

petitors and officials were entertained at the Olympic Ball that evening and then the team disbanded, Mobraaten and Clark going straight to Norway where they took part in the Norwegian Championships at Holmenkollen; Ball took part in the F.I.S. championships at Innsbruck, afterwards going up to Norway for the Holmenkollen races, but had the ill luck to break his ankle in practice the first day out; while Baadsvik went to the Czechoslovakian championships, and was 6th in the jumping.

While the Canadian Olympic Ski Team did not bring back any championships, I believe that the main object of our trip was accomplished, namely instruction. We learned a lot, a tremendous amount about downhill and slalom skiing; we saw, and I believe brought back with us an almost entirely new technique of downhill racing. It remains to be seen if we can transfer this knowledge to others. In cross-country our runners are not very far behind, they have practically the right technique; what they need more than anything

is smoothness, more use of their arms, and hard strenuous training the year around. Similarly with our jumpers, what they lack is practice and still more practice, and what the great majority of Canadians do not realize, condition, that is keeping in shape all year. Jumping depends a lot on a clear eye and co-ordination between the different muscles. Birger Rudd, as an example, keeps himself the year around in perfect physical shape by high diving in the summer months, and by gymnastics on the high bar at other times.

To those that criticized the sending of a team over that did not have a chance, all I can say is, wait and see—the next few years will tell. To those others who so generously assisted in making this trip possible, I feel positive that their interest in Canadian skiing will be rewarded, and that the ideas that the team as a whole and individually brought back with them will tend toward the improvement of skiing in general, and also help to increase this wonderful winter sport amongst Canadians.

Ski-ing Advances

By Frank Elkins, Sports Department, "New York Times"

A CLEAR picture of the rapid advance of American skiing in the last year emerges from the reports of various railroads which transported skiers to the snow fields. A grand total of 63,968 sportsmen and sportswomen were carried by the Boston & Maine, the New York, New Haven & Hartford, the New York Central, the Delaware & Hudson, and the Lackawanna to snowy slopes in the Catskills, Poconos, Berkshires, Adirondacks and White and Green Mountains within the period of January 1 to March 1, 1936.

The Boston & Maine, which probably gave the greatest impetus to the sport by introducing "snow trains" back in 1931, carried the largest number of winter sports passengers. Operating from Boston and Worcester, the Boston & Maine hauled 23,343, a 33 per cent increase over the thriving 1934-35 season, which had been 19.8 better than the previous winter. The New York Central, collaborating with the Delaware & Hudson, took 26,525 winter sports devotees to the popular centres of North Creek, Lake Placid, Old Forge, Bear Mountain, Woodstock and Phoenicia in the Catskills, and Montreal.

The New Haven, sponsor of "snow trains"

from New York this year, carried 12,500 passengers, or four times the number of 1934-35, to the Berkshires and Green and White Mountains. South Lee and Pittsfield, Mass., Norfolk, Conn., and Stowe and Brattleboro, Vt., along with Franconia, N.H., were the more important spots on its schedule. The Lackawanna, running only five trains to the Poconos, did a relatively flourishing business, carrying 1,600 persons.

Six of New York's biggest sporting goods concerns and department stores reveal that 32,800 pairs of skis were sold, and that the average increase of business was about 250 per cent. If the number of skis purchased were laid end to end it would cover a stretch of territory extending from Columbus Circle to Poughkeepsie, about ninety miles.

More than 150 summer hostleries, which in the past have closed their doors at the approach of winter, remained open and did a flourishing business. Almost all New England and many New York state summer resort hotels have taken cognizance of the winter sports development, laying out cross-country trails, improving old bridle paths and cutting out downhill descents.