

## SKI TESTS IN TORONTO

By H. T. CLIFF

*President Toronto Ski Club*

THE adoption by the C.A.S.A. of Ski Tests in Canada is a distinctly forward movement and a step in the right direction; following as it does the experience of the Ski Club of Great Britain, one of the most active clubs in Europe, who have used these tests with such splendid results for many years.

It was my pleasure to spend a winter in Switzerland and I put in most of the time at Murren, the most active centre in Switzerland, and I am quite sure the most highly organized in all branches of the sport, including Racing as well as Ski Tests. It is my firm conviction, after seeing these tests in actual practice and noting the results obtained from them, that Ski Tests do more to improve the technique of a novice than anything else. It also shows a number of experienced skiers that they still have much to learn when they become interested, a very great surprise to many of them.



MERRITT PUTNAM  
Awarded first Gold Test Badge, C.A.S.A.

One can see the English novice arriving in Switzerland, his only knowledge of the sport being that one puts two pair of boards on the feet, upon which to slide downhill. We find him absorbing the idea of Ski Tests and after being two or three weeks on the snows returning to England a fairly good skier. In some cases they have been able to pass their third and second class tests in that time which is exceptionally good for such a brief experience on skis.

From the apparently few tests that have been passed in Canada since their inception, one surmises that few Ski Clubs in this country realize what a valuable aid these are in improving the standard of ski-ing in their clubs. The competitive spirit is engendered in learning even the simplest turns with a resulting improvement in the rank and file. The eagerness to do as well as the other fellow and the prospect of a badge to mark success soon permeates the whole club. This not only raises ski-ing standards, but adds immensely to the club spirit, which is quite as important.

The Toronto Ski Club formed a Tests Committee in 1928 who took their duties most seriously with the result that we have now one first class, five second class and forty-three third, badge wearers, and each of these has a number of friends eager to become

the proud possessor of at least a "Bronze" which is the first one to get to start the tests. The life of a Tests Committee-man is not a happy one but the pleasure of accomplishment has spurred ours on to planning greater things for this season.

May I, on behalf of the Club and myself, express my appreciation of the excellent support that we have received from the Technical Board of the Association in connection with these tests. We will gladly reciprocate if we can be of assistance to any other club which is considering the matter of Tests. Being inexperienced we at first had many problems to solve and we may be able to save others from some of the difficulties we passed through in the early days.