

Our own little party decided to continue north and west, and found some delightful skiing in this direction. The pleasure of touring in open rolling country with perfect snow conditions on a bright, crisp day is an experience long to be remembered. Every hill was a new thrill, and it seemed as if there were no end to this wonderful rolling land. We continued on in a more or less curving line, being impelled by the magnetic power of the next ridge which of course always looked better than the one we were on. Eventually, about two o'clock, the pangs of hunger forced us to point our skis in the direction of Chalk Lake and food. The run back to the pavilion already mentioned was a high light in itself—about a mile and a half of more or less downhill running, with several quite long open slopes of varying degrees of pitch which yielded steady runs of more than a quarter of a mile. Not very much, all this, when compared with the Rockies or the Alps, but to us in Toronto which is a little lacking in large hills, it was fascinating.

We arrived back at the pavilion about 2.30 p.m. absolutely famished, and were greeted most cordially by the farmer that owns it, his wife and family, and given a meal that only a skier could tackle single-handed. What a feast! A choice of roast chicken or roast beef, piping hot and served in portions so large that the potatoes and other vegetables had to be more or less stacked on top of it. Then, to finish up with, coffee and a tremendous piece of apple pie practically smothered in whipped cream. Can you wonder at the terrific effort it required to get the party underway again after such a meal? And all this, as well as the extra piece of pie that some of us were ungentle

enough to ask for, for 50 cents! We still shudder when we think of the loss that unfortunate farmer must have suffered through that meal.

The balance of the day was spent in exploring the country to the north and east of Chalk Lake. Here again we found delightful skiing terrain, although not quite as open as where we had been in the morning. The run back to the station was ideal—down over a series of rolling ridges gradually losing altitude almost until the station was reached on the level land.

We arrived back at the coaches on the siding in the gathering dusk tired but with that feeling of exultation that only a glorious day on skis can give. Until you have experienced it, you haven't lived. Ask any skier. By this time practically everybody was returning to the well lighted and delightfully warm cars. The hour and a half interval between dark and the arrival of the train to take us home climaxed a perfect day. During this time musical instruments appeared from nowhere, and all the old ski songs, so dear to the heart of skiers, were sung with a joy and abandon that fairly rocked the coaches. What was lacking in harmony was more than made up in volume—much more. Between songs many paid appreciative, and not entirely ruinous, visits to the Toronto Ski Club dining cars. Almost too soon the return train arrived to pick us up, coupled on our coaches, and whisked us back to another six days of civilized slavery in this modern world in which we live—our one salvation being the memory of that marvellous day at Dagmar and our hope of another soon—preferably next week-end.

## *Hail the Hostellers*

By Alec Morgan

**A**T LAST the answer to the skier's prayer has arrived. For years the skiers across Canada have been looking in vain for some form of economical accommodation which would enable them to spend the weekends on the snow at low cost. To meet this urgent need the Canadian Youth Hostel Association is now mapping out the country for the establishment of a network of hostels, spaced some fifteen to twenty miles apart, or within easy touring distance. A hostel is a building with separate sleeping rooms for the men and women, separate washrooms and toilet facilities, a common kitchen and a common dining room, a common recreational room, and private

quarters for the Youth Hostel parents who will be in charge. These hostels will, of course, be operated through the country districts supplying the best skiing terrain, and will enable one to do a great deal of touring with a light ruck-sack.

While the organization controlling these hostels will be known as the Canadian Youth Hostel Association, this does not mean that the hostels will only cater to the younger people—the age limits are from four to ninety-four years, a person being considered a youth so long as they have the urge to travel in this rugged but simple manner, travelling "under their own steam." They do not travel by automobile,

train or bus, except to the starting point of their hosteling adventure.

The cost of overnight accommodation at any hostel is set at twenty-five cents per person. Blankets will be available and the only requisite demanded of the guest is that they shall bring along a white sleeping sack designed by the association, which is used instead of sheets, and that they hold a membership in the Canadian Youth Hostel Association at a cost of \$2.00 per year if over 21 years of age, or \$1.00 per year if under 21. Cooking facilities are offered to permit the preparation of meals, although in some cases the house-parents may also offer meals at a low charge.

The hostels naturally will remain open throughout the other seasons of the year when they will be patronized and greatly appreciated by the battalions of hikers and cyclists in search of a greater knowledge, love and understanding of the countryside.

There are few rules to be observed, but it is always understood that lights will be out at 10.30 p.m., with a view to getting the tourist away on the right foot the following morning. Then too, liquor is strictly prohibited and one is not allowed to smoke inside a hostel. It is a plan that will fit in the road to health and one's pocket book as well.

Although hostelling is only now being introduced into Eastern Canada, it has been in operation in Europe since the year 1910, when one Richard Shirrman, a young school teacher of East Prussia, was appointed as administrator of a Museum opened in a 12th century castle at Burg Altena. For years Richard Shirrman had cherished the possibilities of hostelling, and when he finally obtained permission to fit up some of the unused rooms of the castle as inexpensive dormitories for hikers in that territory he officially set the ball rolling on a movement which was to sweep the country. By the end of the following year there were seventeen hostels in Germany and the growth continued steadily until there are now over two thousand hostels in operation. The movement

naturally also spread throughout all Europe and spanned the Atlantic to the United States in 1934, where it met with the same continued success, especially in the Eastern States, where the ski-ing fraternity had already established the custom of getting away to the hills for the winter week-ends. Although much ground work has been carried on in Canada by the National Executive of the C.Y.H. in Calgary, the organization is only now gaining impetus in Eastern Canada. One naturally wonders just how long it will be until the hostellers' vision of a hostel trail around the globe will be realized.

It will be seen what a happy, though economical, holiday one could spend touring by ski via the hostels and it is a work in which the different ski clubs could lend valuable assistance by interesting someone in the community in a work from which they would derive a great deal of happiness and at the same time fair remuneration.

For further information and literature on hostelling at home or abroad contact any one of the following:—

British Columbia—Regional Secretary, Mr. Ian Eisenhardt, Director of Physical Recreation, Department of Education, 604 Hall Building, Vancouver, B.C.

Alberta—Regional Secretary, Miss M. B. Barclay, 212 Twelfth Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alta.

Saskatchewan—The Provincial Council of Women and the Alpine Club are assisting in the development.

Manitoba—The Ropia Club of Winnipeg.

Ontario—Regional Secretary, Miss Marie Boissoneau, 59 Victoria Street, Toronto.

Quebec—Regional Secretary, Miss Ruth Lister, 25 Cornwall Avenue, Mount Royal, Que.

Nova Scotia—Mr. Kell Antoft, Kentville, N.S.

Whenever a responsible party organizes a region and forms a sponsoring committee of from six to twelve persons, he or she, applies to the C.Y.H.A. National Office, 212-12th Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alta., for a charter and by-laws.

## Inter-Dominion Ski Meet in 1940

TOM MITCHELL, leading Australian ski expert and authority, and now Editor of the "Australian-New Zealand Ski Book," while here last Spring proposed the idea of an Inter-Dominion ski meeting at Banff in 1940, to which Canada would invite England, Australia and New Zealand to send teams. Arnold Lunn, who visited Montreal recently, was quite favourable to this idea and his co-operation will be most

valuable. The principal obstacle is the great expense, but to encourage this meeting, that would take the place of the Olympic Winter Games, it is expected the transportation companies will offer very special rates. The proposal is an interesting one. The C.A.S.A. executive have now the matter in hand, and it is hoped that a successful conclusion will be reached.