

For the Boys and Girls

WINTER SPORTS THAT THRILL.

One of the finest sports in the world! Do you know what it is? Everybody can enjoy it—boys, girls, mothers, fathers, good sportsmen and poor. Inexpensive, possible in most sections of the country, healthful, wholesome—do you guess it?

Skating and skating games! Skating is sport enough, in itself, to keep average boys and girls busy, and for the ambitious athletes there are splendid ice games.

Hockey is so worshipped as the king of ice sports that in the large cities of Canada many professional hockey teams pay enormous salaries to their star players. These hockey players are rugged fellows, but even at that, many of them receive serious injuries.

In some sections of the country, boys play a game which is quite similar to hockey, which furnishes the same thrills and offers the same kind of competition, and the equipment of which is very inexpensive. The game has no name, except that it is incorrectly called "hockey." In reality it is the old-fashioned "shinny" played on ice.

Ice shinny requires two goal lines, over which the puck must be driven. The team that succeeds in driving the puck over the goal scores a credit.

The puck is easily made. Cut up a limb of a tree about two inches in diameter into cross sections about one and one-half inches thick. Several of these should be kept on hand as they sometimes split. Neither blocks nor tin cans should be used as pucks, for they are apt to inflict injuries on the players.

The shinny sticks are always a matter of pride to each boy. They can be made in the schoolroom by steaming and bending hickory sticks. This in itself is an interesting lesson which your manual training instructor will probably be glad to teach. Ask him. Most boys, however, prefer to make their sticks by cutting limbs which already have nice crooks on the ends. Such limbs are usually found near the trunk of the tree where the rank growth has set in.

You may want to wrap the curved portion of the stick with wire. Either wire similar to that used in holding up stovepipe or baling wire is all right, and will prevent the stick from splintering.

If you follow these few hints, you ought to be able to start your hockey game without any financial outlay.

In playing ice shinny you should hold firmly in mind the fact that it can be made rough and dangerous by larger and more reckless players, and that these big fellows should be careful not to hurt the smaller boys. Moreover, a one-sided game should be avoided, as the fundamental idea of the game is to see who are the better players. As soon as it is known that one side is considerably better than the other, the game should be stopped and new sides chosen. College coaches have found that it actually does not pay to allow a dirty player in the game, as he is thinking more about roughing-up some opponent than he is about taking care of his legitimate duties.

The players should be selected by having the two captains choose alternately. The captains should be the best players.

To start the game place the puck in the middle of the field. Then the two teams will line up in their respective territories, each team staying, at the start, in its defensive end of the field.

The two captains then "take off," which is done as follows: Each stands to his corresponding side of the puck and on his proper side of the center line. The two then simultaneously touch their sticks to the ice, raise them up, and touch them together. This process is repeated until the sticks have been crossed three times. Then the captains are permitted to hit the puck as soon as possible. The minute the puck skims over the ice, both sides dash in pursuit and endeavor to strike it toward the goal of their adversaries. There is considerable opportunity therefore, for team-work of high order.

Here are some principles, boys, that will be worth while: Don't allow the players to bunch at the center of the field on the "take off." Scatter them all over your back area, so that when the puck comes back, just one of you needs to move over, stop it and hit it back to the center. The front-line players should not all rush back, but should wait until the back player returns the puck to them.

Players can often hit the puck back or sidewise to an unguarded teammate who can get a clear field or a good chance at a long shot. Watch for those opportunities.

Learn to stop the puck with your skates by allowing it to hit the side of your skate blade. At the same

time knock it in front so that you are the first one to get a good crack at it. By grasping the club at its thickest part, a player can often meet the puck in mid-air and stop it.

When a player gets possession of the puck, about three or four fellows should skate along beside and behind him as he advances it. When the opposition attempts to take it away from him, he can shoot it over to another member of his team who can continue the attack.

In case he misses shooting it to one of his own men, the fellow following him can pick it right up.

If, at any moment, the opposition bunches up on one side of the field, shoot the puck sidewise or a little backward to a man who is loose and can take a good long try at the goal. For this very purpose, it is always well to have two or three boys who do nothing except keep along the side lines and move up and down as the ball is advanced.

Players should be clad as thinly as possible. The game is extremely exciting and very vigorous, and if the players have on heavy wraps, they will perspire too freely. When they stop they will, unless they have additional heavy clothing, catch bad and perhaps dangerous colds.

There is one main thing to remember—play clean and hard and keep the game square from your own standpoint and the other fellows will do the same.

There are other well-known ice games: "hog-train" and "crack the whip." Both are played on the same principle and both are dangerous, unless they are played out away from the banks and away from the skaters. The fellows on the end of the whip are often forced to let loose, whereupon they go spinning through the air and are liable to be injured if they run into the bank or into other skaters who, the chances are, are not watching them.

Probably lots of you who read this story would like to know how to provide a place for skating. In most communities boys and girls have to walk some distance to get the advantages of good skating and this should not be the case. Each and every town and community should provide a municipal skating-rink for the boys and girls.

A rink can be made very easily. Before frost comes, a suitable field should be plowed once. Levees must be graded, but they need not be more than a foot in height if the plot of ground is level. As soon as freezing weather comes, the field must be flooded so that the water just covers its surface. As soon as this water freezes, another inch or so of water should be added, and this process should be continued several times until the while is level and smooth. The trouble of preparing and flooding the field will be more than paid for by the first day's pleasure.

A simple and small snow-plov should be provided so that several of the skaters can push the snow off the ice every day. Even if snow does not fall, some will form on the surface of the ice, and should be removed.

Ideally, the community will place the skating field near the community room or will provide a small warm shack where the skaters can put on and take off their skates. Moreover, some fair-minded person should be in charge to prevent rowdism, profanity or any misconduct.

The skating rink will cost a certain amount of money, but when the entire community pays the bill the expense per person is not great, and would be cheap insurance against the chances of having one or more of the young people drowned. In addition, the whole community will be benefited.

If the grown-ups do not help you, boys and girls, why not finance your own skating rink? You can do it. But first of all, make an effort to get your friends, teachers and parents to help you.

So There, Mr. Busybody.

In small towns no one's business is often made everyone's business—a remark that is especially true of love affairs. In one town the postmaster was curious to know what stage the courtship of two young people had reached; so when the young lady came for her mail he remarked shyly, "Well, Janie, and when is the wedding going to be?"

"Oh, not for a couple of years yet," replied the girl quickly.

"Ha, ha!" exclaimed the postmaster. "Did you notice I didn't say whose wedding?"

"Didn't you notice I didn't, either?" replied the girl; and the postmaster rubbed his chin.

The custom of wearing an amulet as a protection against evil is common amongst all classes in Japan.

The Story of Ramsay MacDonald, Britain's Labor Prime Minister

James Ramsay MacDonald, giving him his full name, was born fifty-seven years ago in the Scottish fishing village of Lossiemouth, the son of a farm laborer.

At 13 the boy was taken from school to help support the family. He thought of a career at sea, but finally gave up the idea and got to work on the soil near his humble home on the edge of the Highlands.

He early showed signs of bookishness, and revelled in the historical associations and the legends of his birthplace and of Scotland. He read all the books to be found in the modest libraries of Lossiemouth and Elgin. His special passions since early manhood have been Cromwell, of whom he has a unique collection of portraits, etc., and the eighteenth century, notably Bolingbroke, Pope, Addison, Steele, Gibbon, Chesterfield, Horace Walpole. Thomas Brown has always remained a favorite.

His magnificent library contains all the standard works on British, Continental and American history. When he travels, whether it be from his home by way of the underground tube to the House of Commons, or to India or Africa, pipe and book are his invariable companions. He once said at a dinner party where Lord Balfour was present that his university was "Casell's Popular Educator and Science for All."

Gets Job in a Box Factory.

He came to London first when 19, with a mind slanted toward science and letters. The germs of socialism had already found a firm footing. His first job was that of an invoice clerk in a box factory, but he attended even-

ing classes and continued his scientific experiments in the laboratory of an acquaintance he had made. His health gave way under the strain on the eve of taking his final science examination. Later, when he had recovered, he turned from science to journalism and politics.

MacDonald's first political experience was as secretary to Thomas Lough, in the years 1888 to 1892. He became a member of the Social Democratic Federation, the Fabian Society and the London Trades Council. As secretary of the London branch of the Scottish Home Rule League, he met Keir Hardie. He joined the Independent Labor party a year after its formation in 1894. Hardie soon described MacDonald as the party's "greatest intellectual asset."

As secretary of the Labor Representation Committee (1895-1906), he is said to have done more to form the British Labor party than any other man. In the years 1911 to 1914 he was leader of the Parliamentary Labor party, resigning on the outbreak of war. His stand against conscription during the war, his opposition to the war and his efforts to bring about peace long before Germany collapsed forced him into political oblivion.

One of Best Speakers in House.

Though a convinced internationalist, MacDonald is said to have very strong feeling and respect for nationality. He is a Scot of Scots, and his speech unmistakably shows it. His voice is a pleasant, well modulated one. He is undoubtedly one of the best speakers in the House of Commons; no ranter, even under the stress of great emotion during heated debate. Those who have watched his facial expression when

extremists from the back Labor benches have turned debate into bel-lum have seen condemnation as well as compassion.

MacDonald is of medium height, raw boned, gray haired. He is not a sartorial model for his countrymen, in that respect differing little from Stanley Baldwin, though the latter seems to have a copyright on trousers that bag at the knees. One sees MacDonald mostly in tweeds, wearing a soft collar and a soft felt hat. There is an abundance of humor in his gray-blue eyes, but also fire and intensity. He is capable of great emotion, also of keeping it well under control.

It has been noticeable on more than one occasion that King George has singled out MacDonald at a big function, as has the Prince of Wales. There may have been reasons of State for doing so, but as the King is one of the closest students of domestic as well as foreign affairs, there is little doubt the British sovereign has felt it to be only a question of time before he would have to call on the Scotsman to form a Labor Government, and in consequence desired to know him better.

The Labor leader is a widower. His wife was the daughter of Prof. J. Hail Gladstone, and his great affection for her was revealed in a memoir which he wrote. She devoted a large part of her life to social and industrial activities, especially those affecting women. A monument to her stands in Lincoln's Inn Fields, near where the MacDonalds once lived. In this memoir to his wife he frequently mentions his mother, whom he adored and from whom he got his Presbyterian faith.



BRITAIN'S SOCIALIST PREMIER AND HIS FAMILY

One marked trait in the life of Ramsay MacDonald, Britain's premier, is the interest he takes in the everyday life of his children, two sons and three daughters. MacDonald has two houses—one at 9 Howell road, Hampstead, London, and the other in Lossiemouth. At the latter he generally spends his summers and Christmas with his children, the premier be-

ing a widower. Every holiday, it is said, he reads aloud to his children, one or two of Scott's novels. In the above picture is shown on the left, his daughter Sheila, aged 13. Next is the premier, who first and last is a companionable father; next is Malcolm, his second son, a student at Queen's College, Oxford; Labor candidate in the Passetlaw division at Not-

tingham in the recent elections. Next is Isobel, the oldest daughter, aged 20, who has now become mistress of No. 10 Downing Street and who will be in charge of the prime minister's household. Next to the right is his eldest son, Alister, an architect, and on the right, his daughter, Joan, 15, who like her sister, Sheila, is still at school.



What One Troop Has to be Proud of.

One of Ontario's best known troops is the 1st Chatham Troop, of which Mr. A. S. Buesnel is the Scoutmaster. During the past year this troop has, by the efforts of its own members, raised sufficient money to erect a splendid cabin as its very own headquarters, and here on a recent occasion entertained members of the local Rotary Club, who are the sponsors of the troop.

The Fox Patrol of the 1st Chatham Troop carried off the shield given by the Rotary Club for the highest per-

centage attendance amongst city troops for the year.

A former member of the troop (and still one of its most enthusiastic supporters) is now Mayor of Chatham. He is Mr. C. D. Sulman, who joined the troop as an older boy some twelve years ago, passed through all ranks, and later became Scoutmaster. He is one of the youngest Mayors in Ontario and gives Scouting a great deal of credit for the training which makes it possible for him to fill the chief executive's chair.

This troop also finds time to publish an eight-page monthly magazine which records all the boys' work activities of Chatham—not only Scouting, but C.S.E.T., boys' athletics, schools and Sunday schools as well!

Over and Over.

High—"Why is that aviator always doing the loop the loop?" Jinks—"He used to be a Boy Scout

and he still tries to do his daily good turn."

Fire Chief Instructs Scouts.

Chief Murray of the local fire department is giving a series of talks and demonstrations to the Scouts of the 3rd Tilsonburg Troop on fire prevention and fire fighting. These boys are qualifying for their Firemen proficiency badge. To earn the badge the boys must acquire a knowledge of the types of hydrants used in the town, hose, methods of escape and rescue from burning buildings, knowledge of alarm system and how to turn in alarms, fires caused by gasoline, oil and other highly inflammable materials, and a host of other matters pertaining to fires. Chief Murray is also laying great stress on the prevention of fire in the home.

The day population of the Woolworth Building, New York's famous giant building, is 14,000.