



John Robertson, President Montreal Caledonia C. C.

either in the roof or at both sides and ends, sometimes thirty feet high from sill to top. The floors are made of boards, carefully levelled and jointed, on which ice is made by careful "washing" and subsequent sprinkling. The rings, "hog scores" and "hack-lines" are cut in the ice, and to make them more distinct blue paint is put into them. Platforms are arranged at the ends, and there are rows and tiers of boxes to contain the curling stones, of which each great club boasts from one to two hundred pairs. Galleries for spectators are in most cases provided. Hamilton and Ottawa have fine, commodious buildings, with club rooms, etc. In Winnipeg is a fine rink with five sheets of ice. In Montreal the Montreal club has the largest premises of any club, with three rinks of ice. Truro has, I believe, the largest curling and skating rink in the Maritime Provinces next to St. John, boasting three sheets.

Ideal curling,—the game of song, story and tradition, is curling out of doors, on pond, lake or river, in the sunshine and

fresh air, under the blue sky. It is delightful under these conditions, provided one can get satisfactory ice, but herein often lies a difficulty. The heavy falls of snow in this country, and the labour involved in clearing a space, the rapid changes from frost to thaw and back to frost again, added to the trouble of finding a convenient place for an out-door rink has led to the building of covered sheds in many places, principally towns and cities, in Canada and the States. Sometimes there is only an earth floor, but it is found preferable to have floors of boards, carefully levelled and made water-tight. These floors are flooded with water, which, when frozen solid, gives a perfectly even surface, unspoiled by snow or dust; the players are, moreover, sheltered from the wind, which in zero weather is apt to be the reverse of comforting. If any one suggests that this "protected" sort of thing is degenerate, unromantic curling, the reply is ready that people, in this prosaic age, aim at convenience and comfort in their recreations, as well as in other matters. To the plea occasionally heard that in-door curling is "unhealthy," I attach very slight importance.

It scarcely needs, I hope, to enforce the lesson that our sports, winter or summer, should be such as will cultivate a love for athletics, a desire to see the best men win, a strenuous spirit, combined with cool judgment and self-control, such as should characterize a robust nationality. "The Saxon force, the Celtic fire," says Roberts, in his poem, "Canada,"—"these are thy manhood's heritage." Let us perpetuate them.

So may faint hearts ever gather  
From Canadian sports and play,  
Something of the force that, working,  
Hewed the forests, cleared the way.

In toil or pastime brave or strong, let us join in lacrosse, cricket, football, curling, snow-shoeing, hockey, remembering our place as "A Child of Nations, giant-limbed." Thus may we maintain, whether in enterprise or in recreation, the sound mind in the strong body, and fit ourselves to take, as years roll on, our fitting place in the world's work.

JAMES HEDLEY.