

Ottawa Ski Club News

PUBLISHED BY THE OTTAWA SKI CLUB

Conditions: past, present and future.—If you stayed home on Sunday, Jan. 15th, you missed one of the best ski-ing days of the winter; if you again played truant on Sunday, Jan. 22nd, you did not miss much, except a good outing, as the hills were—and still are—a solid sheet of glare ice. Three inches of snow would restore perfect conditions. We are not proud; we will accept yellow snow as fell lately in Chicoutimi if they are out of the white stuff. Meanwhile there is solid comfort in the predictions of the Weather Prophets:—"Signs," they say, "unmistakably point to an early collapse of the feeble (feeble is good) winter and a speedy return of the spring," which, when rightly interpreted, means 20 below and three feet of snow from Feb. 1st till May 1st. The same Weather Prophets, it will be remembered, predicted an early, cold and long winter, because partridges' legs were feathered down to the toes, and ducks carried eiderdown right to the end of their bills. A good coat of tar, with a lot of feathers is what these W.P.s should get.

Lake Placid Club.—An invitation has been received from the Lake Placid Club to send skiers to the 12th Annual Tournament to be held as follows: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 18 k.m. race; Wednesday, Feb. 22, Ski jumping; Thursday, Feb. 23, 50 k.m. race.

Races.—In a short two-mile race held at Camp Fortune on Sunday, Jan. 15, Jack Taylor came first. Similar races will be held every week-end.

The Tests.—New Developments.—A list of the third class tests was given in the last issue of the Ski News (which you can get by calling at McGiffin's if you have not received it). Since then, an ex-Dominion champion, Bryce Grayson Bell, has been put in charge. Bryce has been busy forming his committee of instructors and judges, and we are now all waiting for the snow to make a start. Remember, you will have to show first rate form in all the turns, otherwise you will not get a pass. The 10-foot jump is not merely a drop over a bump, there must be correct form at the start, in the air and on the landing. Instruction may be had free of charge at Dome Hill or Camp Fortune, but an entry for the tests will cost you 50c. If you pass, you receive a proficiency button, costing your club \$1.25. We are not making any money out of you as you see.



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How accidents happen.—Twenty minutes out of Camp Fortune, on the Western trail, is a steep, twisty hill called "the Gulch," we believe. At the foot of the descent, where the speed is at "40 per," rises a stump, black and sinister, left there on purpose by Joe Morin when he made the trail; on the right of the stump and close to it, a babbling, open brook; on the left an innocent looking mound of snow, camouflaging a heap of brush. The fact that George Brittain, who was ahead of us, managed to wriggle between the stump and the creek does not prove anything. It merely shows that George is reckless; that his judgment is not sound; that he takes more chances than a cat with nine lives would; that he will come to an awful crash some day, which will be the end of George. So your Editor made for the heap of snow, as you would have, and there he stuck. If he had had those loose cane or leather strap fittings that were in use twenty years ago before the Norwegians introduced the hard steel age, he probably would have kept on going leaving his skis behind and nothing would have happened; as it was, everything stuck, except an ankle which was wrenched.—For this disastrous accident, which has sadly interfered with the publication of the Ski News, your Editor blames (1) The stump (2) Joe Morin (3) Geo. Brittain (4) The Norwegians (5) Everybody, himself included.

The Slalom Hill.—A discreet inquiry among the people who know what hills are or should be, has been made about Joe Morin's parting gift: the Big Cut—or the Slalom Hill—and the following expressions of opinion have been recorded. Some, as will be seen, are encouraging; others not quite so much:—**Miss Diana Kingsmill (now Mrs. Gordon Lennox,** who took the hill on the eve of her wedding): "Too steep? Not a bit, and it is quite wide enough; in fact a bit on the wide side, if anything. Should be the making of a lot of good skiers. Congratulate Joe for me." **Louis Grimes:** "Call that a Slalom Hill! Why it is more like a sky-scraper. Make it sixteen times as wide and cut the angle by half, and then maybe you will have something. As it is, no amount of leather on the seat of your trousers will help you, because you won't even have a chance to slide. It is a sheer drop." (Losing your pep, Lou, eh, what?). **Hike Lambert:** "The scenery is gorgeous. Oh, the hill? I was not paying so much attention to it as I went down, just the scenery." **Sigurd Lockeberg:** "Might do for a jumping hill if it was not so dashed crooked, but a Slalom, nix!" **Hubert Douglas:** "They had better get used to it, good or bad, because it will be in the Dominion race course. Of course, I am not racing this year." **Bryce Grayson Bell:** "Much too steep and much too narrow. Turning posts will have to be put so close to each other that there won't be a chance to turn." **Dr. Wilkes:** "I slalomed down by jump turns, counting my jumps as I went but stopped at 250 because I got mixed and a bit dizzy. The rest of my party crawled down on their tummies, as they wanted to enjoy the scenery which, I am told, is very fine."

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Lucerne-in-Quebec.—We are informed by Capt. Alan H. d'Egville, Secretary of the Seignior Club, that the \$5 a day rate quoted in his letter is American Plan. Capt. d'Egville goes on saying: "I would like to take this opportunity of mentioning that the 8th Annual Inter-Collegiate Winter Sports Meet takes place at this Club on February 17th and 18th, in connection with which an ice carnival is being held. I am sure many of your members would enjoy this meet, especially as the members of the McGill team, who have done so splendidly in Europe, will be among the competitors in the skiing events. I am very interested to hear all about your new Slalom Hill, and if I can possibly get over to see it, I shall certainly accept your kind invitation."

That down hill skiing.—In his article on down hill skiing (See O.S.C. News, issue No. 3) George Guthrie takes the view that we are missing a whole lot of fun by not going in more for straight down hill skiing, including the practice of all the turns—Telemarks, Christianias, Jumps, etc. He sees grave danger to our morale and technique in continual trail skiing where we are, he says, "prisoners of the rut and of the trail, practically unable to turn when a corner heaves in sight, and therefore bound to lose whatever little skiing ability we have"—George has not been with us very long, apparently, or else he would know that down hill skiing was once the rage with us; whole days were spent going up and down Dome hill, or Fairy Lake hills, or East Templeton slopes, and turning, or more often falling at the bottom. Since then, the trail came in, and the trail gripped us, as it will grip you George because there is more fun in it, and more skill. No matter how brilliant you are at telemarking on a good hill, if you can't turn a corner on a trail in spite of the ruts, of the bumps, or of anything that is in the way, *you are not a good skier*. The trail, with its twists, its bumps, its ruts, is the final test; if a scientific turn is no good on the trail then give us a practical turn, call it what you like, stepping, stem-Christiania, or "yumping."—This being said, there is no reason why we should not take advantage of any good hill that we come to on our trips to practise those turns because that is very good fun. George also

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suggests a return to the spirit of 1925, when men, instead of following beaten trails, took to the virgin bush and practised turning around trees, and we agree with him, there. Where we fail to agree with him is when he speaks of our physical deterioration as compared with other clubs, where down hill skiing is more in favour. Are you quite sure of that George? Did not our Bryce Gillis beat everybody except a Norwegian born at the Slalom race of Shawbridge three or four years ago, and did not our Bud Clarke repeat the performance the following year? And what about Geo. Jost, a product of our trails, who defeated the world at St. Moritz last week?

Please call quickly at McGiffin's on Sparks St., between 12 and 2.30 or 4 to 6, and pay your fees, or send them by mail to "Ottawa Ski Club, McGiffin's. We need your money. You won't get snow until you pay, anyhow.

This little magazine is published solely in the interests of ski-ing in general and of the Ottawa Ski Club in particular. Contributions in the shape of articles, stories, etc., will be gladly received by the Editor. One line notices about articles, lost or found, ski-ing equipment for sale or exchange will be published free of charge for our members. Address all communications to "THE EDITOR, OTTAWA SKI CLUB NEWS, 37 MARLBOROUGH AVE., OTTAWA."

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