

## Editorial Comments

By H. P. Douglas

AS PRESIDENT HALL says in his annual message, "Carry On" will be the slogan of the C.A.S.A. and the Clubs this year, and in spite of the unfortunate war situation ski-ing in all centres should enjoy its biggest season. The Dominion Tournament will be held as planned at Banff and the only events that may be cancelled are the International ones. The Association, under capable management, continues to grow apace—the member clubs now around 140—representing an individual membership of 25,000 or more skiers from coast to coast. New Zones are being added, now twelve in number, to facilitate the handling of the work and new competitions arranged; encouraging progress is shown in improved technique and style of Canadian skiers due directly to our organized ski schools. Our President and his Executive are to be congratulated on the fine results achieved during the year.

OWING to the great number of clubs now in the C.A.S.A. it is no longer possible to publish the individual club reports. Zone Chairman are requested to see that interesting and complete reports, including all major competitions, are sent in early for publication in the Year Book.

THE STARTING of the *Canadian Ski Bulletin* as the official news organ of the C.A.S.A. was an excellent idea and it should prove of great interest and service to the membership.

IT IS with real regret I learn that the Association is losing the greatly valued services of two old friends who are forced to withdraw from active work, H. T. (Sam) Cliff and Harry Pangman. It is impossible for me to express how invaluable over many years their assistance has been to ski-ing in general and the C.A.S.A. in particular. We all are indebted to both of them for their fine contribution to the sport.

LAST year, in late November, we had the pleasure of an all too brief visit from Arnold Lunn who was on a lecture tour embracing the United States and Canada. Unfortunately, his uncertain and hurried plans gave us but little time to arrange the welcome he deserved as the foremost ski authority in Great Britain and Europe. Sidney Dawes and I were, however, able to hurriedly get together a few for dinner including Harry Pangman, Fred Taylor, George Jost, and Bill Ball whom he had met

abroad. Later in the evening we had an informal meeting at the hotel and a good crowd of ski enthusiasts heard his interesting illustrated talk on the famous ski runs of Europe. Arnold was in fine form and all enjoyed his lecture and the general discussion that followed on various aspects of the sport; then some beer and a jolly finish to the evening. The following morning, a lovely fall Sunday, Sidney Dawes, Phonsine Paré and I drove him to the Laurentians, which keenly interested him, although, unfortunately, there was no snow. We visited the Red Birds and Penguins, had lunch at Domaine d'Esterel, a drink at the Chantecler, and a chat with Emile Cochand, but to his disappointment could not show him the Kandahar course. It was interesting to me to meet this really extraordinary man after a correspondence of over twenty years; unusually well informed on all ski subjects, a lecturer on religion, history and the Spanish war, a keen wit, he was a delightful companion. We all regretted his stay in Montreal was so short and I fear that his return visit planned for this winter will be, on account of the war, indefinitely postponed.

AT THE last Annual Meeting, it was decided to institute individual memberships in the C.A.S.A. The purpose, to increase the revenue of the Association and provide additional funds for ski promotion in Canada and the financing of teams for international meets. I heartily approve of the idea, and further information will be found in the C.A.S.A. section of this book. G. L. Menzies, Bank of Montreal, 30 Young Street, Toronto, is in charge of the campaign.

THE North American Ski Championships, a new international competition, is fully described by Fred Hall in this issue, and if our troubled times clear up I hope to see this new fixture inaugurated in 1941.

OF INTEREST to women skiers is a new downhill and slalom combined race, the Mont Tremblant Women's Open Fixture, to be held annually the first weekend of February on the Kandahar course and sponsored by the Penguin Ski Club of Montreal. This race should soon assume the same importance as the men's combined fixture, the Quebec-Kandahar, run down Mont Tremblant the first weekend of March and sponsored by the Red Birds Ski Club.

ONE OF the most interesting ski stories I have ever read appears in this issue: "California Pioneers on Skis," by David C. Mills, and taken, with kind permission, from the 1938-39 American Ski Annual. It is amazing to learn, and the authenticity seems unquestioned, that eighty odd years ago races on courses dropping 1,800 feet were regularly held in the California mountains, speeds of around eighty miles per hour attained, and exhibition jumps of over eighty feet made. Also that in those days of long ago "ski dope" was the same controversial subject as at present. The girls appear to have been quite as proficient as the men and the feat of the ten-year-old Miss worthy of the expert racer of today. I was really thrilled when through the co-operation of my old friend Dr. Lewis Reford, I am enabled to reproduce the Ski Express Stamp with the likeness of "Snowshoe" Thompson, undoubtedly "the mightiest skier of them all." I also present a summary of the quite extraordinary life and prowess of "Snowshoe" Thompson, and I am indebted to Mr. Mills for the photograph of his grave.

I AM obliged to Tom Mitchell for his article in this issue. Speaking from memory, his biography is about as follows. Born in Australia, he went to Oxford or Cambridge and became one of the best of the British skiers and racers—winning the gold "K" and other honours. Returning home he won the championship of Australia and I think New Zealand as well. He first visited us in Montreal two winters ago accompanied by his attractive wife, also, thanks to his training, a skier of note. He was no longer competing but Mrs. Mitchell did well; finishing first in the Ladies' Downhill last winter at Banff and second to Gertrude Wepsala in the Combined and Slalom. She also made a fine showing in the United States events in New Hampshire. Last year they sailed to ski in Europe but meeting with a severe accident she could not compete. Tom, now back in Australia, is editor of their Ski Year Book. They were nice people and we all enjoyed meeting them in Montreal and hope to welcome them again.

COLIN WYATT, Ski Club of Great Britain ace, spent a day in Montreal last summer en route to Australia; an all round skier, he specialized in jumping and is probably the best the Ski Club of Great Britain has developed. He is an artist by profession and also an expert on the accordion, a great entertainer and singer of ski songs. We had a delightful visit with him and were only sorry his stay was so short. He is taking up his residence in Australia where he will be a popular addition to their large group of skiers. In a recent letter he tells me that on his way West he explored the ski country around the Ptarmigan and Skoki Valleys, and

was so taken with the variety of descents, two to three thousand feet, and the glacier tours, that he intends to go back there again in the near future.

NORMAN PATERSON writes an all too modest account of the championships in his home town, and naturally can make no mention of the delightful hospitality extended the visitors and the cordial reception and good time given them by everyone. All who attended the Meet found accommodations all that could be desired, the catering at the course the best, the organization officials and every detail carried out perfectly, snow and weather fine. In short, it was one of the most successful C.A.S.A. tournaments ever held. Norman himself was a gracious host to our Montreal men and did everything to make their visit enjoyable. Our congratulations and thanks to the Fort William Ski Club and to the twin cities.

MISS MARION MILLER was captain of our FIS ski team that competed in the world championships at Zakopane last winter, and her biography, I am privileged to publish, shows a long ski experience in Europe. We are greatly indebted to her for taking such good care of our two young Canadians, Louis Cochand and Ted Zinkan. Unfortunately, Lukin Robinson, the fourth member, could not enter due to a serious leg injury. Miss Miller's write-up of Ted Zinkan, Toronto Ski Club, indicates a young man of unusual possibilities, and we will watch his future performances with interest.

WE AGAIN thank the St. John Ambulance Brigade for their invaluable service last winter in this district, and also the Committee of the Laurentian Zone in charge. The First Aid button idea worked out splendidly, 4,399 being sold at twenty-five cents each, bringing in \$1,099.75, and proving that the skiers are only too glad to support this service if given the opportunity. It is proposed to continue the sale of buttons and build up a fund to establish a chain of well equipped permanent first-aid posts at necessary locations. Out in Vancouver their local St. John Ambulance Brigade is also giving fine voluntary service to the skiers.

ATTENTION is particularly called to Mr. Stewart's article, "First Aid in the Laurentian Zone." Observations show that the modern "down pull" binding, stiff boots and heavy skis, all right for the expert but not for the novice, are responsible for many of the accidents. Recklessness, poor judgment and inexperience are also contributory causes. The toll of accidents is so alarming that I again emphasize "Prenez Garde."

IN 1932 the Kandahar Club of Murren presented to the Canadian Amateur Ski Association, to encourage downhill and slalom racing, the Quebec - Kandahar Cup. These good sportsmen have now presented to the skiers of California "The Far West" - Kandahar Cup for annual combined competition. The first race for this cup was held in California, March 17-18, 1939, and was won by Sig. Engl of the Mon Club. Mrs. Clarita Heath won the Ladies' event.

BRUCE CARNALL, though handicapped by his naval duties, again contributes his Equipment Section, quite the most valuable part of the YEAR BOOK. My thanks to him for his continued co-operation.

"SKI-ING FROM A TO Z," by Walter Amstutz, is unique among ski books, its 450 illustrations being from actual enlarged film strips, showing

every movement of the skier from the first to the last lesson. The comments are just what we would expect from Dr. Amstutz, in his day one of the greatest racers and teachers in all Europe. This latest ski book is published by the Oxford University Press, Toronto, \$1.50 per copy.

WE ALWAYS look forward to Arnold Lunn's "British Ski Year Book," this year as interesting as ever. Our old friend Brian Meredith is doing a fine job as Editor of "Ski Notes and Queries." I will be glad to receive applications for membership in The Ski Club of Great Britain; the cost ten shillings, which includes their Year Book and their quarterly publication, "Ski Notes and Queries."

TO OUR contributors, our advertisers, the publishers and many others, I again express my sincere appreciation.



Ski-ing in the Eremite Valley, Jasper National Park

Photo: C.N.R.