



SPORTS AND PASTIMES

IT is nearly the summer of the curlers' content, and everywhere in Canada where a few of Scotia's sons gather together there will be found the besom and stone and a great deal of preliminary hustling preparatory to welcoming the ice king's permanent stay. It might seem a little strange to our friends in the West, who are under the impression that Montreal still lives in the glacial period, to hear that up to the time of writing there has been no curling so far this season in the Metropolis, while in milder Ontario and far off Manitoba the air has already resounded with such cries as "soop her up," "weel played, mon," interspersed with divers terms known only to the initiated as wicks, and ports, and ties, and outside turns, and inside turns. But it is a grand game for all that, and the technical expressions soon become familiar to the ear, and after looking at a match once or twice, nineteen out of every twenty feel their arm itching just to prove how easy it is to curl. A good many make a surreptitious attempt if there happen to be a vacant rink and they think nobody is looking at them. Sturdy young fellows who play a hard two hours' lacrosse match see venerable old men settle down and, without any apparent effort, send the stones gliding and twirling over the crackling ice and playing havoc with the other half dozen irons nestling close around the tee at the other end of the rink. "As easy as rolling off a log," he mutters, and the muscular young man stealthily slides over a stone; nobody is paying any attention to him; so he gets his foot awkwardly into the hock, grabs the handle and lifts the stone, and a strange and lengthened expression steals over his face; it is a good deal heavier than it looks, and life does not feel half so buoyant to him as it did a second before. But he is in for it now, and he makes a mighty effort. He tries to swing it, but his arm somehow or other does not get far enough back, and when he lets go the iron comes down with a crash that attracts the attention of the folks at the other rinks. He usually comes down on his hands and knees himself, too, and there is a peal of good-natured laughter when he gets up and sees to his dismay that his tremendous effort has only sent the stone twelve or fifteen feet. "Better luck next time, sonny," says a happy looking sandy complexioned man, with a North of Ireland or a South of Scotland accent. "Now, watch me," and with the least effort imaginable the stone glides gently away and settles down within a couple of feet of the other end. The muscular young man begins to think that there is something in the game after all, and when, with the aid of his voluntary instructor, he has succeeded in getting the stone over the bag line, after half a dozen attempts, he feels jubilant and inclined to shake hands with himself. A large percentage of these young men usually wind up by becoming members of some curling club—a step in life that none of them have ever regretted.

For a long time curling was looked upon as a game fit only for the older generation, or, at the best, for steady-going, middle-aged men, but the last couple of years experience, especially in Montreal, has proved the fallacy of this opinion, and now the young men are taking as great an interest in the good old game as their elders have done. Take, for instance, the Thistle Club, whose proportion of young men is perhaps greater than in any of the other city clubs, and let any visitor drop into the rink when a match is being played. There he will see the young men and the old men vieing with each other in a game that is scientific as well as exhilarating, while it is the best preventive in the world against those temptations that most beset young men in the evenings. It is matter for congratulation, too, that a new club has been started in the northeast end of the city, and before long

the atmosphere not far from the Hotel Dieu will resound to the joyous and healthy shouts of the curlers. Skips have been elected, rinks sprinkled, engagements made, friendly matches looked forward to, and the only thing now wanting is a good severe attack of frost, and all the brithers want it so severe that there will be no chance of recovery until the balmy breath of spring comes this way some time in April.

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The prospects for the skating men are of the brightest this season, and the Canadian Amateur Skating Association are doing the best work done since that organization has been in existence. It has not yet been decided definitely where the regular championship meeting will be held, but that is a matter of comparatively minor importance. It was hoped last season that by having an open air track seven laps to the mile that some of the crack skaters from the other side of the line would be heard from, particular anxiety being felt in the direction of Newburgh, N.Y., but America's crack, after going over Europe and winning laurels on all sizes and shapes of tracks, could not be induced to cross the St. Lawrence and try for the Canadian championship, the flimsy excuse being that the track was not big enough for him. A better diagnosis of Mr. Joseph Donaghue's case would have been "blue funk." It is hardly to be expected that the American champion will risk his reputation this season in the only place where he would be likely to lose it, and it would not be good policy to cater any further to that very fastidious young man. An application for permission to give the championship meeting has already been made by the Montreal Toboggan-Skating Club, but the matter has been left over for further consideration. In the matter of figure skating a good deal has been already done. Previously the great difficulty has been in adopting a uniform system of listing the figures, so that the skater could have an equal opportunity under Canadian and American rules. Last year, it will be remembered, there was a council of skaters held in New York, when Canada was represented by Mr. Louis Rubenstein, and a new list drawn up, subject to the approval of the Canadian and American Skating Associations. During the past two weeks the council of the C.A.S.A. has been busy, and after a good deal of deliberation the decision was come to to adopt the list as drawn up last year, with the exception of two unimportant sections, which are covered completely in the remainder of the list. It is more than likely that these changes will meet with the approval of the National Skating Association, and the men who delight in graceful curves will have a uniform standard to guide them without their being hampered in the production of new figures and new combinations. Below will be the list as it now stands under the Canadian Association's rules. The only differences are in the first and last sections. In the American list the words "various ways" are added to section 1, but as all the edges have been provided for in the subsequent section, they are omitted in the Canadian list. Section 21 of the Canadian list combines both sections 21 and 22 of the American list and simplifies matters somewhat:—

1. Plain forward and backward skating.
2. Outside edge roll, forward.
3. Outside edge roll, backward.
4. Inside edge roll, forward.
5. Inside edge roll, backward.
6. Figure eight on one foot, forward (single and double circle.)
7. Figure eight on one foot, backward (single and double circle.)
8. Cross roll, forward, in field and eights (single and double circle.)
9. Cross roll, backward, in field and eights (single and double circle.)
10. Change of edge roll, forward, beginning either on outside or inside edge; feet must not be crossed.
11. Change of edge roll, backward, beginning either on outside or inside edge; feet must not be crossed.
12. Spread eagle, inside and outside edges.
13. Curved angles—threes, single, double, chain and flying, beginning on either inside or outside edge.
14. Curved angles—rolling turns from outside edge to outside edge, or from inside edge to inside edge, forward and backward.
15. Curved angles—cross-cut or anvils.

16. Grapevines, including "Philadelphia twist," etc.
17. Toe and heel movement, embracing pivot circling, toe spins, *pirouettes*, movements on both toes, etc.
18. Single and double flat foot spins, cross foot and two foot whirls.
19. (a) Serpentine on one foot and on both feet; (b) change of edge, single and double.
20. Loops and ringlets on outside and inside edges, single and in combination.
21. Display of complex movements, embracing original and peculiar movements.

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The last day of the Montreal Hunt's season was the most successful of the year, and those who did not turn up at the meet will have occasion to regret it until next hunting season opens. The meet was at Elmwood, and there were three finds and two kills. The second run was the clinker of the season and between ten and eleven miles of good jumping country were got over. The best of it was that it was country unknown to the huntsman, and he had to take a little greater percentage of chance than usual. It was a fitting wind up to a season that has been fairly successful. As a friend of mine says: "It went like a damp squib, with a good bang."

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It will be interesting to watch the measures taken by the A.A.U. in reference to the Seventh Regiment's games in New York. The rule which limits the value of prizes to be competed for by athletes may or may not be a good one, but for all that it is a rule, and until repealed should be observed even if it is hurtful to the feelings of New York's crack regimental athletes or not. If some people can afford to violate the recognized amateur laws with impunity, simply because they happen to be members of powerful aggregations, we might as well have no central athletic authority at all. The only course that seems open to the A.A.U. is to take as firm a ground as they did in the struggle with the N.A.A.A.A., assert their authority and disqualify every offending athlete. The conduct at the games in question, if overlooked, would be simply the entering wedge, and it would take very little more to sunder and render useless all the good work that has been done by the Union in the past.

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There has been a marked decadence in trap shooting in Canada during the past twelve months, and nobody seems able to account for it. But a spark of life seems yet remaining in the Eastern district, and the St. Huberts, of Ottawa, are getting in shape for the winter campaign, while in Montreal the only sign of existence is at the Athletic Club House, where numerous inanimates are smashed every Saturday afternoon.

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A glance at the New York Sunday papers will give some idea of the large amount of cross country work done by the athletes of that section. There was a time when Canada, and Montreal particularly, could hold her own in this line, but the sun seems to have set on it. Snowshoeing is first rate sport, but we seem sadly deficient in harrier work. A revival of the old paper chases or hare and hounds would keep the boys in trim for the snowshoe season.

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The Royal Montreal Golf Club made a good move when they decided to admit lady and boy members at their annual meeting on Tuesday night last. The season has been a most enjoyable one for the golfers and the fact will be duly celebrated on January 14, when the annual dinner will be held. The officers elected for the year were: President, Rev. James Barclay; secretary, Mr. J. L. Morris, Q.C.; treasurer, Mr. E. G. Penny; committee, Messrs. Jas. Taylor, J. Hutton Balfour, Eric Mann, A. McPherson and A. Archer.

R. O. X.

He: Darling, you remind me of my bank account.
She (nestling up to him): Why? Because you think so much of me?
He: No; because you are so petite.