

Canada's Winter, a Drawing Card

Healthy Out-door Sports Attract Many Holiday-makers—Economic Life is Uninterrupted.

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ACCORDING to various estimates made Canada played the host to about two million foreign visitors during the past summer. Unfortunately, before the first touch of frost had painted the maples, the great majority were compelled to return to their homes. The strictly holiday season for the bulk of the people was over and duties which occupied them the greater part of the year called them again. With the departure of the summer months there was not the same comfort or convenience in motor travel, by which means so many tourists gain access to the Dominion. December arrived to find but a tithe of that host in the country anticipating the revels of that other Canada which is born only when the Frost King assumes his throne and casts his snowy pall over the land.

But there is another invading army which comes to fill up the ranks, not yet so numerous, perhaps, but increasing in volume every year. It is composed of the various battalions of winter holiday-makers who place Canada above all as a land of unsurpassed winter enjoyment. They are those who realize the futility of travelling long distances and spending much money to disport themselves in the snows of Norway and Switzerland when close at hand is Canada, a series of ravishing Switzerlands stretching from coast to coast. They are alienated subjects of King Winter who come each year to do homage in his kingdom.

It is enormously gratifying to Canadians to see the evidences of a growing popularity of their country in the winter-time, for each fresh visitor initiated into the wonders of Canadian winter pleasure cannot but spread abroad the tidings of the good times. The summer tourist who may pride himself on a knowledge of Canada has but half completed his education if he knows not the hilarity of a Canadian winter. And seldom can he learn it except at first hand, for tradition dies hard and there are many misconceptions to be overcome. To those who have formed their opinions of the Cana-

dian winter upon popular novels and the movies and whose mind-picture is a weird maze of northern trappers, dog teams and blizzards, it is very difficult to imagine the gay winter life of the cities and towns of Canada and the pleasure the entire populace extract from bending the wintry elements to their enjoyment.

Economic Life Uninterrupted.

Winter does not to any extent interrupt the economic life of Canada, and the country's industrial activities progress in virtually the same manner. The only drastic change the life of the people undergoes is in that of sport, and the arrival of the cold months is attended merely by the relegation of tennis racquets and golf clubs to cupboards and the extracting from summer storage of skis, skates, toboggans and snowshoes. Though these instruments of summer pleasure are put away with reluctance there is a positive relish in anticipating the commencement of winter sports. Not everyone could credit the positive disappointment with which the prospect of a mild and snowless winter is regarded because they do not know the fascination of tramping to the twang of snowshoes, the keen delight of skimming on skates over the surface of a lake, the thrills of taking a hill on skis, of the breath-arresting shoot down a toboggan slide.

Greater numbers are coming to know these delights, however, as increasing numbers of tourists come to Canada to disport themselves at the centres of Canadian winter revelry. The growing popularity of the Canadian winter is most succinctly evidenced in the swelling traffic at localities where special arrangements have been made for visitors to participate to the full in Canada's hibernal gaiety with a maximum of comfort and a minimum of inconvenience, for instance at Quebec or at Banff.

Quebec and Banff in Holiday Array.

Quebec—quaint old Quebec with its narrow streets, its towering

churches, its old-world atmosphere and continental leisure—it seems, as it sleeps under its white mantle, to have been created solely as a locale for winter sports. It is veritably the throne of the Snow King. Here the visitor can pass rapidly, within a limited area, from one sport to another—skiing, skating, tobogganing, snowshoeing, dog-sleighting—and never wander far from the precincts of an ultra-civilization. He can spend a week-end there, crowded with incident and event from arrival to departure, and extract as much and varied pleasure as few places in the world can offer him.

Banff—a different Banff, which has shed her gay summer raiment for the simple white mantle of snow—the same exquisite jewel of the West set in a coronet of towering mountains. When carnival time comes at Banff the bright lights and colors, the sparkling gaiety combine to rival in brilliancy and exuberance the summer season, when hosts of tourists gather there to disport themselves among its varied attractions. There is the same ascending scale of hibernal merry-making in which the reveller passes from one sport to another in the exhilarating air of the Rockies.

The same thing is happening all over the country from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains and beyond. Those who deprecate the Canadian climate do not realize that to take it away (besides what Canada would lose economically) would be to remove one of the Dominion's greatest attractions and possibilities of enjoyable pastime. Sceptics should see Dufferin Terrace on a winter afternoon, or Mount Royal at the week-end, or visit Banff at carnival time. Observing the brightly clad throngs disporting themselves upon the snow in a crisp and invigorating atmosphere, they could not honestly judge otherwise than that Canada has a winter which is a distinct asset to her people and attractions for her visitors in that season which rival those of summer.