany us. The committee have corresponded with the departments of Geology, Botany, and Zoology of both Berkeley and Stanford, and we are almost certain to have professors to represent each of these branches of science. We will have camp-fire talks on all the scientific phases of the trip. This educational feature alone will make the trip an extremely desirable one.

Some have raised the objection that traveling with a crowd will be disagreeable. On the contrary, we feel it will add largely to the interest of the trip. Only members of the club and their immediate friends will be eligible to join the party, and this will be a sufficient guarantee as to the high class and tone of the same. We will arrange so that those who are particularly congenial can travel in groups practically by themselves. Experienced mountaineers will also find this trip desirable, since their outfits can be

transported to the Meadows, which they can make a base for trips to Mt. Ritter and the more inaccessible portions of the High Sierra.

The evening camp-fire will be a most attractive feature. Many will have musical instruments, and lectures, story-telling, and songs will make a most delightful ending for each day's pleasure.

The discomforts ordinarily incident to mountain trips will be reduced to a minimum. The irksome duties of cooking, dish-washing, and provisioning will be turned over entirely to a commissary department. All transportation of outfits, etc., will be attended to by the committee, thus relieving the party of all drudgery and leaving their time entirely free for enjoyment of scenery and mountain life. The trip will be particularly attractive for women, and every effort made to secure comfort usually lacking in excursions to the high mountains.

We have already provisionally arranged with the stage company to transport the entire party from Chinese Camp to the Meadows, and it will probably be at the option of the members of the party to make the trip either by stage or horse-back. The entire cost of the trip, including provisioning, hire of cooks, transportation of baggage, railroad and stage fare from San Francisco and return, will be in the neighborhood of forty-five or fifty dollars. The same trip could not be taken individually with the same comfort for less than seventy-five or a hundred dollars. The trip will also be arranged so that those who wish may walk, either from Chinese Camp or Crocker's, thus considerably lessening the above-named rate.

The main trip will be taken sometime during the month of July, and will cover a period of two weeks, though all who wish to stay for a greater length of time will be accommodated.

There seems to be no question but that this trip will be one of the greatest events of the next season. From the applications which have already been made by those who have learned that such a trip may be taken, its success is already assured, and it will be a grave question whether we will be able to accommodate all who will wish to join the party. In that event, those who first apply will be given the preference. A detailed prospectus of the features of this proposed trip and what it will be essential to take, etc., will be issued as the season approaches.

Those who wish to learn further of this wonderful country are referred to the January (1900) BULLETIN of the Sierra Club, containing Prof. Le Conte's "Ramblings Through the High Sierra," pages 50-80, and to John Muir's delightful book, entitled "The Mountains of California." Very respectfully,

WM. E. COLBY,
Secretary of Sierra Club.