



[J. R. Levack.
SELECTING THE SITE, JUNE 17, 1923.



[H. Alexander.
LOADING THE HORSES AT LOCH CALLATER.

THE LOCHNAGAR INDICATOR: ITS BUILDING AND UNVEILING.

BY HENRY ALEXANDER.

THE mountain indicator on Lochnagar, designed by Mr. James A. Parker, was erected and inaugurated in July and the most important enterprise undertaken by the Cairngorm Club since the building of the Allt-na-Beinne bridge has thus been successfully accomplished. Indicators of the kind have been placed on various hills and viewpoints in this country, as, for example, the excellent bronze indicator on Brimmond, drawn by the late Mr. G. Gordon Jenkins and erected some years ago, but the new chart on the summit of Lochnagar, 3,786 ft., is the loftiest in the British Isles, and situated, as it is, on one of the best known and most frequently ascended mountains in Scotland, it will be of great interest and service to the public. An account of its planning and erection may fitly be given in the *Cairngorm Club Journal* and, if the details seem over-elaborate, the indulgent forbearance of readers is invited.

The origin of the scheme is to be found in the proposal to erect an indicator on Ben Macdhui in memory of Mr. Alexander Copland, one of the founders of the Club, who, as the result of many patient ascents of the highest of the Cairngorms, compiled a panorama of the horizon. This panorama was published as a supplement to the *Club Journal* and from it Mr Parker prepared some years ago a chart suitable for transference to an indicator. The proposal was formally adopted by the Club but so far no further steps have been taken in the matter, and the Lochnagar Indicator is, in a sense, a diversion or side issue due to two accidents, first a sug-

gestion by Sheriff Laing that as Lochnagar is more frequently climbed than Ben Macdhui, an indicator on it would be more appreciated by the public, and second, the good fortune that one July day two years ago when there was an exceptionally fine view in all directions, even the Cheviot in England being visible, Mr. Parker happened to be on the summit of Lochnagar. He noted down the details of the horizon with compass bearings, and from this material, and after careful comparison with maps, prepared the plan of an indicator which he submitted to Dr. Levack, the President. The latter took up the idea with zest, the Committee of the Club approved, and, His Majesty the King having given permission for the erection of the indicator on the summit, a fund amounting to over £50 was raised to defray the cost.

The work consists of a circular stoneware plate, $25\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, bearing the design and resting upon a masonry pedestal, the total height from the ground being 2 ft. 9 ins. Commonly the practice in such indicators is to engrave the design upon a bronze plate but Mr. Parker suggested that a stoneware slab should be used, following the style of indicators which he had seen in the south of France. This has been adopted and the Lochnagar indicator is believed to be the first of its kind in this country. The work was entrusted to Messrs. Doulton and was carried out at their Lambeth factory. As with ordinary pottery the design was transferred to the prepared clay and the slab baked in the furnace, a fine glaze being put on the surface. The technical difficulties of the process were great, owing to the unusual size of the work, and no fewer than six attempts had to be made before the perfect slab was successfully produced. Covering the surface is a network of lines, as in crackle ware, but these do not imply any imperfection and, as they are over-laid by the glaze, they do not affect the durability of the design. Provided the surface is not chipped or broken, in which case frost would enter, the slab is imperishable and the material has the great advantage

over bronze of the design being very clear and legible, the black lettering contrasting boldly with the white background.

The actual site for the indicator was selected in June last year. It is on the rocks of the Cac Carn Beag, the northern and higher top of Lochnagar. Climbers ascending the mountain from Glen Muick or Glen Callater come first upon the Cac Carn Mor, 3,768 ft., a small tor or pile of rocks, surmounted by a cairn. A quarter of a mile north of this and across a small dip lies the Cac Carn Beag, 3,786 ft., crowned with a great rugged mass of rocks and bearing no artificial cairn on its highest point. There was difficulty in deciding on which summit to place the indicator, each to some extent obscuring the horizon from the other, the Cac Carn Mor commanding the finer prospect to the south, and the Cac Carn Beag the finer view of the Dee valley. The choice finally fell upon the latter. Very wisely the actual summit blocks of the Cac Carn Beag have been left as they are and the indicator has been placed on a flat slab a few feet below and at the south-eastern side, so as not to over-top the summit. This, however, does not interrupt the view, because an observer at the indicator can, when standing erect, see over the summit in every direction. A reproduction (reduced) of the design on the indicator is published as a special plate with this issue and it is unnecessary to describe the work in detail. In every case the distance as well as the name of the hill seen is given. The labour entailed to Mr. Parker in the preparation of this indicator must have been very great and only a person with his unique knowledge of the mountain topography of Scotland and exact engineering experience could have satisfactorily performed the task. No effort was spared by him in checking and double-checking his identifications and figures and the result is one upon which he will be very warmly and most deservedly congratulated by all who ascend the hill.

THE WORK OF BUILDING.

The indicator was erected on Saturday, July 5th, the work requiring careful planning and preparation. Here also Mr. Parker's experienced management made everything go without a hitch. Three weeks earlier he and Dr. Levack, W. Garden, and Charles Robb, ascended the hill by the Glasallt and were accompanied by Mr. Frank Fowlie, foreman mason of the Great North section of the London and North Eastern Railway, who had very kindly volunteered his services to build the pedestal. The expedition was in the nature of a prospecting one, to locate an easy route for the slab-carrying party which could be followed even in dense mist, to examine the site and determine where suitable building stone could be got near the summit, and to fix the nearest water supply. The party carried up a 10 lb. mason's hammer and an ice axe (to serve as handy tool) and these were left in a recess under one of the rocks carefully located by Parker as 30 ft. from the summit in the direction of Invercauld. It was found that the boulders near the summit could easily be split and roughly dressed for building purposes. Transport had to be arranged for all the other materials, including a supply of sand because it had been shown by a test made last year that the gravel on the summit of Lochnagar is not suited for making good mortar. The top course of the pedestal consists of three dressed white granite blocks, each weighing 84 lbs., and bound together by iron cramps. These, along with sand and cement, had to be taken up as well as a bag of mason's tools, buckets for carrying water, a shovel, a handbarrow, and sacks, and a tarpaulin to be spread over the completed work in order to protect it from night frosts while the cement was setting. Finally there was the precious indicator slab itself, weighing 40 lbs., which, it was arranged, should be carried up by a party of young volunteers from the Glasallt Shiel.

All the tools and materials except the slab were handed over to Major John Milne, Ballater and

Braemar, and went on horseback from Loch Callater. At Braemar the Club found a valuable helper in Mr. H. S. Hunter, a practical craftsman, and an old Gordons officer who was attached to the Engineers during the war and who had had experience of exactly the kind of work that had to be undertaken. The materials—sand, cement, cap-stones, tools, etc.—were assembled at Braemar in care of Mr. John Innes, and Parker went out on Saturday, June 28th, to check them and see that nothing was missing, and to discuss the transport arrangements with the present writer, who took charge at that end. On the Sunday Parker went up Lochnagar as a sort of incidental stroll. Two hill ponies were engaged and early on Wednesday, July 2nd, everything was carted up to Loch Callater Lodge, where every facility was kindly given by Mr. Andrew Smith, factor for the Invercauld Estates, and where Mr. John Lamond, the keeper, was a willing assistant in handling the loads. The day was anything but encouraging. Mist hung low down and the drizzling cold wind certainly did not invite one to go on to Lochnagar. It was decided, however, to push on with the first two loads, the first horse carrying two of the cap-stones, slung across a deer saddle, and the other carrying the third cap-stone and all the mason's tools, similarly slung. George Innes and Donald Morrison were in charge of the horses and Hunter and the writer accompanied them. The ascent was made to the top in 2 hrs. 55 mins., the only difficult part being the steep and rough climb up Cairn Taggart where there is a good deal of soft peat and there was a risk of getting the horses bogged. Beyond Cairn Taggart the mist lifted and for moments the sun came out and it looked as if the day were going to clear up. Parker's *cache* was found at the top and the stuff dumped into it and after men and horses had got a feed—half the horses' oats being blown away in the tearing wind—the party set their faces to the westerly gale and, though it was very cold, got on not so badly till Cairn Taggart was reached,

when a heavy rainstorm set in and completed the day's discomfort. The only bright spot was hospitable Miss Lamond's piping hot tea at the Lodge. There had been talk of taking another load up the hill on the Thursday but we had all had enough of Lochnagar and decided to leave the last journey over till Saturday, when one horse would carry the cement and the other the sand. The cement could not in any event be taken up before the building day, lest it got wet upon the summit.

Parker's order of the day for Saturday was that the first party, consisting of himself and the two volunteer masons, Frank Fowlie and William Fleming, also of the Great North section of the L.N.E.R., with W. Garden and J. McCoss as helpers, should arrive at the top, via the Glasallt, at 9 a.m. and begin dressing the stones; that the second or Braemar party with the cement, should arrive at 11 a.m. by which time the masons would be ready to begin building; and that the third party, under Douglas and accompanied by Dr. Levack as guide, should arrive with the slab, at 1 p.m. by which time the pedestal would be completed. Everything went according to plan and up to time—in fact before it—and this despite the fact that the weather was by no means too propitious. The day opened most cheerfully and when the Braemar party consisting of the same four as on the Wednesday, Hunter, Innes, Morrison and Alexander, left Loch Callater with the horses at 8.10, the sun was shining on the Tolmount and the whole scene was a complete and welcome change from what it had been three days before. This was particularly welcome because of the cement. From the very outset Parker had laid down that whatever or whoever got wet did not matter, provided the cement was kept dry. We had the big tarpaulin with us to put over the cement bags on the saddle but in a rainstorm like Wednesday's it would have been very difficult to protect anything. Hence our relief to see sunshine. One horse carried a bag of sand, split in two,



[H. Alexander.
ON THE SHOULDER OF CAIRN TAGGART.



[J. R. Levack.
THE INDICATOR SLAB AT GLASALLT SHIEL.

and the other a $\frac{3}{4}$ bag of cement, similarly split, and the ascent was made in 2 hrs. 45 mins. under very pleasant conditions, for though clouds were beginning to gather ominously in the west, the hill was perfectly clear and lovely views were obtained down into Aberdeenshire. As we rounded the top of the Stuib Buttress and came in sight of the summit, curiosity quickened as to Party No. I. and how they were getting on. Were they already at the top and busy at work? The answer did not come until we were well round the corrie and then we saw figures on the skyline and later, as we rounded the Cac Carn Mor, came the tinkle tinkle of a mason's chisel, a novel sound on the top of Lochnagar. At five minutes to eleven the horses were at Parker's dump and the cement was handed over dry and safe.

It was not a moment too soon. By this time cloud and rain from the west were upon us. The day, so favourable to begin with, had completely changed and, it was evident that the building of the indicator was not going to be a mere picnic. Parker's party had breakfasted at Ballater at 5.15. a.m., the Invercauld Arms entering cheerfully into the spirit of the day's undertaking, left at 5.55, reached the Glasallt Shiel at 6.40 and arrived at the top at 8.35, thus making the ascent in 1 hr. 55 mins., which is very good going. This route had been carefully prospected in the ascent three weeks before and, His Majesty's Commissioner having kindly given access up to the Glasallt Shiel, it was made the standard route for the undertaking. The masons and their staff—for Parker took on labourers' work with the others—soon had the tools out of the *cache* where they had been deposited three days before, and by 11 o'clock when there was a stop for food, substantial progress had been made.

A miniature quarry had been opened below the summit, a big boulder split into blocks ready for dressing, a supply of water brought from the spring between the two tops and a hot meal of baked beans prepared, which—by the way—Party No. I. took good care to

demolish before the Braemar men reached the top. There being no need to keep both the horses, one was allowed to go back to Callater, and the other retained to take down the tools after the work was finished. The latter was "Dobbin" and it occurred to Parker that it would be well to send him down the Glasallt to meet Party No. III. in case they should be needing help with the 40 lb slab. This was done and at a quarter to twelve "Dobbin," having had a feed, with Innes, Hunter and Garden went off down the hill. By this time mortar had been mixed and Fowlie had laid the first course of the pedestal, while Fleming was dressing the stones below. It was a marvel to see the way in which the stones took shape and the work rose into being under the hands of these competent men. They had to build under very severe difficulties, for they were perched right on the mountain top for hours in the face of a bitterly cold driving rain and drizzle, which numbed one's hands and chilled enthusiasm. The rest of us did our best to help as labourers but we were feeble folk for when three of us tried to carry one of the blocks on the hand-barrow up the steep twenty feet to the top, we failed miserably but Fleming said cheerfully, "put it on my back" and carried it up himself, a fitting Titan for the rocks of Lochnagar.

At one o'clock a whistle through the mist heralded the approach of Party No. III, exactly on schedule time. They consisted of the President, Dr. Levack, and with him, as carriers of the slab, H. J. Butchart, David S. P. Douglas, Harold Duffus, W. J. Levack, Charles Robb and Marshall Robb. They had motored from Aberdeen and reached the Glasallt Shiel at 10.20. The slab was packed in a salmon bass or bag and slung on the back, like a rucksack, and each carrier took it in turns for a short spell. The ascent by the Glasallt is very steep and not only was the load heavy but what made it worse was the fact that, being large and flat and solid, it lay most uncomfortably on the shoulders. Notwithstanding this the party made excellent progress

up the hill though they were not loth to hand over the slab to "Dobbin," when he met them. The bag was slung on the saddle with a counter-weight and the whole party arrived at the summit punctually at one o'clock.

The correct orientation of the indicator was an interesting operation and was, of course, carried out by Parker himself. It had to be done before the iron cramps were fixed in the cap-stones because the metal would have deflected the compass. The cap-stones having been set, a circular three-ply board, on which was pasted a full-size copy of the indicator, was placed on top and oriented by means of a two-inch magnetic compass, the position being checked by a momentary sight on The Buck of Cabrach, which was visible at this critical juncture for a few seconds through an opening in the mist. The positions of three of the pointers on the drawing were marked on the cap-stones below and the board removed.*

This done, the cramps were inserted and in a recess in the centre of the pedestal a tin canister was deposited, containing cards on which we had all signed our names, not omitting the patient "Dobbin" who was standing in the lee of the top. The final stage was the placing and adjustment of the indicator slab. The top of the pedestal was flushed with cement and upon this bed the slab was placed, the ribs on its under-surface engaging with the soft cement and holding it absolutely firm. The points on the slab were made to coincide with the three points marked on the cap-stones below and by a fortunate chance just at this moment the mist again lifted and a glimpse was caught of the well-known hills, The Buck and Ben Rinnes, by which it was possible to check the alignment with the aid of a mason's straight edge. Everything was true and at 3.15 the work was completed.

Hot tea was then prepared and served round, and

* Owing to the presence of the iron cramps a compass placed on the indicator may not indicate the exact north, and persons attempting to verify their compasses by the indicator may be misled.

the parties quickly separated, for there was little to tempt them to stay, the Braemar party carrying off the tools and the President's party starting down for the Glasallt Shiel but Parker and the masons stayed on for another hour or more to give the work a little time to settle and to fix matting, sacks and tarpaulin over it. Waste-paper was buried and the hill top tidied up and Party No. I. left at 4.30, having thus put in an eight hours' working day on the summit of Lochnagar. The downward journey was made pleasant by sunshine, for the day relented of its churlishness and became once more kind and genial. As the work had been successfully accomplished, one could look back with a certain relish upon the rough experience. It was right and fitting that Lochnagar, storm sweeping his crest, should show us something of his sterner moods, as if to repel this invasion with hammer and chisel of his primeval majesty. A mere midsummer outing would have been much too halcyon a setting for our work.

Parker and Fowlie went up the hill again on the following day but the reason for this unplanned and hasty visit is best told in Parker's own words :—

After a snooze after lunch in the hotel I thought that I would go up to the Brackley keeper's house, where Fowlie was staying, and see if he was any the worse for his exposure on Saturday. The keeper's wife said that he was all right and was up the hill road. I therefore followed and found him and the keeper about 500 ft. up on the hillside looking through a telescope at the top of Lochnagar. And they told me that there two men on the top of the hill doing something to the indicator! This was about four in the afternoon. On looking through the telescope, a mighty good one, I saw these two figures on either side of the pedestal and at one time was almost certain that I saw something flapping up between them. Evidently the tarpaulin. What a position! We were nine miles off and powerless.

Fowlie then began to say that he was not satisfied with the finishing off of the pointing which had not been done as he would have liked on account of the rain, and added that he was going to come up with the 4.40 some afternoon and trim it up a bit before the opening day. Within four hours we were on the top of the mountain! Ballater was left about 5 p.m. and regained



[J. R. Levack.

HOW THE SLAB WAS CARRIED.



[J. R. Levack.

BUILDING THE PEDESTAL.

at 10.5 p.m., fully an hour being spent on the summit; trimming the cement pointing and seeing that everything was right. The descent from the summit to Ballater took 100 minutes. Motor from the Glasallt, of course, but even so I think this must be a record.

We ran down from the summit to the Glasallt in an hour which was very good work for Fowlie who is not an experienced hill climber. We did not meet the party as they were using the Allt-nagiubhsaich route. They evidently had undone the knots of the ropes round the tarpaulin and partially lifted the latter but had gone no deeper into the mystery. They had left everything quite ship shape.

THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.

THE unveiling of the indicator took place on Saturday, July 12th, when over 140 people, members of the Club and others, assembled on the summit, certainly the largest gathering ever seen on the top of Lochnagar. Arrangements were made by which the Aberdeen party travelled by the 8.5 a.m. train to Ballater and motored to Allt-na-Giubhsaich. They were joined by independent parties from Ballater attracted by the interest of the occasion, while a large contingent ascended the hill from Braemar, and a smaller party came from Balmoral headed by Major J. D. Ramsay, His Majesty's Commissioner, who performed the unveiling. Two o'clock was the hour fixed for the ceremony, and on the Braemar side the first party got away from Loch Callater shortly after nine. The scene on both the path from that side and the path from Glen Muick was like a pilgrimage, groups of climbers being strewn out along the route, some going strong, others resting, but all intent upon gaining the top. The ages were as varied as the costumes: there were school-children of eight or nine, and men and women of all ages up to Mr. William Porter, the veteran of the Club, whose 80 years did not deter him from climbing Lochnagar on this historic occasion. The number of ladies present was gratifying and so also was the representation of the outside public, that is, of people not directly connected with the Club who had heard of the proceedings and came up from various directions to

take part. The most notable case of this kind was Mr. G. F. Cables, a medical student belonging to Paisley, who walked over the Capel Month in the morning from Clova, climbed the hill, and went back to Clova in the afternoon, to cycle into Arbroath in the evening.

The Club had remarkable luck in the weather, and not least so in escaping the violent thunderstorm which burst in the evening, only a few minutes after the latest parties had reached Ballater and Braemar. A lovely morning, very welcome after the broken weather that had prevailed for so much of June and July, greeted the pilgrims as they travelled towards Lochnagar and, though a haze hid all the distant view, bright sunshine prevailed during the ascent and also during the ceremony itself. Then a few minutes after the ceremony had ended, and as if to lend contrast to the scene, mist suddenly descended on the summit and the gathering literally dispersed in a fog. A few hundred feet down we came out into the open again. There was a strong but not cold wind from the south and the heavy haze still hung on the hills. Between six and seven, as the writer was motoring down Glen Callater, the heat was very noticeable and a few drops of warm rain fell, but it could not be said that the appearance presaged such a storm of lightning and thunder and rain as broke at a quarter past seven, and rolled on continuously for nearly an hour. The storm, which travelled down the valley and reached Ballater at eight, was the worst experienced on upper Deeside for many years, and not one of the people who were on Lochnagar a few hours before but thanked his stars that he was off the hill before it began.

The following list of those present on the summit does not claim to be exhaustive, as it was only after the gathering had begun to break up, that the idea occurred of collecting the names. Some of the names were secured on the top and the others were obtained afterwards, and there is reason to think that the list which comprises 143 names, is approximately, though not

absolutely, complete. An asterisk denotes a member of the Club.

James Abercrombie, head keeper, Balmoral; Robert Adam*; Henry Alexander*; Miss M. M. Alexander; G. D. Allan*.

W. A. Baxter, Cambridge; G. P. Benzie; Joseph Bisset, Ballater; Alexander Booth*; Mr.* and Mrs. H. J. Butchart; Miss E. Brand*.

G. F. Cables, Oakshaw West Manse, Paisley; A. Christie; C. T. Christie*; Robert Clarke; Rev. W. Y. Colquhoun, Dundee; James Conner,* Sheriff Clerk; James Coull; Captain J. R. C. Cowan and Mrs. Cowan, Kersknowe, Kelso; Dr. James Crombie*; William Crombie, Rubislaw Den North; Miss Gladys Crombie, London.

D. R. Douglas; D. S. P. Douglas*; Miss M. Douglas; Dr. Harry Duncan, Ballater.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Eggleston, Edinburgh; Miss A. C. Esslemont,* Cults; Miss Clara Esslemont.

Dr. Donald Farquharson; Robert Fleming, Toronto; Miss May Fleming; P. J. Fisher.

Mr.* and Mrs.* William Garden; Chief Constable J. Gauld*; Godfrey Geddes,* Culter; Mr. Graham, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

W. A. Henderson, C.A., London; Miss Henderson*, Forest Avenue; H. S. Hunter, Braemar; Mrs. Hunter, 375 Great Western Road; John Hutchison; Master Jack Hutchison.

James Iverach*.

P. M. Jack, Peterhead.

William Kemp, Cruden Bay.

Sheriff Laing*; George T. F. Lamond, Ballater; James Leith*; James Leith, junr.; Miss Leith; Dr. J. R. Levack*; D. R. Levack*; W. P. Levack*; Master Charles Ludwig*; Robert Littlejohn*

Donald Macdonald, Fife Arms, Braemar; William M'Gregor, stalker, Balmoral; Miss Macgregor, Training Centre, Aberdeen; R. Mackay,* Northern Assurance Co., Aberdeen; R. W. Mackie*; Miss Mackie; William Mackinnon,* British Linen Bank, Aberdeen; Charles Mackintosh, Garrawalt Shiel; John Mackintosh, 58 Bonaccord Street; George McIntyre*; Dr. Maitland, Robert Gordon's Technical College; Miss E. Mavor*; M. Mavor; Miss Milne* and Miss Elspet Milne,* Rubislaw Den North; Miss Nan Milne; George Minty; William Mitchell*; Miss Mitchell; John Murray,* Rubislaw Den North; Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Melrose, Edinburgh.

John A. Nicol*; R. Gordon Nicol.*

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ollett, London.

XI E

James A. Parker* ; Rev. James Patrick, Ballater ; William Porter* ; Miss B. Porterfield.

Major J. D. Ramsay, H.M. Commissioner, Balmoral, Mrs. Ramsay and Master David Ramsay ; James Rennie* ; Charles Reid, C.A., London ; Edward B. Reid,* C.A., Aberdeen ; Marshall J. Robb* ; Miss J. B. Ross ; John E. Ritchie.

Rev. H. G. Sellers, Stonehouse, Gloucester ; Misses Skakle,* Cults ; Rev. S. J. Ramsay Sibbald, Glasgow ; Mr. and Mrs. Ian J. Simpson, Turriff ; Thomas Slight ; Professor Herbert Smith, and Master W. E. Smith, Glasgow ; A. G. Nicol Smith and Misses Ailsa, Sheila, and Marjorie Smith and Master Alister Smith ; Alfred Smith ; Malcolm Smith*, Hamilton Place ; Miss Janet Adam Smith ; W. Stewart, Alford ; Miss Mabel Stewart,* Drumduan ; Misses Alice, Charlotte and Mary Stewart, Rosemount Place.

Professor G. P. Thomson ; Dr. J. F. Tocher ; Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Tocher ; A. D. Troup, Peterhead.

Miss E. S. Warren, Edinburgh ; Theodore Watt* and Master George T. R. Watt ; Mrs. Edward Watt and Master E. W. Murray Watt and Miss Marjorie Watt ; Miss Wisely ; John Wallace* ; Miss Wallace ; William Watson ; G. M. Watson, Glasgow ; Mrs. J. A. Wilson, Rubislaw Den South ; Dr. H. M. Wright, Alford ; Mr. and Mrs. J. Wright, Glasgow ; Mr. and Mrs. John Wyllie, Pollokshields.

[The Editor will be glad to have a note of any names omitted, so that they can be inserted in the next issue of the *Journal*.]

Seldom can an inauguration ceremony have taken place in a more picturesque or romantic setting. Mr. Parker had been early up the hill and had removed the tarpaulin, and draped the indicator with a Scottish standard, bound with a Stuart tartan ribbon. There is little level standing ground for 140 people on the top of Lochnagar and so thickly clustered were we on the rocks that it is perhaps surprising that no one fell and came by an accident. The wind was strong and drowned much of the speaking but, fortunately for the snapshot cameras, the sun shone brightly at the critical junctures and many excellent photographs were taken. Dr. Levack presided—the word sounds rather formal and hackneyed for such an unique gathering—and briefly recounted the origin of the scheme for an indicator and acknowledged His Majesty's gracious interest in the undertaking. The unveiling was performed by Major Ramsay, Mrs. Ramsay having cut the tartan ribbon, and, as the glistening surface of the indicator came into view, a great cheer rose from the company. Major Ramsay alluded to the difficulties that had been overcome in the



[J. R. Levack.

THE CAP STONES IN POSITION.



[J. R. Levack.

PARKER ORIENTING THE SLAB.

successful execution of the work, and spoke of the interest and value of the service which the Cairngorm Club had rendered to the public and to mountain-lovers by the erection of the indicator. The acknowledgments of the Club to Major Ramsay having been voiced by Mr. William Garden, Sheriff Laing asked us to thank Mr. Parker, the man who, above all others, had planned the indicator and carried through the project, and this we did most heartily. Everyone who had had anything to do with the work knew that it was really Parker's day. His reply was characteristic. He said nothing about himself, he thanked by name the various persons who had helped, Mr. Mott, the manager at Doulton's, the masons, the amateur labourers and the carrying parties, not omitting "Dobbin," the pony, and he told us he would be glad to take on any more contracts on the same terms. This is surely an invitation to the Club to go on with the Ben Macdhu indicator. It will be impossible to get anyone so fitted or able to carry through this other project as Mr. Parker. Finally, on the call of the chairman, we toasted the King's health, and sang "God Save the King." Never before has the National Anthem been sung on such a lofty point in this country by so many people, and thus ended a memorable event in the annals of the Scottish hills.



LOCHNAGAR MOUNTAIN INDICATOR: UNVEILED JULY 12, 1924.