Our Laurentian Ski Resorts

By H. P. Douglas

THE village of St. Jovite, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, eighty-five miles north of Montreal, may be established as the northern boundary of Montreal's ski-ing terrain. For two generations the Wheeler family have been conducting there Gray Rocks Inn, modernly equipped and splendidly run, attractive cabins, a deservedly popular all year resort. Every kind of ski-ing may be enjoyed there, a jumping hill at the Inn, while adjacent, on Mont Tremblant, are the best and longest of the Laurentian downhill ski runs, the Kandahar and the Taschereau being the most important. Three miles away by ski trail is the village of Lac Tremblant, in the shadow of the mountain, with two excellent hotels, Manoir Pineteau and Meilleur's. Ste. Agathe, twenty miles to the south, where many prominent Montreal families have their country homes, now occupied in winter as well as summer, boasts the Laurentian Inn on its new site, on Lac de Sable, run by the attractive Harrisons, offering every convenience and packed all winter with ski enthusiasts.

Grand ski country all about—great cleared slopes—jumping and slalom hills—fast downhill runs—interesting trails.

Ste. Marguerite, ten miles south on the Canadian Pacific Railway, an old and popular ski-ing centre; the Alpine Inn, immediate to the station, and Chalet Cochand, two miles east, with their excellent accommodation and attractive bars, always crowded; Championship Hill, miles of safe wide trails, Hill 60, everything a skier can ask for. Last year thronged with Americans all season.

Six miles east of Ste. Marguerite Station, on Lac Masson, a Belgian syndicate have recently completed a large hotel, "Domaine Esterel," with the loveliest furnishings and appointments. This will be our most modern mountain resort and open this season.

We must not overlook on our way down, Val Morin on lovely Lac Raymond, halfway between Ste. Agathe and Ste. Marguerite. Pinehurst Inn here has been managed by the same family, the Stanfields, for years, and is always booked full up. The Appalachian Club of Boston come up some sixty strong for a two weeks' visit every February. Back of Val Morin, to the west, lies the finest ski-ing in the Laurentians—great cleared hills, including the famous "J. C." and valleys, gorgeous touring country. Vanier's on the sixth range is an old established ski resort.

The little village of Piedmont, Canadian Pacific Railway, quiet in summer, is a busy spot when the snow comes, and in the town are several good small hotels and boarding houses.

Ste. Adele, just to the north, a typical French-Canadian village in a valley surrounded on all sides by high cleared hills, a great place for Sunday skiers, plenty of accommodation, and as in all these places the ale is wonderful. Mont Rolland is the station on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

St. Sauveur on the Canadian National Railways, forty miles only from Montreal, the headquarters of the famous Red Birds Ski Club. It offers Hill 70, our great slalom hill with its ski-tow; the Red Birds downhill run, splendid hills on all sides of the valley. The main street of the little village lined with ski cabins, and all the many local hotels doing a rushing business. It might well be called "Little Switzerland."

North of St. Sauveur on the Canadian National Railways some six miles is Morin Heights, growing in popularity each year as a touring centre.

Over the hills to the east from St. Sauveur lies Shawbridge, Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National Railways, the original ski place where the sport first started in the Laurentians some thirty years ago. The Big Hill, with ski-tow, where many slalom championships have been won and lost; Lumber Trail, Paradise Valley, are but a few of the many thrilling ski runs; also the Viking jumping hill and downhill course.

To the east and west are miles and miles of cleared rolling country; our really best touring is in this vicinity. Many good boarding houses, including Mrs. Marshall's "River House," headquarters of the Montreal Ski Club for years—her baked beans never to be forgotten

In short, every Laurentian village is now ski-minded, the natives deserting the snowshoe—all on skis, our International competitions being won by these Laurentian village lads. The former deadly hotels spruced up, well heated, comfortable beds available at low prices throughout this lovely winter country. Most all the hotels licensed to sell beer and wine.

Capable ski instructors and guides may be engaged at all the centres and ski equipment purchased or rented. Starting at St. Jovite one can ski all the way down country to Shawbridge, on any one of half a dozen well mapped and marked ski trails, stopping off en route at comfortable hotels. Our two railroads, the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National, are co-operating in every way, excellent daily train service and ski specials on Saturdays and Sundays carry thousands to our Laurentian Mountain ski terrain.