

Woman's Sports.

By Cyclist.

SKATING.

The movement toward establishing free skating rinks in Toronto is an excellent one.

The Toronto Park Commissioner reports that rinks at Stanley and Riverside Parks are already established; a portion of Tannery Hollow is to be flooded by the City Engineer's Department and will be looked after by Mr. Reeves, and a portion of Bellwoods Park and the Don flats in Riverview Park will be flooded. Negotiations have been entered into with the Canadian Permanent Loan & Savings Co. regarding the use of a lot on Summerhill avenue, 300 x 150, for a rink, but the company want a remission of taxes in consideration of its use.

This will give six free rinks, maintained in good order at the cost of the city.

There is also a charming little natural rink, commonly called Small's Pond, on Coxwell avenue, near the Woodbine, where a small stream overflows into a little pond, then continues its way southward through three acres of ground. The wooded environments are most picturesque, and the place a favorite resort of skaters last season.

The Victoria Skating Club will give a carnival early in January, weather permitting, entries to which will be strictly and only by invitation. A capital new band has been chosen for the season, which will play at the rink on each Monday afternoon and Thursday evening.

A ladies' hockey team may be one of the interesting features of the Victoria Club this season, since several of the lady members are most enthusiastic over the game, and it is just possible that a ladies' hockey match may be played on one of the skating afternoons. Such a match would be lots of fun, and as it could only be seen by members, bad play or bad spills would be overlooked. It is to be hoped that some of our good lady skaters will take hold of it, for with such skaters as the Miss Dawsons and a host of others, the match would be certainly a success. The club arrangements this year will prove much better than last, now members will be able to have their tea, etc., without the bother of taking off their skates and climbing no end of steps, as the large dressing-room down stairs has been placed at the disposal of the club.

A new rink on the corner of Harrison and Dovercourt road—which covers part of the old Dovercourt orchard, formerly part of the Denison estate—promises to be as fashionable as well as a favorite resort for the coming winter. The amount of level ground, and the acreage covered being larger than that of either the Granite or Victoria rinks, make it especially attractive. It is to be roofed-in next year, but this season will have the charm of the open. Another rink has been opened on the corner of Cowan avenue and Queen street, Parkdale, making the eighth skating rink in Toronto.

There is also rumor that a Skating Club is to be formed in connection with the Granite Rink, which will also prove a jolly and fashionable coterie.

HOCKEY.

A letter coming from a Liverpool, England, correspondent who is a devotee of all out-door sports, tells me about the Girls' Hockey Club, which has been formed

in that city of which she is a member, and how enthusiastically the women are taking up the game.

Scarlet Tam o'Shanter's have been settled on as the badge of club distinction, and very smart and becoming she assures me they are. My correspondent is full of grief at not yet being quick enough to play forward, and having, therefore, to be contented with a back division.

A hockey team generally numbers eleven, unless otherwise agreed upon by the captains. The space required to play on must be about one hundred yards long by fifty wide. The referees or umpire must have a most difficult task, though a gentleman on-looker at this same English club tells me it is a simple thing. The courteous "Pardon me" and "Excuse me" uttered by the feminine players seemed to afford him great amusement, especially if used when attacking an opponent or when some supposed infringement of rules was displayed. It is certainly characteristic of the gentler sex.

Personal experience has taught us that this game, when played by men, is rather boisterous.

CURLING.

Curling promises to be a favorite sport for women this winter, especially among American ladies. It certainly is a game easily adapted to women, for with smaller and lighter stones no extra exertion or skirmishes need be indulged in as in hockey, and women can become quite as expert with the curling stones as they already are with the broom, which this game calls into use to a great extent.

It should prove a picturesque game for women, since it gives innumerable opportunities for effective posing. A woman in winter furs with her light broom and small polished curling stone, would invest the royal old game with a fresh charm. But how will its stern old Scotch devotees stand the innovation?

ABOUT THE WHEEL.

I have obtained from the manager of a leading bicycle manufacturer in Toronto a few valuable instructions concerning the winter care of bicycles.

In cleaning the wheel preparatory to laying it away, lay it on one side upon a floor which you do not mind soiling, fill your little oil can with gasoline, open the various valves and pour it in. A flow of blackened liquid comes out at first, this is the congealed oil and dirt, which the gasoline cuts. Presently it runs clear and then you have poured in enough.

There is no need of wiping out the gasoline, it will evaporate.

Take a light vaseline and rub spokes, enamel, plating, and all parts reachable. Then rub it well off with a clean, soft cloth. This prevents rust gathering.

Take care that the vaseline does not touch the rubber tires, it will rot them.

Hang your wheel so that it is lifted a little from the floor, but do not hang it near the ceiling, since heat ascends, and it must be kept in moderate temperature.

Take care that the room in which you store your wheel is neither too hot nor too cold.

A light linen cover should protect it from the dust.

There is no need of letting the air out of the tires. The confined air does the rubber no harm, and the wheel may be taken out in the spring and used with the same air in the tires with which you put it away in December.

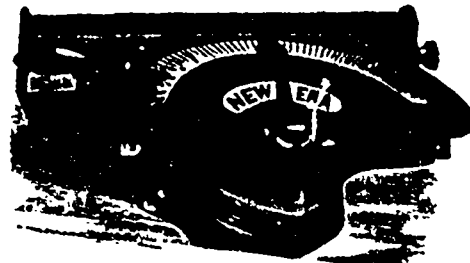
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