

Editorial Comments

By H. P. Douglas

PRESIDENT FRED HALL and his capable executive have again guided the Association through a most successful year. A long road has been travelled since the founding of the Association in 1920 with five member clubs—today over a hundred. I am particularly struck, when reading the many club reports from coast to coast, to note that all report improvement in interest, membership and facilities. This great winter sport is certainly on the "up and up" these days.

THIS year the Dominion Championships have been awarded to the Fort William Ski Club—February 24, 25, 26. The policy of the C.A.S.A. is to hold its major event each year in different sections of the Dominion to encourage the sport in that section. Fort William, centrally located, should draw competitors from the East and the West. The ski terrain is excellent, snow conditions fine, and the local Club is making every preparation to ensure a most successful meeting. President Fred Hall and the C.A.S.A. Executive ask all possible support to the Fort William Ski Club and the Dominion Championships.

THE MANY ski friends of John D. Southam of Calgary will regret his forced retirement from active ski-ing. As first Western Vice-President of the C.A.S.A., he worked hard and intelligently for the good of Western ski-ing, his territory advancing in organization and member clubs. The great success of the Dominion Championships at Banff in 1937 was due largely to his untiring efforts and ability. All his many friends hope that before long he will be back again on skis as he is far too valuable a man for the sport to lose.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION have again earned our gratitude for the great service they rendered last winter to skiers in the Laurentians. In the report of the Vancouver Ski Zone, particular mention is made of their valuable co-operation way out there and of the forming of a St. John Ambulance Mountain Ski Division.

THE ORGANIZING of the Canadian Ski School Association of The Laurentian Zone is important news. The Committee in charge is an

excellent and experienced one, the Technical Director, Mr. Von Allmen, has the necessary qualifications. In this issue we also give the report of the Ontario Zone on their Ski School activities. In Vancouver the Tyee Ski Runners advise of the engagement of Peter Vajada of Zurich, Switzerland, as a ski teacher. It is imperative that all Zones co-operate closely in this important movement so that Dominion-wide standards and qualifications may be established and maintained. With the forming of these Ski Schools with properly qualified instructors will come a rapid improvement in technique and fewer accidents I hope. We have been sadly handicapped in this respect, but now that the start has been made we can look forward with confidence to the future.

THE 1938 Canadian Women's Olympic Ski Team—Mrs. Lois Butler, Mrs. Gordon Lennox, Miss Marion Miller, Mrs. Edward Chamier—have presented to the C.A.S.A. a handsome silver cup to be known as the Garmisch Trophy. This is to be competed for annually and is to be awarded to the best Canadian women's ski team—Combined Downhill and Slalom—the conditions to be set by the C.A.S.A. At Banff the first competition for the new trophy was won by two sisters from Banff, the Misses Gladys and Janet Atkin. My hearty congratulations to both.

I WILL never forget my first recollection of Bob Johannsen. In December, 1926, I was invited to judge the Intercollegiate Union ski events at the Lake Placid Club, the jumping on the big Intervale hill. Bob, then but ten years old, had been given a policeman's uniform, and proud of it he was, and he opened the competition by ski-ing from under the take-off down the steep, long hill in perfect form, the huge American flag he carried larger than himself. A big feat for a small boy and earning tremendous cheers from the many spectators. Since then Bob has developed into a really great skier, the best all-round man in the East, climaxing a brilliant season by being crowned Canadian Champion. Peggy, beloved by us all, is also maintaining the high prestige of the Johannsens, consistently winning in the women's events, and in 1935 and 1937, top honors, the Holt - Wilson and Canadian

Women's Championship. I remember several years ago standing at the bottom of Hill 70 with Mrs. Johannsen. Little Peggy was missing. "Where do you suppose that child is?" she anxiously inquired. "Here she comes" I replied, as down from the tip top came Peggy, wide open, pigtails flying in the wind; by us she flew, ending up in a gorgeous nose-dive, remarking as we dug her out, "I almost held it, anyway." Alice, the attractive and clever third member of the family, is also up to standard, and had she remained in Montreal would have made a ski-ing name for herself. As it is, I believe she is Winnipeg champion.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gertrude Wepsala of the Tyee Ski Runners on winning The Holt-Wilson Trophy emblematical of the Closed Canadian Women's Championship. What makes her win of particular interest is that for the first time in this event the West raced against the East, Pat Paré of the Penguin Ski Club, Montreal, placing second. I hope that this most important event may be competed for at the Dominion Championships at Fort William, just about the half-way mark from Coast to Coast, and that both the East and the West will be well represented to make it the real all Canadian contest intended when the trophy was given by Sir Eric Holt-Wilson.

LOUIS COCHAND, winner of the Quebec Kandahar and many other important events, has left to spend the winter in Europe where he will take part in the principal downhill and slalom events. Canadian born and bred, it will be particularly interesting to see how he makes out as his performance will give us a good line on how we compare over here with the European experts. We all wish him a pleasant and successful winter abroad, though he will be greatly missed in Canada.

THE "Hiker and Skier" edited and published by Mr. and Mrs. Pollough Pogue, Vancouver, is starting on its seventh year of issue. Issued monthly during the ski-ing season, it is the official publicity medium of the many C.A.S.A. clubs in the far West, and I have always found it a reliable source of information on their activities. I notice the October edition appears larger in size and more diversified in contents and is a most readable and interesting publication. My congratulations to them both for the splendid service they have rendered to both the C.A.S.A. and the Western Ski Clubs, and I wish them continued success in the future.

THOSE tremendously efficient and attractive young women who comprise the Penguin Ski Club of Montreal are deservedly pleased with their lovely new clubhouse at Piedmont pre-

sented by two good sportsmen who appreciated what these girls have done to advance ski-ing in the East. They were the first, and as far as I know are today, the only women's ski club in Canada, and since their starting have taken every championship in the East including two wins in the Holt-Wilson contest. Success to them in their new home.

TO BRUCE CARNALL again our thanks. The Equipment Section has grown to be an important part of the Year Book. It represents a tremendous amount of personal work and the necessary knowledge to make the Section informative and authentic.

QUITE the most easily read and digested ski yarn that has appeared for some time is "Escape on Skis," personal reminiscences of our old friend Brian Meredith so well known all over Canada. "Vicarious Adventure," in this issue is just one delightful chapter, and a sample of what pleasure lies in store for the readers of this really good book. The latter chapters take you to the famous ski centres of Europe, describing in his easy humorous way a tour on skis over ground we have all heard about. The illustrations are particularly fine. The American edition published by Dodge Publishing Co., New York City, will be out November 14, and "Escape on Skis" may be had from your local book shop, a most appropriate Christmas present for a ski-ing friend.

ROLAND PALMEDO, well known in United States and Canadian ski-ing circles, is Editor of "Ski-ing—the International Sport," published last winter by The Derrydale Press, New York, noted for their fine publications. This book is a complete review of ski-ing by a group of authorities in every country where the sport is known. The illustrations, in colour, etchings and photographs, are particularly beautiful, making it a book that should be in every Skier's library.

THE "British Ski Year Book," Arnold Lunn's annual publication, has recently arrived and while I have only had the opportunity of a cursory "look see," I am sure it will be up to the usual high standard set by the Editor. Last year we recruited in Canada several new members to the Ski Club of Great Britain, and hope for many more. Ten shillings for membership, including the Year Book and "Ski Notes and Queries", now edited by Brian Meredith. Would be glad to arrange membership for those interested.

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