

BY THE EDITOR

TO BE quite orthodox, the editor in this opening paragraph should heartily damn the shortness of the past season, the lack of snow and the financial stringency; however, despite all these handicaps, we witnessed again extraordinary increasing interest in ski-ing all over the Dominion. Slalom and Downhill racing made great progress, and in noting the steady improvement shown by our young men, I am convinced that it may be directly attributed to this comparatively new form of racing in which a practical all-round technical knowledge of the sport is required; and in Downhill, courage, nerve, endurance, and the best conditioning as well. Reports from the West indicate that they are at last showing interest in Slalom and Downhill, and I know it soon will be as popular out there. Around Boston, the sport boomed, and last summer under the Roosevelt employment plan great numbers of men were at work cutting ski trails through the White Mountains. Strong efforts are being made in Montreal to carry out the same plan in the Mount Tremblant country, and next summer should see it started. The Association under the able direction of President Gordon Dunn has held several executive meetings in Montreal and much accomplished. A Quebec Ski Board has been named with Chr. Tollefsen as Chairman and under his experienced direction all clubs in the district should greatly benefit. The Western situation is rapidly clearing up. Nels Nelsen now living in Vancouver, and who has been reinstated as an amateur, has been elected President of the Western Group and they in future will work in close harmony with the East.

I call particular attention to the new International rules governing Downhill and Slalom Racing, in the latter part of the middle section of this Annual. These were drawn up by the Federation Internationale de Ski (F.I.S.) and officially approved by that body at their annual meeting this year in Europe. We are indebted to Mr. C. E. Mortureux for the English translation.

The selecting and training of men to act as judges throughout Canada is now and always has been a most difficult task. At the last meeting of the C.A.S.A. this question came up for long discussion, and it is hoped that the appointment of the Provincial or Advisory Ski Boards in the different active

ski locales, as proposed at this meeting, will help out the difficulty. For the local club away from a large ski centre, the securing of competent judges, especially for jumping, is a serious problem. The article on "Judging Ski Jumping" in this issue, by Alec Keiller, is full of valuable information that I know will help and be appreciated, and together with the Rules Governing Jumping Tournaments in this issue should greatly assist these smaller clubs. Mr. Keiller's article, which originally appeared in pamphlet form, is published here in abbreviated form and we thank him for permitting us to publish it.

The highly successful visit of the McGill-Red Birds ski teams last winter to Europe is fully described in this issue and makes interesting reading. We are proud indeed of these young men, all brought up and trained on our Quebec hills, and we offer them our congratulations. Many letters were received praising their sportsmanship and conduct, and their visit greatly strengthened the already strong tie that binds together the fine young sportsmen of Canada and the Mother Country. When the Oxford-Cambridge teams come over again, as they promise soon to do, the International Cup should remain in Canada.

The 1933 British Ski Year Book, edited by Arnold Lunn, is quite up to the high standard of recent years, containing many articles of interest to Canadians and, as usual, beautifully illustrated. Gerald Seligman figures prominently in its make-up, contributing a most exhaustive study on snow deposits, and this rather dry subject is most entertainingly treated. He also edits the Equipment Section which describes all the latest bindings, skis, springs, poles, etc., most completely, with excellent illustrations. It is surprising to me that more Canadians do not join the Ski Club of Great Britain at the small annual fee of ten shillings, and get a copy of Mr. Lunn's year book and the always interesting quarterly publication "Ski Notes & Queries." Under the editorship of Mr. Gerald Seligman "Ski Notes & Queries" has just published its fiftieth edition, and congratulations are offered to him on this occasion. If those wishing to join the Ski Club of Great Britain will please communicate with me, I will be glad to arrange their subscription.

The 1933 Australian and New Zealand Ski Year Book reflects great credit on its editors, Messrs. Percy Hunter and Stewart Jamieson, and it is amazing to me that it is possible to publish such a really fine magazine in those, to us, Southern countries. Evidently they receive generous support from the ski-ing interests and from the public as well. I wish I could say as much for Canada.

"The Art of Ski-ing" by Charles N. Proctor is a really valuable practical new book for both beginners and the more advanced. Starting in with Equipment, it carries logically along: Level Running and Climbing, Downhill, Stemming, and then the various Turns and Swings, with closing chapters on Jumping, Waxing, Racing and Touring. Charley Proctor is well qualified for the job he undertakes as he has long experience and much success in racing, jumping and Slalom, both on this Continent and abroad. The illustrations reproduced from actual photos, both still and motion, splendidly amplify and visually explain the text. I particularly like his simple explanations of the Turns, and after a careful reading of his book I went out and put some of his excellent suggestions into practice myself. "The Art of Ski-ing" is published by Harcourt Brace & Company, 383 Madison Avenue, New York.

The article on Ski Wax by Thor Tangvald, one of the foremost ski authorities in Europe, prompts me to make some personal local observations on the subject from a rather long experience. Assuming that your skis were thoroughly treated with linseed oil when put away in their press in the spring, then of first importance in the fall, is to waterproof and condition the running surface. Do this early, well before the season starts, by ironing in or burning in with a blow torch a foundation coat of any of the heavy tar preparations sold in the shops. "Skare" is excellent for this purpose. As this is a messy job, you can have it done for you in the shop, and if well applied it lasts a surprisingly long time, though a second treatment will probably be advisable in the late winter.

After trying out many of the various makes of ski wax sold in the shops, all of which are good if properly applied, I prefer "Dri Sno" and "Clog Sno" made in Canada; the former for fast dry snow to check back slip and give speed downhill, and the latter for damp or wet snow to stop sticking and balling. Wax can properly and usefully be applied only on a dry warm ski, must be sparingly used, and well rubbed in with the

bare hand. So many make the mistake of using too much wax as for ordinary conditions just a small quantity is really necessary, and I repeat *rub it in well*. I always carry a cake of paraffin, purchased at any druggist, and the minute my skis start sticking, I rub on a little, but only a little; where the snow or ice is troubling, a dry ski is not necessary; and while under extreme wet conditions nothing will entirely relieve this annoyance, paraffin does help a lot. The ordinary tallow candle will serve well in an emergency.

The average standard of women's ski-ing in and around Montreal has not, with a few exceptions, shown much improvement the past few years, though in that period our men have come along remarkably in proficiency and technique. The various ski clubs, I think, are partly to blame, in not encouraging their lady members by holding more competitions for them and arranging courses of instruction. Every ski club should have a separate Lady's Branch, just as the golf and tennis clubs do, and everything should be done to help them acquire at least the elementary practical knowledge of the sport. Mrs. Eddie Sherrard has made the right move in starting the Penguin Ski Club for the purpose of learning how to ski properly, and may I add with emphasis, *safely*, under expert systematic instruction, I hope other similar clubs will be formed so that soon the proficiency of our women skiers will at least approximate those of Europe, where they hold their own in Downhill and Slalom open competitions against the best of the men. Here's success and a long life to the Penguins.

There is a young Canadian, Peter Robinson, living with his family in Grindelwald, Switzerland, who is rapidly developing into a great skier. Last winter in an International jumping competition there, at which Christian Kaufman was second and Adolf Rubi, twice champion of Switzerland, third, Robinson won, his best jump, fifty-two metres, being the longest, and, from point of style, best of the day. He is a member of the Toronto Ski Club and this year will be entered by the C.A.S.A. and his Club for the F.I.S. competitions. We wish him the best of success.

To our contributors and advertisers, we again express our thanks for their greatly appreciated co-operation.

Ski Heil.

H. P. DOUGLAS.