

## TO THE SKIERS OF CANADA AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN AMATEUR SKI ASSOCIATION

TO BE President of the C.A.S.A. is an honour which I fully appreciate, and which I feel I owe more to the kindness of my friends than to anything I may have done to help ski-ing. To succeed my friend Douglas to the high post which he has filled with such consummate tact, dignity and firmness during the last ten years, is a perilous undertaking, and all I can say is that I hope I shall not be too unworthy of him. The foundations have been well and truly laid by him; he has clearly shown the direction in which further progress can be made, the dangers to be avoided, and with your help and the assistance of all those who have at heart the interests of this great sport, I shall endeavour to follow the trail which he has blazed.

My first duty, as I conceive it is to keep our noble sport from becoming tainted with anything that may savour of professionalism, to strenuously oppose any attempt to turn this great pastime into a sordid money-making industry, to see that whatever may happen in other branches of athletics, ski-ing remains for all time a clean amateur sport, and to see also that all Clubs belonging to the Association, who have the necessary facilities for holding the same, have an equal share of the tournaments which the Association has in its power to give.

The next is to foster the acquiring of proficiency. Lack of skill is I believe the greatest deterrent to ski-ing. There should be no age limit to ski-ing, if one has acquired sufficient skill to make easy work of it.

Too many leave it early in life because they have never taken the pains to acquire the necessary skill and they find the sport increasingly difficult as the years go on. On the other hand those who have learnt to handle their skis, who can turn and stop at will, who, in a word, make easy work of ski-ing, stay with the sport until an advanced age. We know that ski-ing is not exclusively a young man's game; it is a game in which all can take part, at any age of life. Its future depends almost entirely upon the development of proficiency. Let us, therefore, promote skill by well arranged competitions; let us strive to gain the proficiency badges awarded by the Association. I call upon all the skiers of Canada, whoever they are, to organize and join the Association. Let proficiency be our by-word; let us turn out good skiers and they will keep on ski-ing so long as the snow covers the ground in winter in this great Canada of ours.

We should also develop Champion skiers among the young—not merely Canadian Champions but World's Champions. Canada excels in every other line of sport. Why could we not do the same in ski-ing? The idea that other countries have a much longer ski-ing season than we have is wrong. Our opportunities here are equal to those of any other country. Practice and the will to win are all that is required, and I hope that before long, perhaps at the next Olympics, a Canadian will be acclaimed as Champion Skier of the World.

ALLAN C. SNOWDON.