Canadian Ski Year Book, 1936

Book Section

By H. Bruce Carnall

SO OUR PRESIDENT has written a book! Opening with, "Despite the fact that there is already quite an array of good instructional books on the market, ski-ing as a subject is by no means exhausted, even though its readers may be." Frederick A. Hall and Nathaniel A. Benson present a rather unusual instructional book entitled IMPROVE YOUR SKI-ING.

The book is divided into five sections: First Principles, Control, Confidence, Speed, and Competitive Ski-ing. First Principles is an adequate introduction to theoretical ski-ing as expounded in this book. Control emphasizes the need for proper equipment and introduces the first steps in running on the level, climbing, and controlled downhill running. Confidence continues with methods of control, gradually introducing and explaining the more difficult manoeuvres. Speed concerns itself with improving the runner's technique and introduces the high-speed or tempo turn that has provoked such controversy. The last section, Competitive Ski-ing, in addition to giving further particulars concerning all branches of competitive ski-ing, is probably unique in that lady skiers receive their due consideration.

IMPROVE YOUR SKI-ING differs from most technical books on the subject in that the instruction is really progressive and that neither action photographs nor drawings are employed upon to illustrate the manoeuvres. Meet Monty the Model Skier! Monty is a wooden model correctly outfitted with the necessary equipment—see Control—and during the summer he learned all there is to know about ski-ing. You must see him whizz down a steep slope making perfect christies on Pulver-Salz... Photographs and drawings have been disappointing but Monty clearly illustrates ski, stick, and body positions in various phases of the manoeuvres shown. Having seen only a few photographs of Monty—the proofs that I read are not illustrated—I am looking forward to seeing him in the many other poses.

Throughout IMPROVE YOUR SKI-ING, one finds the sage advice of experienced ski-ing under our conditions and the text is never heavy because, just where things begin to look serious, flashes of Hallish humour are introduced.

By all means, read IMPROVE YOUR SKI-ING whether you are beginner or expert.

Published in Canada by GEORGE J. MCLLEOD LIMITED, 266 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, and in the United States of America by Dodge Publishing Company, New York City, at $2.00.

SKI-ING SIMPLIFIED, by H. T. Cliff, Honorary President, Toronto Ski Club, and other famous ski clubs. The author has been connected with ski-ing in Canada since its infancy. This is a concise book on ski-ing for average skiers but the expert skiers, as well, will get valuable hints and information from it. There has been built into the 128 pages the latest information on continental ski technique.

There are 120 drawings which have been made up into sequences of six for each turn, which makes the action easy to follow. Added to this, SKI-ING SIMPLIFIED contains a wealth of information on all branches of the sport.

Published by LONGMAN GREEN & Co., 215 Victoria Street, Toronto, Canada, at $1.00.

SNOW STRUCTURE AND SKI FIELDS. Being an Account of Snow and Ice Forms met with in Nature and a Study on Avalanches and Snowcraft, is the title of what is unquestionably the most outstanding and the most important work yet produced on the scientific study of snowcraft. The author is Gerald Seligman, B.A., F. R. Met. Soc., Member of the International Commission of Snow, and Former President of The Ski Club of Great Britain.

Readers of The British Ski Year Book are already familiar with Mr. Seligman's work on snowcraft through the latest findings of continental ski masters with whom he has skied on Alpine snow. There are 120 illustrations carefully drawn from special moving picture sequences. Added to this, SKI-ING SIMPLIFIED contains a wealth of information on all branches of the sport never before presented in a book of this kind.

Price: $1.50 a copy

ORDER FROM THE AMERICAN NEWS CO., Limited TORONTO - CANADA
his contributions entitled "An Examination of Snow Deposits."

Snow Structure and Ski Fields is divided into three parts: Part I, Physical and Mechanical Changes in Snowfields; Part II, Mechanical Aspects of Avalanche Development; and Part III, Practical Aspects of the Foregoing (Avalanches and Their Avoidance, Rescue Methods, Snow and Ski-ing Conditions in Spring, Summer and Winter). Part I describes the instruments and methods used as well as the various forms of snow and ice met with in nature. Part II is devoted to the movement of snow, telling why and how avalanches occur. Part III classifies the various forms of avalanches, makes many practical suggestions concerning Safety in the Mountains, and describes the various snow conditions to be expected at different times of the year. Appendix I, Weather Conditions in the Alps, by C. K. M. Douglas, B.A., F. R. Met. Soc., of the Meteorological Office of the Air Ministry, is exceptionally clear and valuable. This dry recital of the contents suggests an instructive but rather dull book. Fortunately, this is not the case because, while eminently informative, Snow Structure and Ski Fields is a most interesting and readable masterpiece. Every serious skier—even those of us who do not ski in really alpine terrain—should read and study Mr. Seligman's 550-page Snow Structure and Ski Fields.

It is practically impossible for anyone to conceive the tremendous amount of work, the many careful observations, the exacting experiments, and the vast practical experience from which this book has resulted. In some ways, it is like an encyclopedia: there is an exhaustive index at the back, references are given at the end of each chapter, and, when looking for something, one gets sidetracked and so interested in some other point turned up, that the original quest is forgotten. The book must be readable!

Recognition must be given to the 571 excellent illustrations. Mr. Seligman is himself an amateur photographer of note and to his own have been added many others by such well-known photographers as Gaberell, Hock, Klopfenstein, and Steiner. The photomicrographs are exceptional.

Part I of Snow Structure and Ski Fields is intended for the scientist while Parts II and III are for the practical man. The layman who reads Part I, however, will have a much better understanding of the subject than otherwise. In addition, those even slightly interested in snowcraft, will find Part I not only easily understood but also very interesting.

Mr. Seligman is to be highly commended upon producing such an easily understood, interestingly written, and authoritative book on this difficult subject. I hope that many Canadians will read it.

Published by The MacMillan Company of Canada, Limited, 70 Bond Street, Toronto, Ontario, at $7.50. Illustrated brochure available on request.

Most of the thrill in skiing comes from speed and those who would ski fast—both racers and tourers—should carefully study Peter Lunn's High-Speed Skiing.

Peter Lunn is one of England's best downhill racers. He started skiing at an early age. From the first, his father and many other well-known figures in the skiing world aided and encouraged him to perfect his technique. In the 1927-1928 Canadian Ski Annual, he was described as a Great Young Ski Man. Since 1931, he has been a member of the British International Ski Team and he was Captain of the 1936 British Olympic Ski Team. He should know something about skiing. He does.

The four parts of High-Speed Skiing respectively deal with Technique, describing how the various

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A Comprehensive Handbook on Practical Ski Technique

**By**

FREDERICK A. HALL
President, Canadian Amateur Ski Association

and

NATHANIEL A. BENSON
Former Secretary, Toronto Ski Club

It is primarily intended to serve as a popular, modern handbook for skiers of all classes. The authors have scrupulously planned this book to aid all ranks, from the prospective skier who has not yet purchased his equipment to the expert who firmly believes that his command of technique is well-nigh flawless. The following are but a few of the subjects discussed: the use of wax, equipment, skiing on the level, use of poles, downhill running, climbing, the snowplow, turns, stunts, speed skiing, competitions, cross-country, jumping, etc.

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manoeuvres are accomplished; Racing, dealing solely with training, practising, and actually competing; Equipment, showing what the competitor requires; and The Psychology of Racing.

Peter Lunn, unlike most writers, carefully describes the methods of doing the six cardinal turns, pointing out that all other turns, such as the stem, are merely combinations of the fundamental turns. It is amazing how a first-class runner will at times combine different phases of various turns to form a unique entity serving his purpose for the moment.

The advanced skier will derive considerable benefit from Reading and serious downhill and slalom racers will find the book invaluable. It is indeed essentially extracts from his son's letter writer he was - make this work an autobiography rather than a biography. Therefore, although he actually didn't, Viscount Knebworth did write his book!

While skiing was not his life, it is as a skier that we should speak of him here; leaving the many other interesting aspects of his life to your discovery through the book.

Somehow, I feel that skiing played a much greater part in his life than the book leads one to believe. In 1912, at the age of eight, his father took him to Mürren, Switzerland, and he was there introduced to skiing. The sport appealed greatly and the family went again to Mürren the next year. Then the War, which prevented the ski holiday in the Alps, and it was not until 1920, at the age of seventeen, that he again visited Mürren. Vacations in Switzerland then became an annual event, and in 1924 he won the Robert's of Kendal Cup as well as making a creditable showing in the British Championships. It was in 1924 that he really took to skiing and his letters of that time show not only his great love of the sport but also his sincere appreciation of the beauties and joys of winter. In 1925 he followed his family to India where he was not able to manage very much skiing and the next Swedish holiday was in 1928 when he competed joyously and successfully. The financial crisis and the depreciation of the pound sterling prevented the 1932 vacation and his last holiday in Switzerland was in 1933 when, during the winter, he also managed to visit and ski in Sweden.

With everything to live for and just as he had 'won his wings' in more ways than one and in more fields of endeavour than one, this young man was instantly killed in an Auxiliary Air Force practice manoeuvre. Concerning the funeral, Arnold Lunn wrote: 'There was nothing dreary about the spring field in which Tony was buried. It was fragrant with the scent of blossom and I think Tony would have liked the "K" formed of blue gentians, which had been sent from Mürren, and which stood out against the background of countless floral tributes as a link with the mountains which he loved.'

At the time of his death, Viscount Knebworth was President of the Kandahar Ski Club, Secretary of the British Universities Ski Club, and a member of the Council of The Ski Club of Great Britain.

ANTONY is the sort of book which, after you have read it, makes you vaguely wish that you hadn't—because then you could have the pleasure of discovering it all over again.

Published by S. J. REGINALD SAUNDERS, 84-86 Wellington Street West, Toronto 2, Ontario; in England by METHUEN & CO., LTD., 30 Ebury Street, London, W.C.2; and in the United States of America by STEPHEN DAVY PRESS, Brattleboro, Vermont, at $1.25.

If you read solely for the skiing, you may be disappointed in ANTONY, but you will never regret reading about the devoted son, splendid sportsman, intelligent thinker, and vibrant gentleman who was Antony Knebworth.

It was one of Viscount Knebworth's ambitions to write a book; but this he never did. His father, Earl of Lytton, compiled and edited ANTONY which, being apparently Anglicized it, but actually have gone back to the original Norwegian pronunciation.

The book is divided into two parts. The first, Down the Years, briefly covers prehistoric skiing, early mention of skiing in literature, the transition of skiing from a strictly utilitarian mode of travel to a sport, and its development (especially in the U.S.A.) since that time. The second part, Around the World, takes the reader on a brief tour of most countries where there is skiing. The general terrain, the principal centres, the organization of the sport, and many other features of each country are described.

Especially noteworthy, are the superb illustrations from many parts of the world. The early drawings and carvings shown in the first few chapters of the book are most interesting.

It has been said that Mr. Dudley has tried to cover too much ground for one volume and, while this may be true, let it be said that 60 CENTURIES OF SKIING, with its interesting accounts and delightful illustrations, should do much to awaken popular interest in the history of our sport. In this connection, readers are also referred to Arnold Lunn's A HISTORY OF SKIING which deals more particularly with early British skiing.

Published by the STEPHEN DAVY PRESS, Brattleboro, Vermont, U.S.A., at $3.00.

SKILAUF IN BILDERN, by Max Windler, like THE WONDERS OF SKIING, contains many—411 to be exact—reproductions of "stills" from moving films so arranged that the detail of a turn, for instance, is clearly shown. These fascinating strips of photographs are very effective for instructional purposes and in this book there are also numerous unusual manoeuvres well illustrated and well described. The photographs themselves are also of a high order.

Published by BERGERVERLAG RUDOLF ROTHER, Munich 19, Hindenburgstrasse 49, Germany, at RM 4.50.
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In Germany, organized sport is controlled by the State and SKI-SPORT is the official publication of the ski division. This attractive and well-illustrated periodical contains numerous historical and technical articles as well as the official news of the various ski zones. Being concerned almost wholly with the 1936 Olympic Winter Games, the 1935-36 editions are especially interesting.

Twenty-five issues per year for RM 6-.. Edited by H. V. Hirth and published by REICHSSPORTVERLAG, Berlin, SW68, Charlottenstrasse 6, Germany.

When purchasing German books and magazines, I have always found Herr Alfred E. Glaser, Stuttgart-N, Gymnasiumstrasse 15, Germany, very prompt, obliging and helpful. Herr Glaser, himself a skier, is well versed in English. When ordering books, it is advisable to forward a money order (not forgetting to include sufficient for the postage) in order to save delay.

Poland

Each year, the Polish Ski Association (P.Z.N.) issues its KALENDARZ NARCIARSKI which is a pocket handbook giving what must be complete information about the Association. Under such illuminating headings as Mistrzowie Polski W Narciarstwie W Latach 1920-1935, one finds further entrancing details. A handbook of this sort should be very useful in the work of a ski association containing, as this one does, all the regulations for competitions, test rules, names and addresses of member clubs, etc.

Published annually by the Polski Związek Narciarski, Krakow, ul Pilsudskiego 13, Poland.

Spain

Penalara, devoted to the interests of mountaineers and skiers, is now in its twenty-fifth year. In addition to the usual club notices and announcements, there are numerous accounts of the snow and mountain sports in this attractive illustrated monthly. Penalara has not been issued in recent months.

Published by la Sociedad del mismo nombre y de la Unión de Sociedades Españolas de Alpinismo, Apartado 730, Madrid, Spain.

Switzerland

The Year Book of the Swiss Ski Association excites the usual admiration. In particular, the illustrations are noteworthy and one feels inclined to have most of them framed. In common with other Swiss ski-publications, this Year Book is a combination of German, French, and Italian articles and notes. The articles are of universal interest.

Edited by Alfred Fluckiger; published by Buchdruckerei Bucher & Co., Berne, Switzerland, at Swiss Francs 4.60.

Again we find superb illustrations in Der Schneehase, the year book of the Swiss Universities Ski Club. The fine reproductions of photographs in colour must arouse great envy in the breasts of rival editors. Although there is not a regular equipment section, in each issue there are articles and now we find the subjects of edges and the standardization of ski boot sole-angles dealt with very fully. As a whole, ski periodicals do not seem to devote sufficient space to articles concerning equipment—but there may be considerable prejudice in this opinion. Great credit for the continued excellence of Der Schneehase is due to the editor, Dr. Walter Amstutz.

Published for the Schweizerischen Akademischen Ski-Club, by Art. Institut Orell Fussli, Zurich, Switzerland at Swiss Francs 5-.
Skiing in Manitoba

By A. A. McCoubrey

A SKIER of the modern school of downhill running, were he condemned to spend his life in Winnipeg, would, no doubt, after one look at the surrounding country, have every dream and ambition within the walls of the attic. For, viewed from any building top, the country, in every direction of the compass, appears as flat as the proverbial pancake. Situated at the bottom of old glacial troughs, the plain seems to stretch away endlessly north and south. To the east, forty miles away, is the hummocky pre-Cambrian surface and sixty miles away on the west, beyond the range of vision, is the sharply marked edge of the Manitoba escarpment which rises some 500 feet above the plains.

Such is the persistence of habit, however, that forty or fifty years ago some of the Norse settlers fashioned skis patterned after those worn at home and glided over the thin snows of the prairie.

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the early history of skiing in Manitoba, except in so far as it affects the existing clubs. Nor is it possible at the present time to evaluate fully the possibilities in this Province. The attractive terrain in the southwest and northwest corners of the Province is too sparsely settled and remote from active skiers to be known. A glorious field of exploration awaits the western enthusiast.

Skiing for the writer began some 27 years ago in Winnipeg when George D’Armandaritz persuaded him to invest in a pair of skis and a couple of textbooks. Neither does he have any experience in the art. In search of slopes on which to practise downhill running and turns we naturally gravitated to the banks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers and during the week-ends found conditions quite adequate.

Nogi Schmid, famous in Zurich sport circles, Einar Brand, recently arrived from Norway, the Soot boys, Claud Gray, George and myself met week after week and out of our association was founded the Winnipeg Ski Club in the winter of 1911-1912. This club in common with similar clubs, has, during the past twenty-four years, had its ups and downs. It has passed through four fairly definite phases in its life history.

The first two years were formative ones, followed by an influx of Scandinavians with resulting stress being laid on jumping and the erection of a fine timber jump on the Assiniboine. Then followed the war with cessation of activities and the post-war phase culminating in the erection of a big jump (the present structure) on the Red river. Interest died down in the middle twenties and the present phase opened when downhill running began to be widely publicized.

Last winter saw the club housed in a new clubhouse near the jump and members enjoying the new experience of snow trains to distant ski territory at La Riviere and Miami. An international jumping tournament with 36 visitors from North Dakota was ably handled by Al. Cameil and his committee. Harold Harriman provided the driving force necessary to make a clubhouse possible.

LA RIVIERE SKI CLUB—This club is composed of a small group of young men imbued with the exploratory turn of mind. Three years ago they sought for good ski territory within reach of Winnipeg and found it at La Riviere, 112 miles southwest. Here a huge valley has been excavated by the agency of bygone glaciers and on the banks of this runs have been cut, a 35-metre jump built, and excellent nursery slopes put in commission.

Snow trains have been successfully operating during the past two winters and it is worthy of record here to note the date of the first ski train in Western Canada, Winnipeg to La Riviere—February 3, 1935. Bob Guthrie with a group of Canoe Club men deserves the credit for this enterprise.

Under the guidance of Les. Spechly, new trails have been cut and slalom and downhill races of this club and the Winnipeg Ski Club will again be held here.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and the success of La Riviere has produced a host of imitators at Miami, Minnedosa, Neepawa and other places. All this will stimulate additional interest in the sport.

BRANDON SKI CLUB—Brandon, a town of some seventeen thousand people, is happily situated for skiing in the deep valley of the Assiniboine 130 miles west of Winnipeg. Last winter saw the start of a very live club under the presidency of Howie Masson. Trails cut and this season will find the club with a little clubhouse near the runs and a greatly increased membership.

We started out with the intention of discussing skiing in Manitoba only but we cannot conclude without a passing reference to the most overlooked ski-ing town in Canada, Fort William. Possibly Fort William skiers are too modest, but if any other town in the East or West possessed the excellent slalom slopes (lit up by electricity for night practise), delightful downhill trails, excellent jump and splendid club spirit that Fort William possesses, you may be sure that that town would have advertised the fact far and wide.

Alexander H. Bright and Charles M. Dudley contribute an article on equipment and it is hoped that this subject will be a regular feature in future issues. In this connection, one must not neglect to mention Oscar Pennypacker’s erudite Notes on Waxing which must have provoked considerable mirth.

The illustrations are worthy of special note as they give one a very graphic idea of the terrain in the various localities. Dwight Shepler’s water-colours are exceptional.

After considerable searching, the editor’s name was found on page 147.