SWIFTEST OF SNOW SLEDS.

Timely Notes by a Canadian Expert on the Toboggan and Its Track.
From Outing for January.

The speed of a toboggan depends on various conditions, the bottom of the toboggan, the load upon it and the slide are all factors. The maximum speed is probably obtained by a hardwood polished toboggan with a load of from 600 to 800 pounds, as it leaves a steep ice-paved chute. The rate then must be nearly a mile in sixty seconds or even less. It should be remembered, however, that this speed is over a specially prepared track, with no surface crossing or intersecting paths or roads; that the snow banked up on either side renders it difficult, if not impossible to leave the course, and the only possible chance of collision is with an overturned toboggan, a most remote occurrence, or overtaking a slower toboggan on the level, where the result of a collision would be practically nil, as the tobogganists are moving in the same direction with slight momentum. In the hands of a novice on a fast track a toboggan may be upset by too much steering, for it is very obedient to its helm; but the chances are greatly in favor of its running down all sights.

The successful enjoyment of tobogganing depends to a great extent on the slide itself. In the first place a natural grade should be had, along which a straight track can be laid for two or three hundred yards, and below a level upon which the course may be extended out 1000 feet or more, on which the momentum of the toboggan may be expended. At the summit of the grade selected, unless it has a sharp pitch of forty to forty-five degrees, a chute from 200 to 300 feet long, with an incline of forty to fifty degrees, should be built. This must be strongly erected upon trestle work, with as many running tracks as the club intends having. These are usually about four feet in width, with sloping sides twelve to fifteen inches high. In addition to these tracks the chute contains a wide stairway, with broad, easy riding steps, and an adjoining snow track up which the toboggan may be drawn in ascending. At the top of the chute a large, roomy platform, with high protecting side rails, should be constructed. A small platform should be built at the head of each running track large enough to hold a toboggan, and raised a few inches from the floor of the larger platform.

The best way to prepare a chute running track is by paving with large, smooth ice blocks six or eight inches thick. These can be held in place by cleats fastened to the bottom of the track until the whole mass is solidly frozen together. On the sloping sides snow is placed and sprinkled with water until frozen solidly and smoothly down. The lower courses should be laid out as straight as possible, and the snow packed and rolled firmly and evenly down on the track. On the sides of each runway the snow is piled up as high as the depth will permit. The track and sides are then sprinkled with water until ice is formed half an inch thick on the track and a thick crust upon the sides. Every day when it is freezing the track is freely sprinkled and broken tracks repaired. This system renders the slide smoother and faster as the winter advances. These tracks constructed along the ground wear better than those made upon boards, as the sun's rays are not so strongly attracted and less thawing occurs.

The slide should only be opened after 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon, if it be exposed to the sun, unless it is a very cold day, as more damage will be done by a half-hour's use of a soft track than ten hours when it is hard. The sweeping, rolling and sprinkling of the track ought to be done in the early morning. It may, perhaps, be well to say here that the duty of the starter is to hold the toboggan on the starting platform while the about descending persons arrange themselves upon it. When this is done, and the preceding toboggan has rushed away in advance so far that the one about to start cannot overtake it, the starter pushes the toboggan off on its downward flight. It is best to run a track in a northerly direction, as the sun's rays will not strike it with so much force, and it will require far less repairing, besides lasting much later in the spring. A lodge-house, with dressing and assembly rooms, should be erected near the chute. The house for storing the toboggans is usually near the lodge on the returning path.

It is difficult to estimate the cost of a good slide, as it is dependent on the many extraneous conditions. However, $800 or $900 should build a double-track slide, with a sixty to seventy foot chute and a comfortable club house. The cost of maintenance is uncertain. If repeated thawings occur, then the reconstruction of the tracks entails more expense. On the average, however, $150 should be the maximum of monthly expenses on an ordinary double-tracked slide for wages, oil and incidentals, though some slides expend $500 per month.

Tobogganing on natural slopes can be enjoyed any time when a heavy thaw or rain is followed by a hard frost after a deep snow covers the ground. In going down an incline, without the character of the ground to be run over is thoroughly known, care should be taken. The writer remembers distinctly one experience that occurred several years ago. Pushing off on an exploring trip down a splendid long but untried slope, he was rushing along at the rate of thirty miles an hour or more on the hard crust when something happened. Floundering out of the deep, loose snow in a dazed condition, it was several minutes before he clearly understood the "something." It was then to find himself, toboggan and snowshoes seven or eight feet below the surface of the surrounding snow, upon the ice of a small brook. Over the bank the snow had drifted and formed a complete snow arch that, being too thin to bear the strain, had broken. The safest way to try a new slope is to walk over on snowshoes the portion intended to be used, or to go down alone on a toboggan a few times, taking care to sit well back, so as to be able to slip off if necessary. Few more enjoyable ways of spending a winter afternoon can be found than to form a party and start across the country on snowshoes, tobogganing down the various inclines that may be found.

If variation in tobogganing is desired, a cahot, or jumping-place, may be built on the track. This consists of a building up of the track in an incline, with a perpendicular face of a few feet. The toboggan rushes up the incline and flies over the face through the air to the track again. This is exciting, but dangerous, and most of the few accidents accredited to tobogganing occurred on these cahots. Another way is still more exciting. Find a steep hillside where the winds have drifted the snow midway down the side into a high drift that has a perpendicular face of eight or ten feet. Push off on your toboggan from the top. Rush down over the top of the drift—a flying jump of twenty feet or more through the air—to the lower slope; to dart on down the incline with accelerated speed. A few jumps of this kind are well worth a long trip.

Tobogganing as an amusement was commenced in Canada down natural slopes upon the crust. At Quebec the slide first used forty years or more ago was the ice cones that are formed by the spray under the Falls of Montmorenci. These cones rise during a cold winter to a height of nearly 150 feet, and the impetus acquired by the toboggan as it rushes down the smooth icy surface carries it a mile or more across the river.

Greatest Discovery Since 1492.

—For coughs, colds, sore throat, bronchitis, laryngitis, and consumption in its early stages, nothing equals Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery." It is also a great blood-purifier and strength-restorer, or tonic, and for liver complaint and costive condition of the bowels it has no equal. Sold by druggists.

Tragic Use of a Telephone.
From the St. James' Gazette.

If we are to believe a story told by the Belgian correspondent of the Figaro, the telephone has recently been put upon novel duty in Brussels under circumstances of an extremely tragic character. A young lady of that city mistook, it seems, the civilities of a young man who visited at her parents' house for attentions of a more serious nature. To her great surprise and mortification, however, she learned some little time ago that he was engaged to one of her friends. Shortly after she made the discovery the young man received a summons to place himself in telephonic rapport with a friend who had something to say to him. The friend turned out to be the young lady who loved him not wisely but, as the sequel shows, too well. Without wasting time in preliminaries, she asked him point blank if it was true that he was going to marry Mademoiselle——? He replied that it was quite true. "Then good-bye forever" were the next words which reached his ears, and they were immediately followed by the report of a firearm. The poor girl had lodged a revolver bullet in her heart. She had thus, with the aid of the telephone, made the man for whom she had sacrificed herself assist at her suicide, while putting it absolutely out of his power to do anything to prevent it.

—Why will you allow a cough to lacerate your throat or lungs and run the risk of filling a consumptive's grave, when, by the timely use of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup the pain can be allayed and the danger avoided. This Syrup is pleasant to the taste, and unsurpassed for relieving, healing and curing all affections of the throat and lungs, coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc., etc.

Taken From Real Life.
From Town Topics.

Is it a curious fact, well known in clubdom, that the plot of Mr. Keller's play of "Tangled Lives," in which Mr. Mantell is acting at the Fifth-avenue Theatre, is in great part the counterpart of the story of the life of one of our viveurs who is harvesting in his middle age the crop of wild oats he sowed long ago. The relation between Raymond Garth and Helen, as developed by the dramatist, is virtually identical with the connection that has held this man down for twenty years. He has seen the woman he wished to make his wife become another's bride, and die; he has found the cold shoulder of society turned on him in many places where he was once welcome; his hair has grizzled and his toe become gouty, but the woman of the past lives, and he holds himself to her with a stern sense of duty amounting to a mania. He never mentions her name to anyone. He simply provides for and shuns her. The oddest part of it is that she is truly devoted to him, and never endeavors to annoy or intrude on him. She worships him at a respectful distance, and he knows it, and while his pride prevents his marrying her it also prevents his casting her off.

—The increasing demand for West's Cough Syrup is evidence of its great virtue in all throat and lung diseases. Three sizes. All druggists.

Who says you cannot reason with a woman? You can reason with a woman. And generally that is all the good it will do.

—The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrance of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis, etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

A coal stove is a cast-iron paradox. It won't burn unless you put it up; then it won't burn unless you shake it down.

West's Cough Syrup, the most reliable remedy for all throat and lung diseases. For safety keep it always in the house. All druggists.

The Real Spirit of Christmas.
From the Christian at Work.

Of all religions Christianity is alone blessed, and carries a benediction with it. Assuredly it is to the manifestation of God in the flesh that we owe the sum of the world's charity, philanthropy and true piety, and Christmas would not be a fitting memorial of Christ if it were without its gifts and charities. They may, indeed, be too far removed from the true source whence they spring; they may even be apparently loosed from that source altogether. But it is only apparently so. Still the spirit of God is abroad, and still it incites the daily life to the practice of the noblest virtues—those of love, pity, charity, self-sacrifice, forbearance—as else had been lost to the worldly vision, or seen only in vague and shadowy outline. Still it is true that the ministry of gentleness, kindness and pity draws its inspiration and immortality from God—from God incarnated in human flesh, and now governing the world. The coming of Jesus first declared and made possible the brotherhood of man. Unregenerate human nature is full of that which is sordid and selfish—as human practice has too often demonstrated. But the new root in humanity has been followed by new growth, the very leaves of which are providing healing for the nations.

—Henry Clement, Almonte, writes: "For a long time I was troubled with chronic rheumatism, at times wholly disabled; I tried anything and everything recommended, but failed to get any benefit, until a gentleman who was cured of rheumatism by Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, told me about it. I began using it both internally and externally, and before two bottles were used I was radically cured. We find it a household medicine, and for croup, burns, cuts and bruises, it has no equal."

The strength of an insurance company does not depend upon the lunch it gives when officers are elected.

—West's Cough Syrup instantly relieves and speedily cures bronchitis, sore throat and all throat diseases. Try it and be convinced. All druggists.

A Pertinent Inquiry.
From the Boston Record.

Grace and Teddy had a grand fight a few evenings ago. Grace took Ted's canton flannel elephant away from him and wouldn't give it back. Ted ran at his sister like a tow-headed fury, and Grace gave him a sounding slap on the face. Ted's cries brought their mother to the scene of action, and she carried him off to bed, leaving the aggressor Grace in possession of the field. Ted explained matters to the ear of maternal sympathy as he was being put to bed. "Well, Grace was naughty," said the mother, as she put on Ted's nightgown; "I'll have to talk to her about it; but you must forgive her, Teddy, and you must pray for her, too, she added, as Ted bumped down on his knees in his usual devotional attitude. "Just let me go down and give her one good slap first like she gave me," said Ted, wrathfully. "Oh, no, darling, go on with your prayers," said the mother softly, smoothing his hair with her hand; "the Bible says we must pray for those who despitefully use us." "Mamma," asked Ted, earnestly lifting his face, "mamma, did you ever try it?"

—What a comfort to be able to gratify one's appetite once more without pain, after long suffering from dyspepsia! Victims of indigestion wise enough to accept the general verdict in favor of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure as true, and use the article, can enjoy the welcome relief. Obstinate dyspepsia, constipation and biliousness, invariably yield to its potent regulating action.

Impecunious Lover—"Be mine, Amanda, and you will be treated like an angel." Wealthy Maiden—Yes, I suppose so; nothing to eat and less to wear; no I thank you."

—Worms derange the whole system. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator deranges worms, and gives rest to the sufferer. It costs only 25 cents to try it and be convinced.

Gail Hamilton has written a long article to prove that the young woman of the period is frail, frivolous, foolish and fantastic. So she is, Gail, so she is; and we men are just frail, frivolous, foolish and fantastic enough to admire her.

West's Cough Syrup, a sure cure for coughs, colds, croup and consumption.

The young man who can't raise enough money to pay for a marriage license now puts up $5 an hour for a sleigh to take her out on the Avenue.

—A lady writes: "I was enabled to remove the corns, root and branch, by the use of Holloway's Corn Cure." Others who have tried it have the same experience.

Miss Nellie, an enthusiastic dog fancier—"Is that charming little bobtail yours, monsieur?" Monsieur—"Oh, no, mademoiselle; zat ees ze dog's."

—"I was troubled with an eruption on my face, which was a source of constant annoyance when I wished to appear in company. After using ten bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the humor entirely disappeared."—Mary M. Wood, 40 Adams-st, Lowell, Mass. d

A gravestone carver says that forty out of fifty epitaphs contain more or less falsehood, but he lays down mallet and chisel to add: "However, hang a man who won't lie a little to help a dead person out of a bad fix."

—How often do we hear of the sudden and fatal termination of a case of croup, when a young life might have been saved by the prompt use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Ayer's Almanac for the new year is out. Get one. d

"Why, Nora," exclaimed Mrs. Reynolds, aghast, "why did you boil the potatoes without removing the eyes?" "Sure, mies," replied Nora, with a smile, "and if I cut out the potatoes' eyes how will they see to boil?"

—World-wide is the reputation of West's Cough Syrup, the truly marvelous remedy for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, asthma and consumption. All druggists.

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Great Bargains for the Holidays.
Over 40 second-hand breech-loading shot guns, Winchester repeaters and single-shot rifles will be sold at about half the regular price, for the next two weeks. A splendid chance to get a cheap gun. Any of the above guns will be sent C.O.D. with permission to examine and return if not suitable, to any address, on receipt of $1.00.
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Below will be found the Annual Premiums, followed by a Statement of the Results to the Survivors, during the past Ten Years. Compare the Cost shewn in Section 4, with the Assessments made upon persons of the same age who belong to the various Assessment Societies, whether of the business or fraternal varieties.

FOR EACH $1,000 OF INSURANCE.

1 Annual Premium, including Medical Fee, Admission Fee, & Annual Expense Charge, all in one sum.				2 Accumulated Fund at end of 10th year to Cr. of each Policy, available to renew this, or pay for another Policy.				3 BALANCE, Divided into ten parts, shewing Annual Total Cost.				4 Allow $4.00 in place of the Annual Dues & Admin'n Fees usually collected, and the Net Cost, yearly, was:			
Age	$ c.	Age	$ c.	Age	$ c.	Age	$ c.	Age	$ c.	Age	$ c.	Age	$ c.	Age	$ c.
16	11 09	35	17 36	16	35 21	35	62 68	16	7 57	35	9 47	16	3 57	35	5 47
20	13 09	36	18 00	20	35 21	36	63 30	20	7 57	36	9 65	20	3 57	36	5 65
21	11 37	37	18 66	21	37 40	37	67 80	21	7 83	37	9 90	21	3 63	37	5 99
22	11 65	38	19 41	22	39 89	38	72 33	22	7 70	38	10 18	22	3 70	38	6 18
23	11 97	39	20 19	23	41 60	39	76 85	23	7 90	39	10 50	23	3 80	39	6 50
24	12 29	40	21 03	24	43 70	40	101 36	24	7 90	40	10 88	24	3 90	40	6 88
25	12 64	41	21 91	25	45 86	41	105 92	25	8 05	41	11 29	25	4 05	41	7 33
26	13 02	42	22 88	26	48 00	42	110 45	26	8 15	42	11 82	26	4 15	42	7 82
27	13 36	43	23 93	27	51 35	43	115 03	27	8 35	43	12 40	27	4 25	43	8 40
28	13 79	44	24 97	28	54 15	44	119 70	28	8 35	44	13 00	28	4 38	44	9 00
29	14 21	45	26 14	29	57 00	45	124 30	29	8 50	45	13 72	29	4 50	45	9 72
30	14 67	46	27 30	30	59 85	46	129 00	30	8 70	46	14 50	30	4 70	46	10 50
31	15 14	47	28 71	31	63 13	47	138 75	31	8 90	47	15 33	31	4 50	47	11 30
32	15 65	48	30 10	32	67 40	48	138 55	32	8 90	48	16 25	32	4 90	48	12 25
33	16 19	49	31 50	33	71 93	49	143 35	33	9 07	49	17 25	33	5 07	47	13 25
34	16 75	50	33 17	34	75 00	50	148 20	34	9 25	50	18 35	34	5 25	50	14 35

EXPLANATION OF TABLE.

The Rates shewn in No. 1 remain fixed at the age of entry for Ten Years. If the Accumulated Fund (2) is sufficient, (as for 18 years past it has been,) all Policies on these Rates will be RENEWED ANOTHER TEN YEARS, at the close of each 10 years is reached, without increase of the original rate. At the age of 70, or later, the party's entire Accumulated Fund may be drawn out in CASH, for two-thirds at an earlier age), as a Surrender Value, or the Insurance may then be renewed for life.

No. 2 shews the Fund, belonging to the age opposite it, available as Cash, without medical re-examination, toward taking an Endowment or other Policy of equal amount, or securing a renewal on the same plan, at the Original Rate, for Another Ten Years.

No. 3 shews the Balance, or Entire Annual Cost, the past ten years, expenses and all.

No. 4 shews the resulting Net Cost, or annual assessment of the past ten years in the ÆTNA, on this plan, after allowing $4.00 off No. 3, as an equivalent of the $8.00 or $11.00 Admission Fee, and $3.00 annual Expense Charge, found necessary in Assessment Societies.

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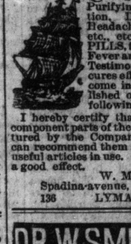

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