

Ottawa Ski Club News

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Have you bought a tree yet? Get a pine!

A bit of March will have been written off the calendar when this circular reaches you, but why worry? The biggest part of the month with its glorious sunshiny days still lies ahead, and there will be in addition two or three weeks to make up for that fortnight of soft weather in January. With the tremendous depth of snow accumulated in the bush there should be good ski-ing until Mid-April, at least on the slopes of Camp-Fortune.

Past week-ends.—Under a light covering of fresh snow, all the trails in the mountain were in marvelous shape on Sunday, Feb. 25th, as far as the foot of the hills; the fields were icy. The heads of the Canadian Ski Association, of the Montreal Ski Club, of the Three Rivers Ski Club, and delegations of various other Clubs were entertained at Camp Fortune on that day and expressed themselves as delighted with their trip. Sunday, March 4th, will pass down in history as "Blizzard Sunday". Hundreds were caught in the storm of sticky snow which started at about 3 P. M. Buses, motor cars and trains were snow bound for hours. Captain T. J. Morin, with his squad of Night Riders helped to shovel out several buses on the Chelsea Road, which, had it not been for this timely assistance, might have been stalled there for the whole night. Your Editor was wise. He came down in the morning.

Bryce Grayson-Bell, Champion of Canada! A great honor came to the Ottawa Ski Club on Sunday, Feb. 25th, when Bryce Grayson-Bell led seventeen competitors, including some of the best in the land, in the race for the Championship of Canada, winning by a comfortable margin of several minutes. Bud Clark, also of the Ottawa Ski Club, came second. Four other men of the Ottawa Ski Club were also among the first ten.—Names and times of first ten men are as follows: 1st B. Grayson-Bell, O. 48.50; B. Clark, O. 52.37; A. Gravel, M. 52.41; G. Millsen, M. 52.51½; R. Anderson, O. 53.58; G. Sumner, M. 54.16; F. Currie, O. 54.27; P. Wright, C. 54.35½; H. Heggtveit, O. 54.37; K. Saunders, O. 54.41.—**On Saturday, Feb. 24th**, Poitras and Denis, O. S. C. were classed respectively 5th and 7th in the Dominion Championship Ski Jumping week. **On Saturday, March 3rd**, the Lisgar team, composed of Bud Clark, John Currie, Percy Cawdron and Pat O'Keefe, captured the Southam Cup for their institution. Average time winning team: 1.04.12¾; Average time Ottawa University team: 1.06.3½; average time Glebe Collegiate: 1.06.19. Bryce Grayson-Bell made the fastest individual time (58 minutes).—**On Saturday, March 3rd**, Clovis Denis won the Club Championship for Ski Jumping; E. Bertrand came first in the intermediate class and J. Landry first in the Junior Class.—**On Saturday, March 5th**, over a course laid on the East-Side of the Gatineau, B. Grayson-Bell won the City Championship and Lady Willingdon's Trophy for his Club. Names and times of contestants: 1—Bryce Grayson-Bell, O. 49.25; 2—Phil Wright, C. 52.05; 3—H. Heggtveit, O. 52.27; 4—John Currie, O. 53.55; 5—Bud Clark, O. 54.20; 6—Ken Saunders, O. 54.30; 7—C. Wright, C. 55.00; 8—R. Anderson, O. 56.40; 9—H. Douglas, O. 57.11; 10—J. Taylor, O. 58.35; 11—H. Bagguley, O. 1.01.22; 12—Frank Amyot, C. 1.03.55; 13—George Hamilton, C. 1.07.30.

At the Chaudiere Golf Club, on March 1st, a banquet was tendered to all O. S. C. competitors who had taken part in the Dominion Championship Ski Race. President Mortureux congratulated the winners and pointed out the tremendous strides that speed ski-ing has made in Canada during the last few years. Only three years

ago, the Saatre Brothers led our men by over 22 minutes, while this year, at Lake Placid, they were only three minutes ahead of Grayson-Bell and Bud Clark, over a ten mile course. The Crest of the City was presented to the new Canadian Champion by Controller McElroy.

Coming events.—Nothing but pleasure ski-ing from now on. All the races are over, unless Geo. Audette wants to arrange a Consolation race for the poor chaps who "did not win nothing". Ask him.—**An event** at this stage would be the refusal by any of our members in arrears to pay their fees, but nothing of the kind is expected. Our members have always been known for their loyalty to their Club, and we are confident that every one of those who have not resigned and are still in arrears will now forward their fees for the year to **Miss Mildred Ashfield, 150 Third Avenue**, or pay at McGiffin's, Byshe's, Hosterman's, or at the Dominion Bank, the Royal Bank, or the Bank of Toronto (Union Station). It is only a matter of choice. Please do not keep us waiting any longer. Our bank account is very, very low! Remember that every worker in this Club pays his fees, even your Editor. What have you done for your Club?

Lady Willingdon's Trophy.—Her Excellency Lady Willingdon has graciously signified her intention of giving a challenge cup for a race to perpetuate the souvenir of her visit to Camp Fortune, and your Directors have gratefully accepted the offer. The cup will be known as "Lady Willingdon's Challenge Cup"; it will be applied to the race for the City Championship, which is open to all clubs of Ottawa and district, and which will henceforth be called "Lady Willingdon's race". The race for the City Championship was held on Sunday, March 4th, around the East-Side Lodge, and was won by Bryce Grayson-Bell, of the Ottawa Ski Club.

What is the matter with the Ottawa Ski Club? We claim to be the largest ski club in the world, and yet do not appear to be known even in our own City. Only a few days ago, photos of our successful competitors were reproduced in a local paper under the caption "Members of the Ontario Ski Club". Yesterday again, in a two column report about the Intercollegiate Race for the Southam Trophy in a contemporary, the Ottawa Ski Club was not even mentioned. And yet it was at the instigation of the Ottawa Ski Club that the trophy was given, and each year the Ottawa Ski Club gives five cups for the race, one to each member of the winning team, and one to the competitor making the best time. The other day again, when our President wrote to the Board of Control to lay claim to the City Crest for our new Champion of Canada, his letter was mentioned in the report as coming from another local club. Ye Gods!

The Tree Selling Campaign.—The facts, in a nutshell, are as follows:—We want to buy land around Camp Fortune, in order to save the trees, which shelter the trails, to save our water supply, to have more freedom for making trails, wherever these can be made. As a preliminary step, we have purchased for one thousand dollars, some sixty-five acres of fairly heavily wooded land around the Camp, trees, land and all. We have not got the money to pay for this; practically the whole of our slender revenue is absorbed by the maintaining and improving of our lodge system. Our membership is large, but nearly half of it is made up of juniors who do not quite pay for their keep. Practically the whole of the money paid in fees by the Juniors is spent on competitions, cups, trips, etc. No club in the land spends as much as the Ottawa Ski Club does on competitions of all kinds, to promote ski-ing, and there is practically no revenue from these competitions. The Ontario Ski-Jumping Championship meet barely paid for the cost of putting snow on the landing. We realize that these competitions are necessary, but we realize also that something must be done if these ski-ing facilities that we now enjoy are to be preserved. So we are asking our members to come to our assistance by purchasing a tree—an ordinary tree will cost 25 cents, a maple 50 cents, a pine \$1.00. The Club will be the guardian of these trees. In other words, we want your help, for your own good. Please do not wait till you are asked. Send a cheque to our Secretary-Treasurer (P. O. Box 65). Drop in at McGiffin's (Sparks St.) or Byshe's (Bank St.) or Hosterman's (781 Bank St.) and buy a tree. Let

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every one of our members purchase a tree! If we fail in our campaign and the hills around us are denuded, could you look at them without a feeling of shame? Now is your chance, save the trees!

New trails.—Your Editor has received several letters of criticism about the scarcity of bunting on the "Tiny Trail" and the difficulty of finding the way after a fresh fall of snow. All these letters have been referred to "Tiny" who, it is hoped, will do something very soon to improve matters. In the meantime we may say that it is always the same with new trails; they always appear at first tortuous and unreasonably long. We have all heard about the man who got lost on George's trail in 1924 and has not been found yet. Even Joe Morin got astray on his own Canyon trail once and nearly spent the night in the bush. The starting of a new trail is a difficult thing, but when the Tiny trail becomes a regular traffic road all these troubles will disappear. One of our correspondents complain that it took him 2 hours and 47 minutes to get to Camp Fortune from New Chelsea, although he spent, at times, more than 40 minutes looking for pieces of bunting. After all, that is not so bad. The average skier going over Cooper's trail takes at least 2½ hours to make Camp Fortune without wasting any time on the way.

A Good Story—It is generally acknowledged that one of the best and cleverest stories that has ever been published about ski-ing is "The Romance of Ski-ing", by one Augustus Blasterkite, or some similar sounding name, in this year's issue of the Canadian Ski Annual. Get the Annual and read it. If you do not think you had a quarter's worth of fun out of the story alone, your money will be refunded. And by the way should you want any back number of the Annual, ask for it at McGiffin's or Byshe's.

Their Excellencies at the East Side Lodge.—Having heard that Camp Fortune had been favoured with a visit of Their Excellencies, the East Side Lodge, that sobbing sister of our chain of lodges, at once put in a plea for similar recognition. Said our Lady of Tenaga "I have the goods, in the shape of hills and snow, but I do not seem to be able to make it known. If the first Lady skier of the land honoured me with her presence, if she cooked on my stoves and sat on my rustic benches, I feel sure the ski world would follow her trail to my door and to the lofty hills among which I have stood, almost unknown, for nearly three years." The request was graciously heeded, and word came to the President on Friday 24th, that Their Excellencies would visit the East Side Fairy Land on the following day. The stage was set for that day in Ottawa Ski Club's real style—Zero weather, azure sky and sugary snow. The party detrained at Kirk's Ferry and proceeded down stream in the direction of the lodge, some with their own efforts, others with the assistance of Henderson's dog. His Excellency was on snowshoes, not on account of any prejudice against skis, but because he likes things Canadian. There was nothing very exciting about that part of the trip, save for the thrills that Capt. Haultain provided by diving repeatedly from one of the highest cliffs on the river bank, and getting his face scratched up in so doing, but it was extremely enjoyable. On the last steep ascent to the Lodge, His Excellency demonstrated the superiority of snowshoes over skis for climbing by leaving the party far behind. There, sliding and practising turns were enjoyed for a whole hour under the direction of that marvelous instructor Bretislay Pliske, on the excellent slopes around the lodge. The party then returned to the lodge, now bathed in sunshine, to taste of soup and sausage, cooked by the President, and which were declared delicious. After lunch, J. R. Dickson, that old East-Side Pioneer, took the party over a stiff three mile course, through real ski land, and there His Excellency had to acknowledge that snowshoes are not in it with skis, especially after the harness has been tampered with by a boy scout; Lady Kitty Ritson admitted the superiority of fittings that fit over fittings that do not fit; Captain Murphy realized that a sitting down stop is better than no stop at all, but Her Excellency Lady Willingdon sailed through it all gloriously with the skill of an accomplished skier. It was a very happy party that boarded the return train at Tenaga, and Their Excellencies were loud in their praise of the East Side.

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in

"Feel My Pulse"

Tid-Bits.—"You have no idea", writes Louis Audette, "what a relief it is to be at last away from the congested lodges and the overcrowded trails of the Ottawa Ski Club, and enjoy real ski-ing on the vast expanses of immaculate snow of the Montreal Mountain, where one can travel hours without seeing a solitary human being—save an occasional cop mounted on snow-shoes (All right Louis, you need not rub it in.—The Ed.)—This reminds us that not so many years ago, when parties of skiers—generally three or four—took the long trail from Kirk's Ferry to the City, the meeting of a stranger in that wilderness, outside of cops mounted on snow-shoes, was an event to be talked of.—"You are not making the best of your opportunities", said a week-end New York visitor, George Bijur (N. Y. I. S. C.) New York Indoor Ski Club) "You have by far the best ski-ing grounds here to be found anywhere in America, but you are not known. Advertise. Get your publicity Committee to send regularly a few hundred copies of the Ottawa Ski Club News to winter sports fans in the States, and they will come here in flocks." Will the City Publicity Committee please take notice?—The last issue of the Saturday Evening Post, that close rival to the O. S. C. News, contained a statement to the effect that "America conquered the World's Ski-Jumping Championship when an American, Nels Nelsen, made 240 feet at an American meet" after which two truck loads of letters of indignant protest were dumped on your Editor's desk. Every one knows of course that Nelsen is a Canadian, and that the above mentioned record was made at Revelstoke. A charitable interpretation of the Post's article is that the word "America" was used in its broadest sense, as including Canada, and that bit of parched land to the south of us, which we call the States.—"Is not "sitting down" a fall, as well as a tumble forward," asks Mabel. "I had a friend with me the other day, and every time he fell, he said "I did not fall, I just sat down". Now, I claim that is just as bad. What do you think? (Just as bad, Mabel and even worse, as while a fall forward is the result of an accident or over-daring, a sitting down fall shows a lack of will power. One gives up the fight, and sit down. Good skiers, like you, Mabel, fall, and that is no disgrace; poor ones sit down).—The youngest skier out on the trail is Miss Pliske, sixteen months' old daughter of our instructor Bretislav Pliske. She goes over a little Canyon trail thirty feet long every day in her garden.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Editor:—

For some time we have regarded you with awe, enshrined you among the famous and treated you as one of the immortals. The finest gems of Shakespeare were as nothing as compared to your vivid descriptions and you were regarded with due deference. When we sat around the fire in silent contemplation and thought of glorious ski-ing days, someone was sure to produce a dog-eared copy of the News and point to some remarks of yours.

But now our devotion has been repaid with base ingratitude. It is true that our appreciation of your talents was never openly expressed, yet it was nevertheless there. Now we have to emerge from our position of humility and brave the spot-

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light of publicity, a thing abhorred by our retiring nature, because of a heinous remark contained in the Ski-News of Feb. 22nd.

May we quote this remark verbatim, it appears in the article "A Trip to the East-side Lodge" and reads "some of whom, looking for an easy run, left the train at Chelsea."

After reading the article in the previous issue, we were moved by your glowing phrases, and decided to penetrate the unknown and search for the East Side Lodge. Never before had we so deviated from our weekly course, and as we turned off the road and watched the common herd, proletariat or what you will, stream across the fields, we felt like Columbus starting across the Atlantic, but that is spoiled now.

Note the insinuating statement "looking for an easy trail." Do you consider it fair to make such an innuendo? We did not know the way, but aided by a kindly Providence we met one Tiny Sutherland who guided us. Had we not felt the pioneer urge we should have sat at home, or rashly ventured as far as the Wrightville car and so to Ironsides. Now that you know the facts we know that your inborn greatness will not permit you to do otherwise than to rectify the misleading statement, re-instate yourself on your pedestal with such great men as Christiania and Telemark, and further remove the stain you unwittingly placed on our escutcheon.

THOSE WHO FOLLOWED TINY.

(You poor things! You followed Tiny through all the wanderings and meanders of his trail, and never got any credit for it, while the anonymous writer of that base article probably skied across the river from Tenaga Station to the Lodge (300 yds). Will do what we can to make amends and reparations. Have already instructed our artist to prepare slide showing "Three little mites following one Tiny" to be shown on the screen at the banquet. Hope that will assuage your feelings.—The Editor.)

Sir,—

I take this opportunity to advise you that your premeditated onslaught upon my ability as a skier is bearing much fruit for I cannot go anywhere, meet any person but I am questioned in all seriousness regarding the propinquity of Jelly Springs and Criks.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Myself.

CLIFF.

THE CANADIAN SKI ANNUAL

The Canadian Ski Annual for 1926-27 is in many respects the most comprehensive report which has yet been published by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association. It indicates a rapidly growing interest in skiing in all parts of the Dominion. Membership in old established clubs is steadily increasing, and new clubs are springing up in every district that can boast of favourable snow conditions. This gratifying increase in numbers is not the only sign of development; there is also evidence of keen interest in proper methods and, consequently, a distinct advance in proficiency. In 1927, for the first time, a Canadian born skier won the C. A. S. A. jumping championship, and other Canadians showed up exceptionally well in both jumping and racing events.

A new trophy was donated to the Association last year by Sir Henry Thornton,—a splendid silver cup designated the Thornton Perpetual Trophy, emblematical of the Canadian All-Round Amateur Ski Championship, and to be competed for each year at the annual tournament. This is an important step in skiing progress, for it is the first trophy which has been offered in Canada for combined racing and jumping points. Already its stimulating effect is apparent. This year both jumpers and skiers, who hitherto have devoted their energies exclusively to either line, extended their efforts to both; and while local men are not yet sufficiently

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experienced to be in the running for the double title, yet they are going after the necessary training in a sportsmanlike manner which should produce results in the not too distant future.

The Annual contains a detailed explanation of the recently instituted C.A.S.A. Official Ski Tests, which are open to all amateur skiers who are members in good standing of clubs belonging to the Association. These tests should be of interest to every skier who aspires towards improved style. While they do not furnish the spectacular stimulus of jumping and racing competitions, yet they may be of wider value, from a psychological standpoint, to skiers in general. Human nature being what it is, we all like to be kidded along with rewards and symbols. We'll work our heads off for a scrap of paper called a diploma, or a brass button inscribed as a medal, when we may be too lazy otherwise to expend the same amount of energy purely for the sake of conscious self-improvement. Being also imitative by instinct, we immediately become interested in anything our neighbour has which we have not. Therefore, let one or two Test Badges appear in our midst and forth the ski-ing population will "jelly-spring" frantically in all directions, qualifying for the privilege of sporting a similar label.

The breadth of our ski-ing affiliations is demonstrated in the Annual by letters and articles from many parts of the world. A bird-eye view of British ski activities is given by the veteran, Arnold Lunn, and notes on Sweden and Norway are furnished by Howard Bird, formerly of Montreal. There is an account of ski-touring in Lapland, by Count Hamilton of the International Ski Federation, which I found as original and as charming a bit of ski literature as has ever come my way. Ski-ing in the Tyrol, as viewed by a Canadian, W. L. Paul, is an absorbing description of some of the finest ski-ing ranges in the world. Striking comparisons with Canadian ski conditions are made, and interesting suggestions offered for the wide development of ski-ing possibilities in the Canadian Rockies.

The pages devoted to ski-ing nearer home hardly require comment. We can all appreciate to the utmost H. P. D.'s "Spring Ski-ing" for it describes familiar joys in most delightful phrasing. Our own club comes in for honourable mention with several articles and splendid illustrations, particularly of the ever-expanding Fortune Lodge and of our young hopefuls, the Dome Hill Juniors. The O. S. C. also brings up the rear of the "Annual" parade with the confession of an amiable gentleman who subscribes himself Augustus Blatherskite. To many readers, a book without romance is like an egg without salt, and to these the "Romance of Ski-ing" is commended. A very mild love affair, it must be admitted, but it provides the only bit of "heart interest"—in the language of the screen—in an otherwise serious, instructive, and altogether attractive volume.

E. O'C.

(Copies of the Canadian Ski Annual may be procured from McGiffin's, Sparks St.; Byshe's, Bank St.; or Hosterman's 781 Bank St. 25 cents a copy.

Ski Exchange.—Some one took the pet racing poles of Geo. W. Roe at the Chaudiere last Thursday and left an old pair of poles in exchange. Please phone Q. 4023.—And Earl Fraser who was hurt at the East-Side trail two weeks ago still has a linen napkin and an elastic bandage belonging to some one else and which he would like to return, please phone R. 1911.

All communications regarding this circular to be addressed to The Editor O.S.C. News, P.O. Box 65.

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We wish to thank the members of the Ottawa Ski Club for their very generous patronage during the past two months. We hope that next season will be a still better one for the Club and its members than the present one. We will do our best to make the sport more enjoyable by supplying improved equipment, new clothes and better service.

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