

Editorial Comments

By H. P. Douglas

THE Revised Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of The Canadian Amateur Ski Association, all as adopted at the 1937 annual meetings at Banff and Toronto, together with an article concerning them by F. A. Hall, President, are printed in this number. They should be carefully read and digested.

THE PUBLICATION of the Year Book has been greatly delayed due to the lateness of copy. You all know by now there is a Year Book that should be published by December 1 at the latest, and yet this year again it's the same old procrastination, to give it a polite word. There is only one way to correct this and that is to appoint in all Zones a Year Book Committee to collect interesting articles, news items and club reports, and see they are in the hands of the publishers not a day later than October 1. Early this year I personally wrote to all Zones asking that this be done, but judging from the poor response little attention was paid to it. To say the least it is not fair, the editing of this publication is a big job, I am a busy person, and the least I expect is co-operation which this year has fallen down badly. With over 100 member clubs the club section of the Year Book has now grown so large that we are unable to include any illustrations, though some sent in are excellent. What we particularly want are articles of general interest, trips, experiences, technique, etc., with accompanying photographs or illustrations which will be published, but again I repeat these must be in by October 1. This is your book so get behind it and help it along.

DESPITE none too favourable early snow conditions in the East, ski-ing has again made tremendous strides forward, and in our part of Canada all ski resorts report a most successful season. One of the noticeable happenings was the great number of American visitors, our good friends from across the border coming week by week to all our Laurentian ski centres. The season from a competitive point of view was unusually satisfactory, the visit of the Swiss Universities team gave an added interest, all culminating in the splendidly managed C.A.S.A. tournament at Banff, where our home bred Canadians made a fine showing.

The Canadian Amateur Ski Association had a record year under the capable administration of President Fred Hall and his hard working

executive. The member clubs at this writing number over a hundred, finances have improved greatly, the Zone system of government has proved efficient and satisfactory, and so we enter on another season well organized, bursting with enthusiasm and confidence. All we need is snow and lots of it from coast to coast. If we get it—watch us go.

THIS year for the first time the seventeenth annual meeting of the C.A.S.A. was divided into two sections, Eastern and Western. The experiment proved so satisfactory that I hope it may be repeated in future years. The Western meeting was held in conjunction with the Tournament at Banff in March, the Eastern in Toronto in May. President Hall presiding over both and I am pleased that he was re-elected by acclamation, a well merited honour.

A reading of the minutes of these meetings will show the large amount of constructive work and ground covered, and the results will be of great benefit to the Association.

I AM INDEBTED to Mr. Batchelor of Calgary for his write-up of the Canadian Championships at Banff. He covers his subject well and his article will be read with interest. The organization at the Championships was splendid in all respects and only the weather disappointed. Accommodations were excellent and the famous western hospitality always in evidence.

Victor Kutchera laid out the Downhill and Slalom courses and in other ways contributed to the meeting's success. He gives us an article on the past and future of ski-ing in the Rockies which I am grateful for.

THE C.A.S.A. Ski Tests as revised and adopted at the annual meetings at Banff and Toronto are printed in this number. There are a few changes in the Proficiency Tests, and jumping has been eliminated from them. There has been added three separate jumping tests, for which special badges will be given to those qualifying. I am pleased at these changes as I have always been against the jumping in the former set-up. Now everyone is satisfied and I hope a renewed interest in the tests will be aroused, and many qualify. The Toronto Ski Club are to be thanked for their efforts in the test revision. More have qualified from Ontario than from any other Zone and a keen interest is taken there in the tests.

SAM CLIFF, as Chairman of the Ontario Zone, is continuing to do a grand piece of work, and he earns again my hearty congratulations. They have now some twenty-five member clubs and thirty odd non-member clubs who will join up some day soon. To take care of correspondence and other details they have had to open a Zone office in the Union Station, Toronto. Their executives travelled literally thousands of miles this year on promotion work, showing ski films and otherwise spreading the ski gospel throughout Ontario, and their results are marvellous, all in a territory handicapped by uncertain snow conditions. Their ski film library, covered by a special article, is a splendid idea; all Zones should start one, as there is so much to be learned and so great interest aroused from really good ski films. They have a well organized ski school on Continental lines, lead in the ski tests and as a result are developing fine competitive material among their members. I recommend that you read the report of the Ontario Zone.

BRUCE CARNALL, Toronto, again edits the Equipment Section of the Year Book, quite one of the most important and interesting sections of the publication. This entirely voluntary contribution of his, entails a really enormous amount of work and detail and calls for a wide practical knowledge of the subject. His efforts are appreciated I know from the many complimentary things I have heard since it was started by him at his own suggestion three years ago. I thank him sincerely for taking on this difficult task again and hope he will continue for many years to come.

WE PRINT in this number a history of The St. John Ambulance Association, a truly wonderful organization with an amazing background. Last winter they carried on their voluntary first aid service in the Laurentians in all kinds of weather and brought comfort and aid to many. During the season of 1936-37 they treated 254 cases of injury from simple to compound, as compared to 164 cases the previous season. A most alarming increase, and one that should be viewed with the utmost concern. Several fine young people were seriously injured in the Laurentians last season. If one skis under control and under reasonably good conditions serious accidents should not occur, but this craze for speed, dashing madly over the country and down steep narrow trails is where the danger lies. We older ones can warn and talk our heads off, but the correction is only in the hands of the younger skiers themselves. Anyway something must be done to stop this toll of accidents. To carry on the St. John Ambulance service takes money, for lodging these volunteers and for equipment; last year, thanks to the efforts of Sydney Dawes some four hundred dollars was raised among just a few friends. The skiers themselves should

contribute to this their own service, and some plan must be put in force to get small subscriptions from the thousands who ski in the Laurentians. We express again this year our thanks to the St. John Ambulance Association executive, and to their volunteer workers for the splendid service they are rendering.

BRIAN MEREDITH, well known to us as former Associate Editor of the Year Book and enthusiastic skier, sends from London, where he is now domiciled, an interesting and timely article deserving careful reading. In Europe they have certainly developed and perfected a most efficient system to take care of the thousands flocking to the many ski centres. I particularly commend his article to the executives of our Canadian railways, in the hope they may put in force over here, at least, some of these excellent ideas. While an improvement has been made in transportation and conveniences for our large ski-ing public we still have a long way to go yet. Mr. Meredith was honoured by an invitation last fall to represent Canada at the annual dinner of the Ski Club of Great Britain, some five hundred being present. I know he did his part in a charmingly capable manner, and I extend to our sister club our thanks for their gracious hospitality. This mail brings from him the news that Hurst and Blackett, London, are publishing his new book "Escape on Skis", a travel narrative with a ski background. Knowing ski-ing as well as he does and written in his easy style we will look forward with pleasure to reading it.

THE Canadian Impressions of Karl Webber, Austria, Manager of the Swiss Universities Ski Team, are interesting and it was kind of him to write them. The young Swiss Collegians were delightful young men and fine sportsmen. Everyone enjoyed meeting them. While the record they made, under strange conditions, speaks well for their ability, I don't ever remember meeting finer looking fellows; they reminded me of a Yale football Varsity squad. Mr. Webber's observations on the danger of our Eastern Downhill courses and the setting of our Slalom courses, coming from one of his experience, should have careful consideration, and personally I agree with him. The Slalom course at the Kandahar, for example, was not a fair test of skill, and after a few had run it became a hazard, not a test. There is an inclination to set these courses so severe that the object of the race is defeated. We have much to learn over here about this, so let's improve this coming season.

I was particularly pleased to read his complimentary remarks about Herman Johannsen, and well merited they were, as again last season at all important meetings he was always on the spot doing the hardest work of anyone and as ever doing it well.

I HAVE read with much enjoyment the British Ski Year Book. Year after year Arnold Lunn finds time in a remarkably busy and varied life to edit this outstanding publication and this edition is quite up to standard. The "British Ski Book" and the quarterly publication, "Ski Notes and Queries," edited by our old friend A. H. d'Egeville, are given with a membership in The Ski Club of Great Britain, ten shillings secures the membership and publication. We have many Canadian members, and I will be glad to arrange a membership if you will communicate with me, 1205 Aldred Building, Montreal.

Each year the annual publication of the Ski Clubs of New Zealand and Australia grows in size and quality, and the 1937 Year Book is a tremendous volume beautifully illustrated with much of interest in the text. Stewart Jamieson, the general editor, and his associates are to be congratulated on their fine publication. Copies are three shillings and sixpence, and may be obtained by writing to 182 Phillip Street, Sydney, New South Wales.

MY THANKS again to our publishers, our contributors and our advertisers for their co-operation and assistance.

The Business Manager Speaks

My hearty thanks to all clubs and individuals who have supported us, but Oh Boy, what I would like to do to those clubs and individuals from whom we cannot even get a reply to our correspondence.

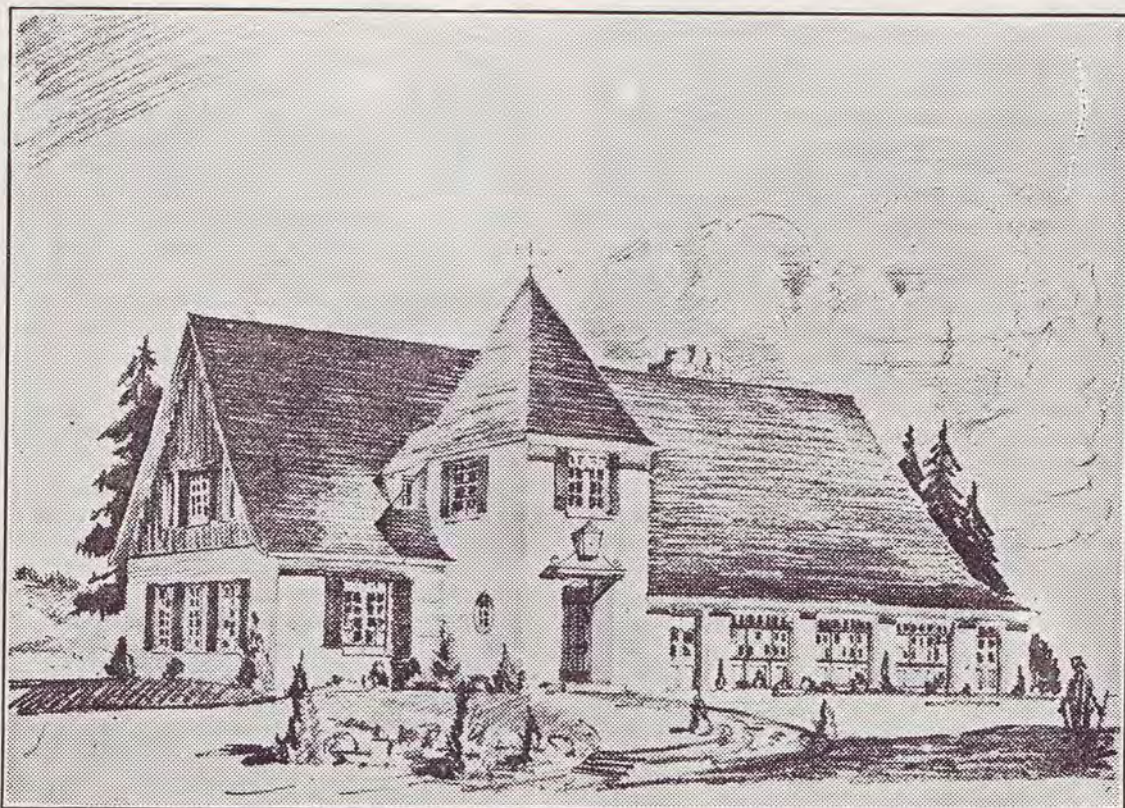
This business end of the "Ski Year Book" is a real pleasure when you know your efforts are going to be appreciated and you receive the expected co-operation from the splendid crowd of sportsmen who make up our skiers.

I have met a few of you and corresponded with many, and my contacts have been pleasant, and I only hope it were possible to meet either personally or through the mails the officials of all clubs connected with the C.A.S.A. If this could be accomplished, the Year Book, I am quite confident, would be just doubly as effective as it is at the present time.

This publication is made possible through the sale of advertising and in selling this space we promise the support of all you skiers. So will you remember the Ski Year Book whenever you are buying anything and do your best to patronize our advertisers.

In closing, I do again thank everyone for their kind support and emphasize again—Get your friends to buy the Year Book; mention the Year Book when purchasing anything; favour those commodities advertised in the Year Book.

WALTER H. SCOTT.



Club House of Park Toboggan & Ski Club, Montreal