

# WHAT THE C. A. S. A. MEANS

By W. B. THOMPSON

A FRIEND of mine asked me the other day why the average skier knows so little about the organization of ski-ing in Canada and particularly, about the functions of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association. So may I describe briefly some of the work of our Dominion ski administration and our aims for future development.

The C.A.S.A. was organized in 1921 under a Dominion Charter. As the governing ski body in Canada, it holds membership in the "Federation Internationale de Ski" (F.I.S.) which controls the ski sport in every country in the world where organized ski-ing exists; F.I.S. rules governing all International Ski Tournaments, including the Winter Olympic Games. We are also affiliated with the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada giving us full control over amateur ski-ing in Canada.

The Technical Board, under the chairmanship of Sigurd Lockeberg, Ottawa, deals with all technical matters pertaining to the Association. It supervises the Dominion Ski Tournament each year as well as Provincial Tournaments conducted by the C.A.S.A. A most important duty of this Board is the training of qualified judges to officiate at the many competitions held all over Canada. It also sponsors the C.A.S.A. ski tests now receiving much attention; and as time goes on the Technical Board's activities will be further extended to benefit the average as well as the more expert skier. Educational and promotional work in the schools and elsewhere is a fertile field where the Association can be of value to the sport.

Membership in the C.A.S.A. is for Clubs and is divided into two classes, Active and Associate. The Associate membership was introduced this year to enable the smaller Clubs just in process of formation to benefit by membership and allow their members to take part in competitions conducted by other C.A.S.A. clubs. Associate Member Clubs may remain in this class for three years only, after which they must come up for election as Active Members. College and University Ski Clubs are, however, eligible for Associate membership indefinitely.

Ski clubs in all parts of Canada now constitute the C.A.S.A. and the present Executive is endeavouring to increase the membership so as to eventually include all Canadian Ski Clubs, both large and small. With every skier wearing the badge of a Club holding C.A.S.A. membership, a truly National Association will be realized for the benefit of Canadian skiers in fact as well as name. New skiing centres are continually being developed and a number of clubs in the Maritime Provinces were formed only last year.

The changing conditions brought about by recent rapid developments have necessitated a corresponding change in the administrative activities of the C.A.S.A., and to keep pace with this advance we now divide the country into Ski Zones in charge of local committees. The first Ski Zone Committee was formed in the 1934 season, composed of

representatives of clubs in the Province of Quebec. Under the able chairmanship of Mr. Chris. Tollefsen, it was at once evident that much good work could be done by such a committee. About the same time a similar Committee was in operation in the Toronto District with satisfactory results demonstrating the value and practicability of Ski Zones. The Zone Committee idea is being extended this year to all parts of Canada and now in operation are The Laurentian (Montreal), Gatineau (Ottawa), Ontario (Toronto). The St. Maurice Valley Zone Committee is now being formed and it is hoped within a year to have a Lake St. John Zone as soon as embryo clubs at Dolbeau, Kenogami and Arvida are under way. The Club at Riverbend now consists of ninety-eight members and is creating wonderful enthusiasm in that District.

The Ski Zone Committee controls local matters affecting primarily only the clubs located in its Zone; such as arranging dates for ski tournaments, appointing officials, conducting ski tests, inter-zone correspondence, etc. There are many matters which can be so handled, the Zone Committees working closely with the Technical Board and the Executive of the C.A.S.A. At present Zone Committees are purely local and do not form a part of the Association although the Association sponsors them and is doing everything to assist and encourage them. The C.A.S.A. constitution and By-laws are the governing factors in all cases, and members of Zone Committees are representing only C.A.S.A. clubs.

The Chairman of the Laurentian Zone is N. C. D. Mactaggart and he and his Committee are doing a great job, meeting weekly in Montreal. The Ontario Zone Committee, now in its second year, is operating well under Fred Hall, Toronto, assisted by a competent Committee. They are particularly active in developing ski clubs and interest in the country north of Toronto. In the Gatineau Zone, Louis E. Grimes is doing similar good work and meeting with the same success and enthusiasm that has everywhere greeted the Zone idea.

The C.A.S.A. is responsible for the Canadian representation in the ski-ing events at the 1935 Winter Olympic Games and we hope to send to Germany a strong team. Plans to raise money for an Olympic Ski Fund are now being formed, as part of the expense at least will have to be defrayed by the Association. The personnel of the Team will be largely determined by the results of the various C.A.S.A. tournaments in 1935, and the Technical Board is devoting considerable time to this, perhaps most important function of the Association, developing Canadian ski-ing to a point where we can compete abroad on a more equal basis.

I invite all ski clubs, not now members of the Association, to join with us in the good work we are doing for ski-ing all over the Dominion.

Application Forms and full information may be obtained from the Secretary, P.O. Box 971, Montreal.