

Yet the intense interest in professional hockey and the high calibre of its talent would be impossible were it not for the great work in organization and administration carried on by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and its branches, which control activities in all ten provinces. In the 1956-57 season there were 79,693 players registered by the C.A.H.A. and playing on teams. These players are graded, from the Pee-Wees at 10 years of age up to the Seniors, who are over 21. In districts where sub-zero temperatures prevail, outdoor rinks of regulation hockey size are easily provided on lakes and streams. In the cities rinks are made available for the young fry by municipal playground departments. Montreal actually has more than 200 rinks when its prosperous suburbs are included. Toronto and Montreal have many artificial ice installations in operation now or in the planning stage.

Canadian winters, of course, provide full scope for practically every known outdoor sport, as well as those once played outdoors but since shifted under cover. Well-appointed curling rinks abound in every city and hamlet. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, veterans of the game give children of high-school age wide encouragement, and thousands are playing the "roaring game" on outdoor ice. In the Laurentians and the Rocky Mountains, skiers throng the slopes, and the resort industry in the past 25 years has enjoyed a new winter prosperity.

Early settlers in North America found that some Indians used a strange footgear during the winter. To their feet they strapped racket-shaped frames of light wood strung and netted with narrow strips of raw hide. On these they could travel at a fairly rapid rate over the deepest snow through the fields and forests. Adopted by white settlers, snowshoes were used for hunting and trapping expeditions. With the advance of civilization, snow-shoe racing became a popular winter sports competition. In modern times snowshoeing in various forms has been superseded by skiing, because of the greater speed of the wooden runners. In many parts of Quebec, however, old snowshoe clubs still exist. Although their programmes now stress social activities, the clubs still participate in one or two large meets each winter.

Enjoyed by thousands of Canadians in all parts of the country, alley bowling is a leading winter sport, and cities and towns large and small have "bolodromes" where, each night from autumn to spring, people of all ages and of both sexes compete for team awards and individual prizes. The types of pins and balls used vary from area to area, but basically the game is the same across Canada. On the basis of numbers of competitions, bowling far outpaces its outdoor counterpart, curling.

Other sports enjoyed in winter include basketball, with well organized leagues functioning, and badminton, a game whose devotees are on the increase.

#### Summer and autumn sports

Professional hockey's claim to mass interest across the country, because of its wide radio and television presentation, has been rivalled only by that of football. The word "football" is here employed in the North American sense, as distinct from soccer or rugby. Canadian type football is actually a hybrid game which had its genesis in English rugby and has slowly embraced many principles of the American college game.