

period of brawn and muscle, for nothing less than a giant could hurl them down the ice.

The third and final period of evolution in the curling stone witnessed the cutting and rounding of the ordinary channel-stone into a definite shape. The rough corners were knocked off and the stone ground and polished to suit the requirements of the scientific curler of a later day. No rules circumscribed the size or weight of the stone of the early days, each player's wish or inclination dictating the measurement. Today the limit in weight is fifty pounds and the circumference not more than three feet. The thickness must be at least one eighth of the circumference.

Naturally enough, in the early days curlers as a class did not belong to any association or club. The principle of association was not taken advantage of until the eighteenth century, when we find it first used for the development of the game. Societies were then formed in those districts where curling had previously been popular, but in many cases they did not see fit to commit their proceedings to paper, or else many of the early documents have been destroyed and their contents forgotten. In the minute book of the Dumferline club we find an entry to the effect that a representative from Linlithgow (James Cupar) attended the meeting which proves conclusively that an association existed at that time (Feb. 2nd, 1792). But it was not until the nineteenth century that curling took on its truly national character and made giant strides in the way of progression. Existing clubs date their origin back to the seventeenth century, but as there are no historical data to make good that claim, the question is left open. In the following century however, the National Caledonian Curling Club was formed and twenty-eight clubs became affiliated with it, which are entitled to recognition as dating their origin from that period. These were the following clubs: Kilsyth (Stirling), 1716; Kirkintilloch (Dumbarton), 1716; Delvine (Perth), 1732; Doune (Perth), 1782; Strathallan, Meath Moss (Perth), 1736; Dumferline (Fife), 1738; Muthill (Perth), 1739; Ardoch (Perth), 1750; Borestone (Stirling), 1750; Earlston (Berwick), 1756; Coupar-Angus and Kettins (Perth), 1772; Saline (Fife), 1772; Balyarrow (Fife), 1775; Cupar (Fife), 1775; Hamilton (Lanark), 1777; Blairgowrie (Perth), 1783; Lasswade (Midlothian), 1785; Combusnethan (Lanark), 1789; Jedburgh (Roxburgh), 1790; Kelso (Roxburgh), 1790; Bridge-of-Allan (Stirling), 1790; Gargunnoch (Stirling), 1790; Yoker (Dumbarton), 1796; Forfar (Forfar), 1797; Camelon (Stirling), 1800; and Dundee (Forfar), 1800. In addition to these the following clubs existed in the eighteenth century, though their names are not found in the list of the present Royal Caledonian Club: Govan (Lanark), 1725; Grahamston (Stirling), 1740; Anderson (Lanark), 1773; Sanquhar (Dumfries), 1774; Wanlockhead (Dumfries), 1777; Grougar (Ayr), 1789; Newliston (Linlithgow), 1789; Linlithgow (Linlithgow), 1792; Sandhóles (Renfrew), 1795; and Duddington (Midlothian), 1795. Of the above forty-two societies only ten possess written records of the eighteenth century and in some cases these do not extend back to the dates at which the societies are said to have been formed. It is most difficult, therefore, to ascertain much about the game in its earliest stages or to determine the rules which governed it. It may be gleaned indirectly from the Hamilton records that each rink, or rack, consisted of seven, sometimes of eight players, and up till 1836 one stone was used by each player. Crampits or crimps, a metal appendage fitted to the shoe to prevent slipping on the ice, were in general use, as well as a wooden pin about a foot high which was used to better indicate the tee from a distance.

From 1800 to 1838 the game of curling did much to bring together and foster good fellowship among all classes of the community. Fear of a French invasion, political agitations previous to the Reform Bill of 1832,

the introduction of free trade and the bitter conflict within the Scottish church on the question of church and state, which led to the disruption of 1843, threw Scotland into a state of confusion. In the midst of the turmoil Scotland's grand old game acted as peacemaker and many a rivalry was decided on the ice. The spirit of the times is aptly illustrated in the following lines:

I ha'e tried love, I ha'e tried war,
I've tried to play the warlding,
But, 'boon a' crafts or joys, to me,
Is winter's darling—curling.
There's aye sic gles aroun' the tee,
Ilk man's a social brither,
Blyth morn and e'en, a curler keen
In snell, snell frosty weather.

At a meeting of curlers in July,

1838, there was formed the Grand Caledonian Curling Club, having as members the various isolated clubs throughout the country. The history of curling proper dates from this meeting, for it was then that the game assumed a thorough national character. Dr. Cairne was elected first president; James Skelton hon. secretary and treasurer, and John McGeorge and James Ogilvie Dalgleish were appointed vice-presidents. A constitution was drafted and things put in running order. Four years later, in 1842, when the late Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort visited Scotland they were entertained by the Earl of Mansfield at the Palace of Scone. The Earl was then president of the club.



ROYAL CALEDONIAN TANKARD, 1904

(Lord Strathcona's Cup).

Won by E. McCarthy's Rink, Regina, Assa.



AMERICAN-ABELL TROPHY, 1904.

Won by Capt. McMillan's Rink, Virden, Man.

Lord Mansfield, at the request of the curlers, presented Prince Albert with a pair of curling stones of the finest Ailsa granite, with silver handles, and bearing a suitable inscription, and suggested that Prince Albert should become patron of the club. The Prince was pleased to accept the stones and thanked the curlers for "this mark of their respectful attention." He, at the same time, "in his own modest and winning manner," as Lord Mansfield afterwards wrote, "at once assented to the suggestion that he should be patron of the club." From that time the association has been known as the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

Endowed by its founders with a sound constitution, the health of the R.C.C.C. through its sixty-seven years of existence has never given its friends any cause for anxiety. It has "never lookit ahint it." Its progress has been steady and unceasing and the game has invaded foreign territory whose curling clubs sought and obtained membership with the parent organization. The following table will give an idea of its expansion.

	Club.	Members.
England	33	1607
Ireland	3	64
Norway	1	15
Ontario	99	3051
Manitoba	111	3500
Nova Scotia	7	287
Russia	1	26
New Zealand	6	193
Quebec	19	1081
Newfoundland	3	89
New Brunswick	3	155
United States (Grand National Club)	40	800
Total	326	10868

Since the above table was compiled other clubs have been formed, and it has been impossible in many cases to obtain a detailed report of membership.

In January, 1807, the game was first played in Canada. The scene was on the St. Lawrence River at Montreal. In 1821 a club was formed at Quebec and the friendly rivalry between the two cities resulted in a challenge. They engaged in their first tussle in 1835 at Three Rivers. In the succeeding years curling received a great impetus and clubs were formed in various places. Some of the first to organize were Montreal Thistles, 1842; Caledonian Club (Montreal), 1850; Kingston, 1859; Ottawa, 1862; Belleville, 1867; and Arnprior, 1868. In 1882 the secretary of the Ontario branch (Mr. Russell), in his report to the R.C.C.C., deplored the fact that the emigration to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories deprived some of the Ontario clubs of their best and most ardent curlers, but consoled himself with the reflection that they carried the love of the game with them and would prove to be the pioneers of curling in the West. The truth of his prediction was amply verified a few years later, when a convention of curl-



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