

Diminutive Mia Schjelderup in the 9-12 girls' class, and Olive Gerow, winning respectively first and second, gave some wonderful performances that aroused enthusiasm among the sport-loving citizens of the Omineca district.

And further down the long-stretched mountain provinces of British Columbia, at the city of Vancouver, where skiing territory can only be reached after hours of mountain climbing, the ladies are very much to the fore when tournament bugles ring out their welcome signals. Line-ups of fifteen to twenty well-trained girl skiers are feature events in the activities of the local ski clubs. After a great many keen contests, Daisy Bourdon acquitted herself as the undisputed Lady Champion skier of both the Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club as well as of the Vancouver district. The Grouse Mountain Ski Club and the Vancouver Winter Sports Club are well to the front with an ever increasing number of keen lady ski enthusiasts.

In the interior of British Columbia, Revelstoke have a number of first rank lady skiers, some of whom have learned their skiing back in Norway, and these are yet too good for the Coast girls to beat, as was shown at last year's tournament, when the Coast Champion, Daisy Bourdon, went down to defeat against Mrs. A. Turnroos. Mrs. A. Gunnarson is also a prominent ski competitor from across the seas and has won many a ski race in the West since back in 1912, when the Revelstoke Ski Club was in the making. Although this persistent pioneer sportswoman is around forty-eight, she can still hold her own against anyone of the younger set. In this respect she stands out as the most remarkable lady skier in the Dominion, a fact that Revelstoke Ski Club justly can be proud of. This surely does not coincide with the statement of Mr. Arnold Lunn of London, England, who in the last Ski Annual made the startling remark that "there are no first-class lady ski runners in Norway." Anyone that is at all familiar with ski conditions in that country will take exception to such an absolutely erroneous statement, which has caused unfavourable comment among the entire skiing fraternity of the West, both Scandinavian and Canadian sportsmen. We take off our hats gallantly for our splendid Western lady skiers without forgetting to bow to the ladies of the land that taught the rest of the world to ski.

AN IMPRESSION OF THE SKI TOURNAMENTS HELD IN THE WEST LAST WINTER

By FRED FINCKENHAGEN and O. B. OMMUNSDEN

THIS article has been written with the thought that a few remarks on the ski hills and competitions of the West might be of interest to our skiing friends in the East. The competitions staged by the interior clubs are held at a time to take advantage of the best weather and also in conjunction with one another to allow the competitors from a distance to get to them all. So for the past three winters a party of from ten to fifteen skiers from the local clubs has left Vancouver for the interior for a little friendly competition and a two weeks' holiday.

We started out from Vancouver on January 28 at 8 p.m. by C.P.R. bound for Princeton which is about two hundred miles to the east in the Cascade Mountains. We arrived at 4 a.m. the next morning and in spite of the early hour there was someone to meet us and escort us to the hotel. As this was our first visit and the first open competition held by the Princeton Ski Club, whose hill we had heard a lot about, we were up bright and early to look it over. We had expected a good sized hill but found it to be one of the largest and steepest any of us had ever seen in Canada. Most of it is natural with the exception of a twenty-five foot trestle and a small bridge under the take-off to give it a hump. The distance from the bottom to the take-off is about

500 feet and the hill is steepest between 150 and 350 feet, about 35 to 40 degrees. With a few alterations this hill should be good for jumps up to 300 feet if one could manage the speed and drop.

Next day the cross-country race was held, the course being about eleven miles in length, bumpy, but with no very steep hills. Snow conditions were good and the boys in fine form. The event of the tournament was the jumping competition the following day and nearly everyone in the small mining town was on hand to see the boys do their stuff. The hill record of the day was 168 feet but with good snow conditions and a bigger trestle this should be increased considerably next year. The arrangements for the events were excellent and we all got the best of treatment, so everyone is looking forward to the British Columbia Championships which will be held there next year.

We left Princeton next morning at 4 a.m., arriving at West Summerland a few hours later, where we boarded the stage which took us to the boat on Okanagan Lake. The Lake was full of ice, a rare occurrence, so navigation was difficult, but we finally arrived at Okanagan Landing where we boarded the train for Revelstoke. We got there with the milkman, but as we had three days before the Western Canada Championships started we got well rested. The 18-kilometre race proved to be a hard one due to a new fall of snow of over a foot depth the night previous. About a half-mile from the start nearly everyone had to take off his skis and scrape off the wax and clogged snow as progress was nearly impossible. As the course went higher up the snow was drier but as it was well laid out with both up and down hill running waxing was a problem and the man with no wax on was better off. The following day the jumping was held on Revelstoke's big hill, which with the Princeton hill is one of the largest in the world and well-known to most skiers. The trestle is about 60 feet high with four starting platforms and leads down to the slightly sloping take-off. The hump is just slightly curved leading to the hill which is about 400 feet in length with a long sloping outrun which makes it look even bigger than it is. The steepest part is between 30 and 35 degrees and with the enormous speed very good distance can be obtained. The boys jumped carefully as there was a wind blowing with a little snow which did not affect the speed, so the longest jump of the day, 171 feet, was considerably below the hill record. It has become a custom with the Revelstoke Ski Club to entertain the competitors when the jumping is over at the President's home so accordingly everyone went to Mr. Drennan Holten's house for afternoon tea and refreshments. The Revelstoke Ski Club are excellent hosts and everyone is always happy as their guests.

Revelstoke was the parting point for our boys. Some went to Burns Lake for the British Columbia Championships, some to Banff and the rest of us home to Vancouver. The cross-country race at Banff was run under difficulties as a bitter cold wind was blowing and most of it was run over fairly flat country. The field for the jumping the next day was small because most of the skiers had gone to the British Columbia Championships at Burns Lake, but the competition was keen and distances good. The Banff hill is natural with the exception of the take-off and hump below. There is all the speed required for the average jumps of about 140 feet with a few jumps of 160 feet under good conditions. The snowfall in the town of Banff itself is usually light, but as the clubhouse is situated on Mount Norquay, about two miles distant and several thousand feet higher, good ski-ing is always assured.

Burns Lake, which is situated halfway between Prince George and Prince Rupert on the C.N.R., has a small but very enthusiastic club and is surrounded by wonderful ski-ing country. The low rolling hills are sparsely wooded, interspersed with many lakes which is ideal cross-country terrain. The first 50-kilometre race held in the West was staged here last year and it was so successful that it will be repeated again next winter. The hill is a small one, good for jumps of about 110 feet and very suitable for both old hands and beginners.

As the Seattle Ski Club were holding a competition, their first, the Sunday following the Revelstoke events the Club sent down two men to take part.

The hill is situated at Snohoqualmie Pass Summit, about 72 miles east of Seattle by a good paved highway with a grade which is hardly noticeable. One gets into the snow gradually and at the top the snow is piled up about ten feet on either side. We arrived at Snohoqualmie Pass at 1 p.m., the time set for the competition, only to find that the jump was 34 miles further on at the Summit. We went on so we could at least see the jump which is very steep but rather small so that most of the competitors landed too far down and took some bad tumbles. As the Seattle Ski Club had not been sure of the condition the road would be in the competition had not been widely advertised, but in spite of this there was a crowd of over 3,000 people at the jump.

It is noticeable that the public on the Coast is supporting skiing very well which is encouraging to us all as the sport is new and all the skiing country is in the mountains some distance away. Vancouver is fortunate in that our mountains are only five or six miles from the heart of the city and can be reached in under two hours.

A large party from Vancouver made the trip to Portland by motor the following week-end for the United States Pacific Coast Jumping Championships, which were being held for the second year at the Swim hill about 60 miles up the Columbia River Valley east of Portland.

Portland had shown the boys a good time the year before and we were not disappointed this year as everything was arranged for our comfort. Unfortunately the weather had been mild for several days so the snow was soft and wet for the competition. The hill is all natural, good for average jumps of 150 feet under favourable conditions. It is steep and should provide an easy landing, but as the take-off was too high the jumper shot up and landed heavily. Owing to this a large number of competitors had bad falls but some pretty jumps were seen and a new hill record of 161 feet made. Portland had a large turnout, with more than 3,500 paid admissions, and with this kind of support intends to improve their hill.

The final trip of the season was to Leavenworth, Washington, which is halfway between Seattle and Spokane in the Cascade Mountains, and is well-known for its dry healthy climate. Special trains were run from Seattle and Spokane for the competition and with good home support the largest crowd to see a ski jumping competition in the West was on hand. The hill is a mile from town and just off the motor road so one can drive right to it. There is a small trestle and a six-foot take-off with a steep landing hill of about 130 feet below. The hill record is 112 feet made last winter when the two Canadian entries placed first and second.

The two local hills, that is Grouse Mountain and Hollyburn, are small as the hills in the West go, but they are very suitable for us as we have so many beginners. We always have lots of snow and could construct much larger ones, but we are unable to do so at present as the property is not available nor our finances large enough. The record for Grouse Mountain is 161 feet made by John Snersrud of Norway, and the Hollyburn record is 118 feet. It has been noticeable that wherever our boys competed, the best sportmanship was in evidence, which speaks well for the future of one of the most popular winter sports in the country.



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