

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

APERUSAL of the reports of the Clubs comprising the Association indicates the past season as being highly successful in every way. In the West the sport is gaining greatly in popularity and several new clubs will be added to our Western Branch. Vice-President Verne and his associates are to be congratulated on the excellent organization work they are doing in that territory. Mr. Verne advises that ski-ing in Winnipeg is again most active, and that the Norge Sport Club, headed by N. Jorstad, will likely join the Association; also he hopes that the old Winnipeg Ski Club will soon be a member. The Ottawa Ski Club, under the capable leadership of C. E. Mortureux, expects this year to enroll a membership of 3,000, making it the largest on this Continent, if not in the world. In Toronto, where ski-ing has been dormant for several years, the trail idea instituted by the Toronto Ski Club, and fathered personally by H. T. Cliff, is working out splendidly and they now have a real active growing organization. Montreal's rapid development as a great city and the consequent adverse changes in local snow conditions is forcing the trend of ski-ing more and more to the Laurentians, and the Montreal Ski Club is facing a difficult situation. Their attractive Club House is now largely an adjunct to the jumping hill and the situation must be met by the establishing of Club quarters in the mountains. The Mount Royal Ski Club has already moved its winter headquarters northwards and is keeping up its membership by encouraging touring and cross-country racing. One of the most active ski centres is Three Rivers. Last year they held their first large tournament and are to be complimented upon the excellence of their organization and the splendid way in which everything was carried out.

Murray Bay, due to the winter sports programme of The New Manoir Richelieu Hotel, will be a popular winter sports centre in the future, the climate, hilly country and snow conditions making it ideal for ski-ing. Two local ski clubs have just been organized there and are joining the Association.

It is particularly gratifying to us who have had the question of Style so much at heart, and who have been working steadily for years to advance it, to see the great improvement in recent years. It was particularly interesting at the Dominion Championship at Shawbridge last February to see the number of young people, girls as well as boys, who were not only ski-ing well but in excellent form. The majority had a complete mastery of the orthodox turns, and their running on the long steep hills was a joy to watch. In the Slalom race the entries numbered some sixty, and though it was won by Paumgarten, a brilliant and finished Continental expert, his margin was but a few seconds, and many Montreal and Ottawa lads ran the difficult course in splendid style, showing a thorough knowledge of their work. Mr. Paumgarten expressed his pleasure and congratulations at the excellent performances of our local men; and watching a hundred odd youngsters playing around on the big hill he remarked particularly on the general good style of their running and turning.

Slalom racing in the various ski centres and clubs will do much to further advance our efficiency in the sport. All who saw the Slalom races of the Montreal Ski Club last season were tremendously impressed by the great value and interest in this spectacular form of racing and at the next C.A.S.A. Meeting it is hoped that the Slalom will be officially made a part of our Dominion Championship Tournament. Down hill racing is also of value, but, unfortunately, as ours is a country—in the East here—of comparatively small hills, it is difficult to lay out a course of sufficient length.

Above everything, all Clubs are urged again to adopt the Efficiency Tests, as if they are properly and thoroughly carried out they will not only awake a new interest in the Clubs' activities but greatly improve the style of the members. The Executive of the Association stand ready to do all possible to assist in these tests; qualifying badges and certificates are ready in the Secretary's office and it is now up to the Clubs to follow the example of the Toronto Ski Club and make a start with them.

The importance and need of the proper teaching of children and beginners when they first start ski-ing cannot be emphasised too strongly, and the Ottawa Ski Club are to be complimented on the systematic and thorough work they are doing in this direction, and the results are already showing in the greatly improved style noticed there. All youngsters are so quick to learn and so keenly interested in their own development that all they need is an opportunity of proper instruction.

More and more of late we are glad to notice the increasing number of middle age people who are taking up ski-ing. Many have the idea that ski-ing is for the young alone—this is entirely wrong. Any average person may in a short time acquire the rudiments of the sport sufficient to enjoy touring over our lovely country; the very steep hills and trails can be avoided until confidence and experience is gained. There is so much good health and so much pleasure in this delightful winter sport that old as well as young should take it up. So let the fathers and mothers of the coming generation get out on skis with their children and join with them in the thrills and delights of this fascinating pastime. Good skis properly fitted to good boots are of primary importance, for in ski-ing as in everything else, one must have "the proper tools to work with."

As in many other branches of sport so in ski-ing are the ladies coming ahead rapidly in all-round proficiency. In Ottawa, the endurance of the lady members of the local clubs over their long and difficult trails well tests out the strength and skill of the best of the men runners. This past season in Europe, the remarkable showing of the ladies' team of the Ski Club of Great Britain, as recounted by Mr. Lunn in his London letter, was indeed a notable achievement; and it is interesting to note that one of the members of that team was Miss Diana Kingsmill of Ottawa.

The Lake Placid Olympic Committee is making great progress in its arrangements for the Third Olympic Winter Games in 1932.

Work will be started soon on the great Olympic stadium costing \$100,000 to be used for the speed and figure skating and hockey, and the opening and closing exercises which are the most impressive features of the Games.

For the ski jumping the famous Intervales Jump in its present form is unsurpassed by any sixty meter ski jump in the world. For the cross country ski races, many miles of new trails are being cut with the co-operation of the New York State Conservation Commission.

Work on the bobsled run, the first real bobsled run on the American continent, will be started as soon as a decision is handed down by the Court of Appeals as to the right of the State to use State land for the purpose. The State is to appropriate \$75,000 for the bobsled run.

The Year Book of the Ski Club of Great Britain has just been received. Arnold Lunn each year edits a fine publication and this is one of his best—well illustrated, interesting descriptive and technical articles on all branches of the sport—a full account of all their doings of the year—a most valuable book in all respects to have in one's library, and unquestionably the leading ski publication of the world. The annual subscription to the Ski Club of Great Britain is 10 shillings, entrance fee 10 shillings, which includes their Annual. From far away Australia comes their Ski Annual, edited by Percy Hunter. It is difficult to associate that Southern Continent with ski-ing, yet they have there a large number of enthusiasts who from May to November enjoy first-class sport, just a night's journey from Sydney. Their Annual is a large publication containing fine illustrations and well written articles. Der Schneehase, Annual of The Swiss University Ski Clubs, edited by Dr. Walter Amstutz, contains some really beautiful and striking illustrations. Dr. Amstutz, who is well known to readers of our Annual, is to be complimented on this handsome book.

Our thanks are extended to all advertisers, contributors, and to our publisher, Mr. Walter Lovell.

For the Board of Directors,

H. P. DOUGLAS.