

## CLUB MEET AT MOUNT KEEN.

THE first official meet of the Club since the war was held at Mount Keen on Monday, 21st July. Perfect weather conditions prevailed, and there forgathered on the top the Chairman and sixteen other members and guests. Excellent arrangements were made for the transport of the party from Aboyne up Glen Tanner, and a merry party boarded the big wagonette which met the morning train from Aberdeen. The Chairman motored from Braemar with four other members, and, having seen everyone aboard the wagonette, preceded it to Glen Tanner House, where a courteous reception was met with from the Head Keeper. After a glorious drive, amid pleasant scenery of wood and waterfall, field and moor, the wagonette party struck the orthodox path from the roadside, and slowly mounted upwards. The Chairman's party, which was joined by a member and his guest who had walked over from Ballater, struck across the shoulder of Mount Keen, opposite the coach-house, and met the main party higher up. The member from Ballater, however, excusing himself on the grounds of age and laziness, stayed by the roadside and the burn, after giving a few words of caution to his youthful and energetic companion.

The weather was warm, and a somewhat toilsome ascent ended at the summit cairn, where a light breeze was much appreciated. The majority of the party took about an hour and a half to make the cairn, but at least one member accomplished the ascent in about three quarters of an hour. An old member and ex-chairman expressed his delight at not having lost his "hill-step" in spite of his seventy odd years. At the cairn a formal meeting was held and certain business was transacted, including the admission, *in absentia*, of two new members—Mr. John F. Cruickshank and Mr. William Mitchell. It was pointed out that, by their absence, an interesting ceremony had to be omitted, but would no doubt be

reserved for a future occasion. Business done, everyone turned to the gorgeous panorama which spread itself out all around. The superb clearness of the atmosphere permitted an extraordinary range of vision, and to attempt to describe everything seen would occupy pages. A brief *résumé* must suffice.

To the east could be seen the distant sea, and, with the naked eye, Girdleness Lighthouse was made out as a white speck against the darker background of sea and sky. North of this, a big fire, probably of heather, was blazing in the direction of Peterhead, its size indicated by an immense smoke cloud which was spread out all over that district. Nearer to us, Bennachie stood out clearly, forming a prominent and unmistakable landmark, as did Cloch-na-Ben further south. The Dee valley lay like a patchwork design, practically at our feet; the river was almost invisible, but several lochs stood out like burnished sheets of silver.

To the north, miles of country unfolded itself, and the Bin of Cullen was distinctly visible as a rounded dome on the horizon. To the left of this were the Tap o' Noth and the Buck of the Cabrach, while, far across the Moray Firth, the faint outlines of the Sutherland and Ross-shire hills were distinctly visible.

To the west, and much nearer us, the great mass of the Cairngorms stood out in relief, while prominent, of course, were the "steep frowning glories of dark Loch-na-gar." Keen discussion arose regarding the identity of several of the visible peaks, but Ben Avon, Beinn à Bhuirid, Ben Muich Dhui, Braeriach, Cairn Toul, and the Devil's Point were easily named.

To the south, range after range of hills were visible, and the sea beyond Montrose shewed as a blue grey line on the distant horizon.

The southern slopes of Mount Keen dip steeply into the upper reaches of the valley of the North Esk, and a fine view of its fertile pastures was obtained from the summit. A party of ladies from Brechin was met on the

top of the hill. They had a stiff pull up, but were charmed with the view upon reaching the cairn.

A long and glorious hour was spent, after which the descent was made to the road. Two of the more energetic members, not content with one ascent, decided that, before returning to the road, they would traverse the hill immediately to the east of Mount Keen. This they did, joining the rest of the party further down Glen Tanner.

Mention must be made of the forethought of one of the lady members in bringing with her a huge basket of most perfect strawberries, which slaked the thirst of the whole party, and evoked blessings on the kindly donor.

The whole expedition was voted a complete success, and many wishes were expressed that we would soon meet again on a similiar and equally pleasant occasion.

DAVID P. LEVACK.