



A SAMPLE OF THE BANNER WHICH GOES TO THE ANNUAL WINNERS OF THE ONTARIO TANKARD

the game have been laid away, but their sons and their grandsons have taken their places. They too will curl till the shaking hand and the dim eyesight warn them that their day is past. Then will they, in turn, pass the game on to their sons and stand by the rink-side to watch them curl till their last winter has given place to spring.

In 1874 the clubs in Ontario were formed into a branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and in 1882, the Ontario branch obtained a degree of independence. It is still a corresponding association of the parent Scottish club, and has the most friendly relations with it, but the Ontario Association has since that time made its own by-laws.

The game has not flourished in the Maritime Provinces to the extent it has on the banks of the St. Lawrence, on the shores of the Great Lakes, or on the Prairies of the West. Still it got a start early in the century and stuck. And though even at the present time the governing organization has been allowed to droop and almost die, there have been and are yet many clubs of keen curlers both in Nova Scotia and

New Brunswick. Among these might be mentioned Halifax of Halifax, Truro of Truro, New Caledonia of Pictou, Antigonish of Antigonish and Bluenose of New Glasgow, in Nova Scotia, all pioneer clubs; while St. Andrews of St. John, founded in 1865, and Fredericton of Fredericton, founded 1847, figure prominently in the curling history of New Brunswick. Among the other older New Brunswick clubs are Chatham, Bathurst, Campbellton, St. Stephen, and Thistle of St. John. From 1886 to 1891, there was a Maritime Provinces Branch of the Royal Caledonian Club, with the McLellan Cup as the trophy. The cup has not been competed for since 1895.

Manitoba, with its association of ninety clubs, is the youngest and most enthusiastic member of Canada's curling family. With almost six months of ice in the year the facilities for curling stand unequalled, while the good-fellowship and joviality that are part of the game are a sure guarantee of its popularity with the warm-hearted Westerners. The game was carried out to the prairies by curlers from Ontario who went west to grow up with the country. In 1882 a branch of the Royal Caledonian Club was formed with 14 clubs and 737 players. That is only fourteen years ago, but to-day that branch has ninety clubs and over three thousand players. With the filling up of the Province and Territories—for the Manitoba Association includes clubs in both—it is hard to say how long Scotland will retain her supremacy of numbers.

Of annual competitions and bonspiels there are so many in Canada that it would take a volume instead of a chapter to tell of them. As early as 1859 a "Big Canadian Bonspiel" was played on Toronto Bay with 21 rinks a side, the East being pitted against the West. Fergus, Guelph, Scarborough and Toronto clubs contributed five rinks each, Bowmanville and Hamilton Thistle four each, Ancaster and Flamborough