

The Beaver Circle

OUR SENIOR BEAVERS.

[For all pupils from Senior Third to Continuation Classes, inclusive.]

Skees and How to Make Them.

Those who know the pleasure of skee-ing cannot understand why this sport has not been more general; but it is becoming popular in many parts of Canada. As a matter of fact, this pastime is very practical in any section of the country where snow is found, and in those where there is a crust it is the best way to travel.

During several winters spent on a farm, I found my skees almost a necessity. With their help I was able to go and come from my work in the woods much quicker than I would on snowshoes. Frequently I was able to cross small streams and swampy places that were

smooth. Some prefer skees with grooves on the bottom, but unless these grooves are perfect, the skees will run hard and will wear out faster than those with flat bottoms.

The secret of travelling on skees is to throw the weight of the body ahead so as to slide on one foot and to keep the other foot with its skee alongside. Then before the motion is lost, the weight is thrown on the other foot. Keeping both

loved the warm sunshine! It makes us so lonely to see you go."

"And it makes me lonely to leave you, dear mother," said Iceand snow, "but the Ice King has told me that had I stayed longer with you I should have died. Do not weep, dear mother. It is delightful that I can visit with you so long every year, for I know that you all love the wintertime too, when I come upon the snow-flurries, with snow-birds hopping and flying about me. I would stay longer, but, you know, there are also Fairies of the Summer, who would never come to dance and work in your beautiful valleys if the snow-drifts lingered."

"And now, mother dear, I must tell you something wonderful. Last night, what seemed a dream came to me; yet I do not think it was a dream. I think one of the Summer Fairies really appeared to me. However that may be, I thought I was sitting in the doorway of a snow-cave, thinking about leaving you all, when suddenly a beautiful fairy, dressed in a long, green robe, stood before me. She carried a golden wand, and upon her hair was a crown of flowers—hepaticas and spring beauties."

"Who are you, beautiful fairy?" I asked.

"Oh, I am called Love o'-the-Spring-time," she said. "I am one of those who help to deck the trees with leaves and the ground with green grass and flowers when you and your snow-birds go away."

"Why so thoughtful, Iceand snow?"

"I was wondering," replied I, "what I could leave to my parents and my brothers and sisters as a parting gift."

"That is a kind thought," said she, "and don't you know that kind thoughts should take form in kind deeds?"

"But," said I, "I can't stay to do kind deeds."

"That does not matter at all," was the reply, "for perhaps I can carry your thought on and give it a body when you are far away. Think hard about something that you would like to leave as a gift for your dear parents and brothers and sisters, and leave the rest to me."

"How good you are, dear Love o'-the-Springtime!" I exclaimed, and then I put my hand over my eyes and thought hard. And soon I saw with my mind a fringe of white bells growing all along the borders of the melting snow banks which follow me as I go back to the country of the Ice King. You know, mother dear, that white is the color I love most, and so, I thought, if these white flowers grow on when I leave, my dear ones will think of me, and come and dance about them in the moonlight, and love them for the sake of Iceand snow."

"When I took my hands from my eyes, the Green Fairy was still there, looking at me."

"Well," she said, smiling, "what is your thought?" and I told her all. "She waved her wand. 'Be it as you wish,' she said; and then I saw her no more. So, mother dear, whether it will be as she said, or whether I merely dreamed, I do not know; but keep watch when the snow-drifts melt, and you know that Iceand snow is travelling back to the country of the Ice King."

"I will keep watch," said the mother. Time went on. There came a day soon when the bright sunshine became warm. Wet drops dripped from the trees, and the sap began to creep merrily up into all the branches. The buds began to swell, and far down on the ground little rills of water began to gurgle everywhere, running down to the rivers, to be carried to the lakes and to the sea."

It was wonderful to see how quickly the great snow-banks disappeared, and the brown earth could be seen, covered, here and there, with patches of fern and pigeon-berry that had lain all winter quite green under the snow."

You may imagine that Iceand snow's parents and brothers and sisters kept close watch, and one day just as the last banks were shrinking down, with water drops dripping from their edges, one of the little fairy sisters began to dance with joy. "I have found it! I have found it!" she said.

Sure enough, there at the edge of the bank, like a pure white, up-turned bell on the brown earth, was a flower, growing taller and taller on a green stem.

"Here's another!—And another!—And another!" cried all the fairies.

Yes indeed, there was the whole fringe

of white bells, just as Iceand snow's thought had formed them. The Green Fairy had kept her word.

"What shall we call them?" asked the mother.

The tiniest fairy of all, Peepapeep, who had been sitting very still, started, as though surprised.

"Snowdrops," she said, "someone whispered it in my ear."

"Snowdrops" shall be their name," said the mother.

"It was the Green Fairy who whispered to you. She has brought to us Iceand snow's sweet thought,—the dear white bells; and the little green stems are a loving thought of her own."—Juju.

Junior Beavers' Letter Box.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—This is my first letter to your charming Circle. I go to school every day. My teacher's name is Miss Howard. There are about twenty-three pupils going to school. Our school was one of the competing schools in the School Fair last fall. I took first prize on my corn plot. My school is Collins' Bay school.

I have read quite a few books, some of which are: "Bad Little Hannah," "Francis Kane's Fortune," "Betty of the Rectory," "Alice in Wonderland," and many others. Hoping this letter will escape the w-p. b., I will close.

P. S.—I wish some of the Beavers about eleven years old would write to me.

ISABELLA TRIT.

Collins' Bay, Ont.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—This is my first letter to your charming Circle. As my father has taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for a number of years, I thought I would write to your Circle. I ride on the back of one of our cows. For pets I have a dog, Nornie, and a cat named Trixy. I go to school every day, and like it very much. Our teacher's name is Miss Ralph. I will end with a riddle.

As I looked through a pail I saw a ship sail, "Ann" in it, the captain's daughter; if you don't tell me her name, it's your own self's to blame, for I told you in the middle of my story. Ann—Ann was the captain's daughter.

MARGARET ALLEN.

Magog, Que.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—This is my first letter to your Circle. For pets I have two dogs, Feck and Bowser. My father has taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for fifteen years, and likes it fine. My brother and I go to school. The school is two miles and a half away. I live in Comox Valley, one of the oldest farming districts on Vancouver Island. I am eight years old, and am in the Second Reader. We have the telephone. I will close, hoping the w-p. b. is asleep.

I would like some of the Beavers my own age to write to me.

EDITH CROCKETT.

Sandwich, B. C.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—This is my third letter to the Circle, so I guess I will write again. I have a cat; its name is Princess Pat. We have the threshing mill now. Yesterday I stayed home from school to attend to the telephone. My father has two black foxes, and a pretty, big horse, called Sedgeford. I am in the Fifth Grade at school. Well, I guess I will close, wishing the Beaver Circle every success.

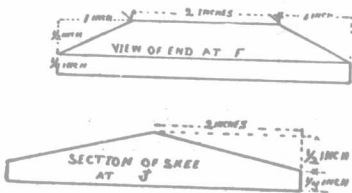
JEAN SMITH.

Central Pond, Box 30.

Dear Puck and Beavers,—This is my first letter to your charming Circle. My father has taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for as long as I can remember. School is not far from our place; it is on the banks of the Ottawa. Our teacher's name is Miss Beatty. I am in the Fourth Grade. I have a brother and sister. I am what you call a book-worm, and have read these books: "Black Beauty," "Little Curiosity," and many others. I will close now, for my letter is getting long.

IVY GRAHAM (age 9).

Grenville, Ont., R. R. 1.



absolutely impassable in any way except on skees. Often when the public highway was blocked because of the snow, I could easily make a trip to the town and back when otherwise I should have been completely without means of communication.

Skees are so cheap that it is almost impossible to understand why they are not in more general use. While a good pair may be purchased even cheaper than skates, I prefer to make my own. I have found that hickory is the best wood, though both hard maple and black cherry make durable skees. Basswood—if of good quality—may also be used, but in this case the skees should be heavier.

Skees should be four inches wide on bottom and nine feet long. The toe-strap should be four feet from the curved tip. In no instance should a buckle be used on the toe-strap, because leather stretches and shrinks so easily. When the toe-strap is laced together, one may always have it fit tightly. Care should be taken to see that the strap does not touch the instep, as the foot must have a free movement up and down, making a perfect hinge at the back of the toes.

The edges of the skee are beveled, as shown in the illustrations, save where the foot rests; here it is full thickness—one and one-eighth inches. From G, where the skee is one and one-eighth

skees on the snow will not only enable one to keep one's balance better, but also will allow one to acquire a steady and an even gait. Besides, there will be no loss of energy in lifting the skees.

The staff should be of good material, preferably hickory, because of the strength of this wood. It should be about six feet long and about one and one-eighth inches thick. It should have a three-inch wooden washer at the end through which the iron spike projects. While the staff is used to push with, it is also very convenient to use as a brake. By holding it between the legs and sitting down on it, if necessary, one may stop at will.

In travelling, one should try to make the skees run close together—two to four inches apart is about the right distance. A word of caution about keeping the feet firm while coasting will possibly save trouble for those who bear the fact in mind. When the skees get too far apart, one may, by putting the weight on one skee, lift the front of the other skee from the snow and draw it back to the proper position. Another word of advice by way of conclusion: In climbing heavy grades, it is much better to take them on an incline.—Albert Newton, in Suburban Life.

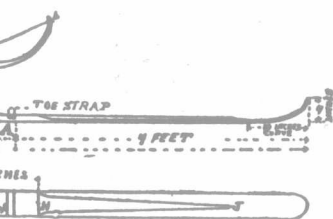
Funnies.

The nurse was giving small Mildred her morning bath.

"You must keep your mouth closed while in the water," said the nurse. "If you don't you will swallow some of it."

"Oh, that wouldn't matter," replied Mildred. "There's lots more in the pipes."

"I wouldn't drink out of that cup," said little Johnnie to the immaculate young visitor. "That's Bessie's cup, and she's very particular who drinks out of it."



"Ah," said the young man gallantly, as he drank the cup dry, "I feel honored to drink out of Bessie's cup! Bessie is your elder sister, isn't she?"

"Oh, no," replied the small boy, "Bessie is my dog, and she's very particular who uses that cup."

OUR JUNIOR BEAVERS.

[For all pupils from the First Book to Junior Third, inclusive.]

Peekaboo Stories.

SNOWDROPS.

Would you like to hear something more about fairy Iceand snow, of whom we told you last time?

One day in March, before it was time for her to go back to the great white country of the Ice King at the North Pole, her mother sat weeping.

"Dear Iceand snow," she said, "how I wish it had been possible for you to live with us always! How I wish you had

of the Week

war expenditure so far has \$45,000,000.

men Suffrage Bill passed its reading in the Manitoba Legislature.

tain has warned neutral nations she will permit no interference blockade of Germany.

ese revolutionaries have been recent uprisings, consequent assumption of a monarchy by al.

's villa in Corfu is being convalescent home fou wound-

to reject the Military Ser- the British Parliament was a vote of 431 to 39. The bers who had resigned with- signation, and so a trouble- passed.

week a French submarine trian cruiser in the Adri- Italian transport steamers, and Citta di Palermo, were trian submarines, half of bers on the Brindisi being

Lake has taken the place Nixon as commander-in-chief sia. Gen. Nixon resigned health.

er has caused a lull in the Western war-front. In British have been complete- from the Gallipoli Penin- Bulgars and Austro-Ger-orted as moving towards preliminary skirmish having at Doiran. Whether the launch their next great at- upon Salonika or upon e Suez Canal, is as yet a lecture. In the meantime capital of Montenegro, has e hands of the Austrians. amia comes the news that e Turks were in full retreat, sh under Gen. Townshend, orcements have been sent, otwithstanding the few erses, optimism increases ong the Allies, and it is the spring will mark a n in the war.