

The C.A.S.A. Ski School

By *W. L. Ball*

THE Canadian Ski School was formed in the spring of the Season 1936-37. The need for more control in the field of ski instruction had become evident as a number of self-styled instructors having little ability had sprung up.

A committee with Dr. W. L. Ball as chairman, and composed of Messrs. H. S. Johannsen and A. H. Pangman was formed. Its purpose was to organize ski instruction, protect the competent instructor from unfair competition and to insure the ski-ing public of sound instruction. This was to be accomplished by training and examining ski instructors.

A survey of the instructors then operating in the Laurentian zone was made and instructors' cards issued to seven well established men for the season 1937-38.

The Duke of Leuchtenberg was offered the position of advisor to the Ski School as he was conducting the only school for instructors in the district. At subsequent meetings with the Duke of Leuchtenberg it was decided that all new instructors should be required to pass a test of proficiency as set by the Duke.

At the spring meeting of the Laurentian Ski Zone in 1938 Mr. Jack Miller requested the aid of the committee in preventing the influx of instructors from the United States, which was taking business from Canadian instructors. Through the efforts of Mr. Harry Pangman a ruling was obtained from the Minister of Immigration which prevented transient instructors from operating in Canada unless they had received an appointment from a Canadian club or hotel.

In the spring of 1938 Mr. Ford Sayre, Chairman of the United States Ski Instruction Committee, was contacted and supplied the committee with much valuable information as to how a school for instructors should be conducted.

In the fall of 1938 the Duke of Leuchtenberg relinquished his position of Technical Advisor to the Ski School Committee in favour of Heinz von Allmen. The Committee, which had now been enlarged to include Messrs. V. E. Gagne and Walter Klaus, proceeded to meet regularly with von Allmen to prepare for the coming season.

In December 1938 Mr. Klaus resigned to become an instructor and Mr. C. W. Bernier was appointed in his place.

Plans were made to conduct an instructors' course in the second week of December but owing to lack of snow this did not materialize. The following week, however, a somewhat

shortened course was given by von Allmen and twelve instructors received their badges.

The first meeting between instructors and the Committee took place on December 18, 1938. A resumé of the Committee's activities up to that time was given by the chairman and the ground work for close co-operation between the groups was laid down.

On January 22 a second meeting was held at the Alpine Inn. At that time the instructors announced their formation of an association, the committee consisting of J. Miller as secretary, H. von Allmen, Hans Falkner, H. Gagner, and the Duke of Leuchtenberg. This committee was to deal with all matters concerning instructors and to present the instructors' ideas and suggestions to the Ski School Committee.

The Ski Instructors' Association was to draw up and present to the Committee for inspection a handbook to be known as the Canadian Ski Manual. This, however, proved to be a more formidable undertaking than was first expected. The task was turned over to the Ski School Committee, and the latter worked on it during the summer of 1939.

On March 29, 1939, Mr. Jack Miller examined for the Ski School at Lac Beauport, Quebec, fifteen young men who had been trained under the Youth Training Plan of the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Province of Quebec. None of these had advanced far enough to qualify as ski instructors but Mr. Miller has recommended ten of them for further training.

At the close of the season 1938-39 there were fourteen qualified instructors and twelve others known to the committee operating in the Laurentian Zone.

In the Fall of 1939 the position of Chief Examiner for the C.A.S.A. Ski School was given to Louis Cochand who had recently returned from a winter's ski-ing in Europe. He will conduct a class for instructors as soon as snow conditions are satisfactory. In conjunction with this a first aid course will be held. All instructors will, in future, be required to produce a St. John Ambulance First Aid Certificate or its equivalent before receiving their diplomas.

It is felt by the Ski School Committee that ski-ing should play an increasingly important part in improving the physical fitness of the nation. With this idea in mind it is planned to make ski instruction available to all. The true enjoyment of a sport is only reached when it is done properly.