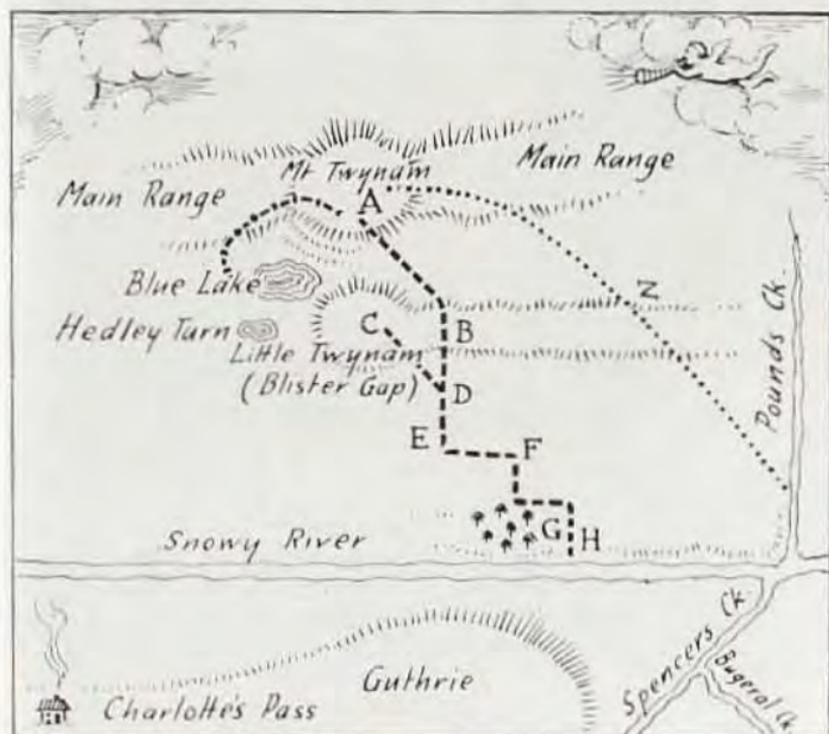


A New Downhill Course on Mount Twynam

By T. W. Mitchell.

Good downhill racing terrain is limited at Kosciusko, on the whole, but there is suitable material on Mount Twynam. Considerable exploration has been conducted and much discovered, but difficulty in setting courses is experienced due to an arm of the mountain, which stretches from Little Twynam (or Blister Gap) towards Pounds' Creek.

The proposed new championship course, to what has been called Farquaharson Finish, starts at point "A," on the top of Big Twynam, near the start, suggested in the 1931 A.S.Y.B. by Dr. Teece, but heads towards the Snowy down a big *schuss* into the saddle between the two Twynams. At "B" it strikes the beginning of the ridge which lower down rather spoils Dr. Teece's course at "Z." The problem on the new proposed course is whether the speed derived from the initial *schuss* is sufficient to clear both saddle and ridge. If it is not, then a start could be made



at "C" on the top of Little Twynam, the only disadvantage being that it would yield a shorter run than from "A."

At "D" there is a sharp drop into an icy valley, along the side of which a great speed is obtained. At "E" a variation is made by turning left to a large clump of rocks ("F") where amusing running is made by leading the course through some wind tunnels among the rocks. From "F" it is a short dash to the top of a wood ("G"). Here one encounters the final steep drop to the Snowy, and a sharp turn is needed on an extremely steep slope to round the corner of the wood and get into position for the final *schuss* to Farquaharson Finish ("H"), which is made all



Photo: T. W. Mitchell.
Near Pounds' Creek, showing, in the left background, the last 300 feet of the proposed new downhill course.

the more interesting by the finishing posts being placed half-way up a bank on the other side of the bottom of the *schuss*; thus making a cunning change of grade right at the end, necessitating exercise of complete ski control until the posts are passed.

This course has several advantages which Dr. Teece's lacks. Firstly, no matter whether the start is at "A" or "C," a simultaneous start is possible, which is unobtainable on Dr. Teece's north-eastern course owing to the narrowness of the terrain at the start. Secondly, the course gets steeper as the finish is neared, while both Dr. Teece's suggested courses end rather tamely on gentle slopes running down to either the Upper Snowy or Pounds' Creek. Thirdly, the finish is much nearer the Chalet, a fact appreciated by both officials and competitors at the end of a long, tiring



Photo: A. Ford.

MT. TWYNAM FROM SOUTH-EAST AFTER A BLIZZARD.

Courtesy Govt. Printer.

day. Lastly, spectators, by merely climbing the low Guthrie Range, can see practically the whole of a race on the new course.

As shown above, the only obstacle at the moment to a splendid course on Mount Twynam is one ridge, but a little research this coming season should show some way to avoid this difficulty. It must also be admitted that the new course, following, as it does, a ridge for most of its length, is rather more exposed than the courses suggested by Dr. Teece and will therefore provide a greater likelihood of wind-wave snow; but judicious alteration of its minor details on the day of a race will soon avoid this defect.

But once again the warning must be given that the Main Range is not safe for races unless the courses themselves and the way home are well marked out.

THE WANDERERS' SKI CLUB.

(Note: This enthusiastic Club continues to report its activities. The first report will be found in the 1931 "Year Book." This is the second. There may be a third, but we doubt it.—Editor.)

The second annual meeting of the Club was held the other night. The Hon. Secretary read the following report:—

Gentlemen,—

As a result, no doubt, of the prevailing depression, the season was a quiet one for the old Club. Snow, as you know, is very hard to obtain locally, and supplies on the Blue Mountains had always run out by the week-end. The scheme to construct a jumping hill on the Sydney Show-ground and cover it with boracic powder for the use of the members also fell through, as the Treasurer put the acid on it. (Laughter.)

However, the Club succeeded in holding the Christmas meeting, as usual. The Treasurer knew where there were (a) some steep hills covered with plenty of dry grass, and (b) a chap with new skis, near a place where he had some fishing to do. Some people were found with a motor car and were made members, and a successful start was eventually made. . . . (. Ed.) The President and Treasurer pointed out that they did not mind if there were stones in the grass, but the owner of the skis remained obdurate and refused to sanction their use by the Club, although he provided the Club with beer. Accordingly, the Club Championship was abandoned, as only one out of the five events could be held. This was won by the President by half a pint. But the Treasurer got some good fishing.