

## CLUB REPORTS

### MONTREAL SKI CLUB

IT WILL not be long now before the winter arrives in earnest and, according to signs, it should be a good one, for the partridges have "fur" on their legs and the deer are fat.

Already we are looking forward to the ski season, and in anticipation of continued cold weather, we are cutting trails on Mont Tremblant, where a fair layer of snow was found the last week of October. In fact, the new season has already commenced, several of our members having had their first ski trip in the North Country on November 13.

In looking back over the events of last year, in spite of the poor snow conditions which prevailed in the early part, we can certainly be satisfied with the results of our varied program. We had the pleasure of seeing one of our members, Frank Campbell, win the Oxford-Cambridge-McGill Cross-Country Ski Race in the Laurentian Mountains during the Christmas holidays. We also had the pleasure of entertaining the visiting Oxford and Cambridge teams at our Mountain Lodge at Shawbridge.

Our yearly Mount Royal race was run off on January 9 with start and finish at the city club house at Cote des Neiges, and was won by Bill Ball.

J. Blair won the St. Margaret's to Shawbridge race on February 7.

Most of our jumping competitions were delayed on account of the weather but none of them were cancelled. Our entire schedule of events was carried out, together with a certain number of extra competitions, such as the International Event, at which we had the pleasure of seeing some of the foreign Olympic skiers perform on our hill. The last competition at Cote des Neiges Hill took place on March 12. The Club Championship Jumping was won by A. Olsen.

The Dominion Championship competitions were held on February 20 and 21 at Cote des Neiges and Shawbridge. Arne Finsberg won the Jumping, E. Penttila the Race, K. Engstad the Combined Jumping and Cross-Country and Frank Campbell the Slalom.

Our representatives at the Olympic Games at Lake Placid—Art Gravel, Harry Pang-

man, Wally Ryan and Leslie Gagne, all did very well, but did not succeed in placing, due to the strong foreign competition and the lack of proper and systematic training over a long period of time. We have the right kind of material; let us begin now to prepare for the next Olympic Games.

George Jost won the Combined Quebec-Kandahar Race, and Harry Pangman won the Downhill at Mont Tremblant on March 13.

Our Downhill and Slalom races are now beginning to take a more practical form. In a slalom race it no longer matters how the turns are negotiated, whether using one style turn or another, as long as a certain course is followed, time being the only consideration. We are using natural obstacles such as trees, boulders and precipices, instead of flags, to mark the course. A downhill race, such as the Quebec-Kandahar Race at Mont Tremblant and the slalom race at the same place, are, after all, nothing but part of a properly laid out cross-country race. The only difference is that a cross-country race also tests a skier's ability to get up the hill on skis which is just as important as getting down.

Free instruction in turns, jumping and practical skiing were given by a number of our experienced members at our Mountain Lodge at Shawbridge. In connection with this, the ski tests should prove a means of improving the standard of skiing among our members at large.

Touring on skis has also taken a firm hold on our members, and a number of our more enthusiastic skiers undertook long cross-country trips into the wilderness, equipped with packs, sleeping bags and the necessary food to allow them to spend several nights in the bush, independent of stuffy and unhealthy camps.

When we remember that some of our boys finished their last winter season with a very successful ski trip in the Laurentians the second week of May, we, in Montreal, realize how lucky we are to have such easy access to skiing for six months out of the year.