

Trilkye Dzong
April 17-1924

Darling Ruth

This is only a hurried line at the end of a full day - to tell you (1) that my humming is in perfect order again, & I feel as fit as possible. It was a funny go altogether & quite inexplicable. Naturally there was a small appendicitis scare as the tenderness was on the right side, but Somervell was practically sure from the start that I was free from that. (2) Beetham came on with us. It was Somervell's decision on the very morn-

my ~~off~~ of leaving Kamp Dzong - that is to say Schud to decide that B would get better; - no doubt he is right. But it is one thing to have no more dysentery & another to get really fit again after all that when living at this altitude. At present B. looks years older, in much the same way as Raeburn did in '21, only at a younger stage & has quite lost all kick, - there was no one more energetic earlier. Still he may be a useful reserve climber in the end.

(3) I've had a brain-wave - no other word will describe the process by which I arrived at another plan for climbing the mountain; -

(a) A & B with 15 porters (about) starting from IV (M.H.C.I.) establish V, building emplacements for 4 tents at about 25,500.

(b) ^{or descend.} C & D, gasless party, go to V with another 15 porters 2 of whom 7 carry loads ~~8~~ & descend, the other 8 go up without loads practically speaking & sleep.

(c) C & D proceed to establish a camp VII at 27500 (about) with these 8 porters carrying up 6 loads

(d) S & F, gas party, on the same day as (c) start with 10 porters (about) from IV, go without loads to V & from that point not using oxygen they take on the stores & gas (previous) dumped at V about 1000 ft higher to VI at 26500

(e) The the two parties start next morning & presumably meet on the summit.

I will readily perceive the chief merits of this plan; - the mutual support which the two parties can give each other; the establishment of camps without waste of reserve climbers (A & B will not have done so much that they can't ~~re~~ recover); the much better chance this way of establishing U without collapse of porters. And then if this so fails we shall be in the best possible position to decide how the next attempt should be made; four climbers we hope will be available & the camps either way will be all ready.

This plan has such great advantages over all others that Norton has taken it up at once & this evening we had another powwow & everyone has cordially approved.

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I'm much pleased about this as you may imagine - if of
for this it seems worth while to have come; for Norton's
plan was fundamentally unsound I'm sure & might have
had very bad results; & in this one there is much greater
safety. It is impossible yet to say who the parties will
be. No I have talked about it; he thinks Somervell
& I should lead each one of these two parties; he puts
himself in my hands as to whether he should be one of
them - isn't that generous? ~~It~~ We shall have to judge
as best we can of people's fitness when we reach the
Base Camp. Odell has not been showing up well; but either

he or Irvine must be of the gas party.

We have stayed one day here for transport, as against
3 last year when Longstaff was ill; & we hope only to
stay one day at Shekar, & so we should be two or
three days up at the Base Camp.

No mail yet - one should have arrived today.

Much love to you

Over your loving,

George.
I didn't tell you that I bought a pony
at Kampa Dzong, a very good animal, though too thin.