

An Early Tour to Greymare's Boogong.

The following account of a tour to the Greymare's Boogong, a point on the Main Divide between Kosciusko and Kiandra, is taken from the files of the "Sydney Morning Herald" of August 6, 1896:—

Mr. Charles H. Kerry has just returned from a visit to the Snowy Mountains and the Kiandra district. A "Herald" reporter asked him: Where did you go?—I went by rail to Cooma, Mr. Kerry answered. "That, as you know, is near the Victorian border, and from there I went to Jindabyne by coach, a journey of about 35 miles. This was almost the region of eternal snow. They have it, at any rate, for about nine months in the year. The mountains were close to us. Our party, which numbered five, followed the Encumbene River for a few miles. We then struck out for the Kalkite Mountain and through the Snowy Plain on towards the Hanging Rock and the Boogong Ranges. The snow was very heavy here and you could get any variety of it that you liked. A couple of miners had ski ready for the party. There is a sample before you. They are of the true Norwegian pattern. They are made of mountain ash, split on the quarter. You see they are about eight feet long, and vary from a quarter of an inch to an inch in the thickest part where the feet go and they are about 3½ inches wide. The toe is turned up at the end for about 15 inches. It is easy to learn to travel with them. Sometimes the snow is soft, and if a man were walking he would sink into it. Other times it is frozen on top, and a horse could walk on it. But the ski glides over all alike. An experienced man can do from 40 to 50 miles a day."

The tour Mr. Kerry was describing was one to a mine near the Greymare's Boogong. But he went on to speak of Kiandra and spoke of the beauty of the tail race from the New Chum Sluicing Mine, near Kiandra. "This structure," he said, "is about 15 or 20 feet high. The water for the sluicing box drips down and forms icicles. Some of these are several feet in thickness. There were also innumerable smaller ones—thousands of them—and the sight was enchanting. The frost effects were also wonderful."

"How do the inhabitants fare?" Mr. Kerry was asked. "Oh, they do well," he replied. "The Kiandra people require no pity. They would not change places with anyone in the colony. The only wonder is that more visitors do not come to the district in the winter

and take part in the ski races. Of course, everything gets frozen. They keep their fresh meat for five months. When they want any they saw or chop a block off. The milk is solid and the eggs freeze. In the bar of the hotel everything except the spirits is frozen. I took some ale in ice form as an experiment. It is the first time I ever really chewed a drink."

On the way in to the Boogong on this trip the party had great difficulty in locating the hut owing to it being a very heavy snow year. When they did find it nothing but the roof was showing, and they had to tunnel a way in. The party stayed here several days and then retraced their steps to Jindabyne and went thence by coach to



THE LORNA DOONE SLAM
KIANDRA.

Adaminaby, en route to Kiandra. When about eight miles from Kiandra they had to leave the coach on account of the depth of the snow and ski the remainder of the distance.

Some of this is quaint reading in the light of our latter-day knowledge; but it must not be forgotten that Mr. Kerry was speaking to people nine-tenths of whom had never seen snow or ice. The ski he showed the reporter was truly of the Norwegian pattern so far as the shape of the wood was concerned; but it was absolutely inno-



DR. TEECE, THE LATE MR. CHESTER FOY, AND DR. SCHLINK,
ON TABLE TOP MOUNTAIN, KIANDRA.

cent of all bindings, having merely a broad leather band screwed across the centre to hold the toes. The ski-er was expected to hold the ski on his feet by muscle pressure, exerted per medium of the toes and heel. Many a mile have the older members of our clubs traversed on such ski, and the fact that we were able to get along at all seems remarkable when we regard the magnificent bindings fitted to present-day ski. And the boots! In the days Mr. Kerry was speaking of and for long afterwards boots, properly speaking, were unknown. We used the abominable gum boot, made entirely of rubber, and I was interested on reading through some old files to see that Mr. Boore Winther, a Norwegian ski-er of great pace and skill, who visited Kiandra in 1901 as a companion of Mr. Kerry, gave some advice to the Sydney skiers to fix the strap of their shoes to the toe-strap of the ski so as to hold the foot firmly. This seems to indicate that the gum boot itself had a strap; but if that were so in 1901, it had disappeared a few years later, when the toe of the boot was simply pushed into the toe-strap of the ski and the leg and foot muscles had to do the rest.



THE SADDLE AT THE FOOT OF KOSCIUSKO.

In the distance is seen the precipice of snow down which a party fell in 1914 when trying to leave the top in a mist.