

of its sixteen stoves. Yet with all its faults, the old lodge of Camp Fortune stood very close to the heart of the skiers, and whenever anyone suggested improvements, some one was sure to protest: "Don't touch it; you will spoil it."

Improving the lodge, by rearranging this chaos of buildings, would have been quite a problem in any case. The only possible solution would have been to tear it down and rebuild it, but the taking down of a hundred thousand feet of lumber would have been a very expensive task. If only a fire . . . but the old lodge always refused to burn down. The lightning struck all around it, destroying one of the smaller camps, but never touching the main building. It looked as though the old lodge would have to be endured to the end of time.

However, in the fall of 1938, Architect Henri Morin, a staunch supporter of the Club, came out with a plan which met with the approval of the majority. It included the sheeting of the inside of the lodge with white pine, the tearing down of a number of partitions and ceilings, and the building of quarters for the caretaker and a cafeteria—only a beginning of course, but such as it was involving an expenditure of a couple of thousand dollars, exactly the amount that was in the Club's treasury after a successful

season. This work was done . . . and as the last nail was being driven in the remodelled structure, the old lodge which had defied all fire hazards successfully for twenty years, took fire and went up into smoke!

Coming as it did at the beginning of the winter season, and before the improvements had been covered by insurance, this fire was little short of a disaster. The executive, however, was equal to the occasion. Temporary shelters, large enough to accommodate a couple of hundred skiers were at once put up. A call for subscriptions brought in sufficient funds to start the building, and on February 12 the new Lodge of Camp Fortune was inaugurated by the Governor-General.

The new lodge, planned by Architect Henri Morin, is of a very pleasing design. It includes four wings, each from fifty to seventy feet long, every wing being fully exposed to the sun. Practically half the wall space is in windows. There is a waxing and repair room, a cafeteria, quarters for the caretaker and the cafeteria crew, and enough space to accommodate at one time nearly four hundred skiers, some of whom buy their meals at the cafeteria while others—still a majority—prepare to do their own cooking on the camp stoves.

#### ROCKCLIFFE PARK, OTTAWA, 1935



Left to right—J. A. D. Holbrook, Capt. W. T. Lawless, Jackson Booth (of J. R. Booth Ltd.), J. M. Bate, H. Y. Complin, John Armstrong, "Pinky" Merritt (not sure of his proper first name). The two fellows in the background are onlookers.