



President's Message

F. A. Hall

I AM pleased to report a steady growth in membership in the C.A.S.A., which reflects the increasing popularity of our sport in Canada. Not only have the number of clubs increased but in most cases the individual membership within these clubs has considerably increased so that if we were to count the number of individual skiers in the Association, I am sure it would be close to 25,000.

This is still a small proportion compared to the actual number of skiers who do not support any organized club, and I believe we should make a decided effort to attract these unattached skiers to our ranks.

It may be truly said of any sporting organization that the average members are the backbone of their respective clubs. This is exceptionally true of skiing. The successful clubs draw their main support, financial and otherwise, from the so-called "dubs." We need "more dubs in our Clubs," and that would be an excellent slogan to adopt. The purely competitive stage of skiing is out-of-date. I do not mean that it should be neglected but it needs practical backing from the non-competitive ranks to enable it to flourish.

There is a happy medium which may be struck, which, if adopted by the majority of clubs will do much to further the development of the sport.

Each club should have distinct facilities for both competitive and recreational classes of membership with committees set up to handle both efficiently. This all-round plan serves many purposes. First it attracts members whose fees are always welcome. Secondly, it will attract older people and their families. The youngsters once encouraged by the approval of their parents, will take up all branches of the sport whole-heartedly and will be a potential source of competitive material. The competitors themselves will benefit by the financial and moral support of an enlarged membership by having at their disposal a dependable source of revenue for their operations and travelling expenses, and also by having a number of interested members to bear the brunt of organization work. I offer these suggestions because in the course of the past few years and especially during the past season I have had an opportunity to make a survey of a number of our member clubs and I have found that those which have progressed most rapidly in all branches are the ones which have endeavoured to provide facilities for both competitive and recreational classes of skiers. A number of clubs have developed some excellent ideas, most of which have proved to be comparatively inexpensive, and I believe it would be a good move if these ideas were compiled in bulletin

form and sent to all member clubs as suggestions to be adopted if valuable for their own use.

As I have mentioned, the majority of recreational skiers in Canada are unorganized. I believe this is particularly true of the Laurentian district, and while my foregoing suggestions may attract some of these as members of clubs there will still be a great many who will be hard to convince that there is any benefit in supporting organized ski-ing. May I urge all clubs, both individually and through their Zone Committees, to again give serious consideration to the enlargement of their respective memberships.

It is also gratifying to note that the financial position of the C.A.S.A. is much improved. This is due to the increase in membership and to an increase of revenue from Dominion Championships which, together with a curtailment in expenses, gives us a little brighter outlook for the future.

I would like particularly to pay tribute to the Western Section of the C.A.S.A. for the manner in which they organized and despatched the championship events at Banff. The Meet was possibly the best in every respect that has ever been held on this continent and did much to elevate the status of Canadian ski-ing both

in our own regard and also that of our honoured guests from the United States, Norway and Switzerland.

Due to the concentrated effort of both Eastern and Western clubs and with the co-operation of the railways and Mr. Ross Larway who organized the tour, we were able for the first time to send a strong representation of nearly sixty Eastern competitors and spectators to Banff. This gesture, I am sure, did more to unite the Eastern and Western Clubs and individuals than any other thing.

The decision of the Executive to split the Annual Meeting into an Eastern and Western Session was also a move in the right direction. I know that the Western Clubs feel now that they have a recognized voice in the affairs of the Association and I am assured of their whole-hearted support.

In closing I wish to acknowledge my deepest appreciation of the support given to me by the officers and clubs of the Association, and of the assistance Sigurd Lockeberg has consistently given me. His wide knowledge of Association affairs, his level-headed judgment when advice or interpretation of the rules is sought, his impartiality and his never-failing courtesy are so invaluable an asset to the Association.

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The Decline in Ski Jumping

WHILE none too conversant with the situation in Western Canada we deplore the fact that in the East ski jumping no longer holds its old time popularity. In Montreal it looks now as if the famous hill on Cote des Neiges, where week-end competitions have been for thirty years witnessed by thousands will have to be abandoned due to lack of interest and support. This means that the leading winter sports city in North America will have no ski jumping as an attraction for our thousands of winter visitors. Jumping has always been one of Montreal's most popular branches of the sport, and year after year our local men have won at home and abroad. In Ottawa a great jumping centre for years, the hill of the Ottawa Ski Club at Rockcliff was torn down last summer, and their present hill instead of being convenient to the city is miles away up the Gatineau at Camp Fortune. Ski

jumping is so much a vital part of ski-ing that we must view with grave concern what is taking place. The modern trend seems to be speed as emphasized in Downhill and Slalom racing, and there is so much importance now placed on racing technique that the young men of today have little inclination to practice on the jumping hill. Nothing trains better for all-round proficiency than jumping experience; a good jumper is an expert skier, as in the case with the Rudds and other famous jumpers. The public have also lost their interest. At our open championships in Montreal we would have a turn-out of several thousand spectators, but in late years but a handful pay the small admission fee, until we are no longer able to carry the load, and last year the hill perforce was sold. What are we going to do about it, that's the question.