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TEMPERATURE

as observed by Hearn & Harrison, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

Jan. 21st, 1883.			Corresponding week, 1882.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon. 15°	5°	10°	Mon. 32°	10°	21°
Tues. 22°	2°	12°	Tues. 32°	25°	28°
Wed. 15°	0°	7°	Wed. 10°	7°	8°
Thur. 23°	17°	20°	Thur. 28°	0°	11°
Fri. 14°	-1°	6°	Fri. 28°	19°	23°
Sat. 20°	10°	15°	Sat. 18°	8°	13°
Sun. 32°	18°	25°	Sun. 27°	12°	19°

CONTENTS.

ILLUSTRATIONS.—The Winter Carnival—Lacrosse on the Ice—Principal Officers of the Carnival—Fancy Dress Entertainment at the Skating Rink—Rendezvous of the Snow-Shoers—Deer Stalking in Nova Scotia—When Nanny and I were Sleighting—The Falls of Montmorency in Winter.

COLORÉD SUPPLEMENT.—Title Page and Snow-Shoe Song (Illustrated)—Double Page, Masquerade Scene—Meet of the Team Club.

LETTER-PRESS.—The Montreal Winter Carnival—Tuque Bleue—A Southern Editor—Unwritten Novels—Probably a Lie—Musical and Dramatic—News of the Week—Canadian Scientific—The Heart that Lies Within Me—Fie, Fie, or, the Fair Physician—The Origin of the Printer's Devil—The Problem—Walt Whitman—The Voice Characteristic of Race—History of Printing in China—Thurlow Weed at Home.—The Pot-au-Feu—Literary and Artistic—Our Chess Column.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Jan. 27, 1883.

THE MONTREAL WINTER CARNIVAL.

ITS ORIGIN AND PROGRESS—SKETCH OF OUR WINTER SPORTS—OUR PRINCIPAL CLUBS.

I.

The Winter Carnival which Montreal celebrates this week, and of which the present issue of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS contains a number of pictorial representations, is the final evolution of an idea that has long germinated in the minds of our enthusiastic sporting men. The late lamented "Evergreen Hughes," whose dying wish was that he might be buried in the track of the snow-shoers over the Mountain, is said to have been the first to propose it in practical form, but it was reserved for Mr. Robert D. McGibbon, as eager a clubman as he is ardent an advocate, to bring the scheme to the point of fulfilment. Last winter he unfolded his views to his fellow-members of the Montreal Club, who received them with unanimous favour. The press likewise warmly backed the project, and public opinion was so well disposed that this autumn, when Mr. McGibbon, re-opening the subject, exposed the details of his proposition, he was met on all sides with cordial offers of support.

It was felt that no city in America is better suited for an exhibition of Winter Sports than Montreal, owing to its geographical position, its climate, and the zeal of its inhabitants for that species of exercise. Indeed, in the ratio of its population, it is safe to say that no city in the world possesses more clubs devoted to the pursuit of boreal amusements. Under these circumstances it was comparatively easy to organize a Carnival such as we are now enjoying, and so soon as the resolution had taken shape, it was the general determination to make it unique in the annals of sport. It can be stated, with justifiable pride, that when the citizens of Montreal make up their minds to have a public entertainment of any kind, they carry it out with uncommon zest and in a spirit of royal magnificence. The present event has been no exception to the rule. All classes of the population have taken a hand in it. Besides the more youthful clubmen, who naturally led the van, men of all ages and of every walk in life gave their warm co-operation. The daily and nightly meetings of committees, at the Windsor Hotel, or at the central rooms under the Exchange Bank, were attended by lawyers, physicians, professors, journalists, merchants, and

men of wealthy leisure. All the details were conducted in a thorough business manner; nothing was forgotten that could contribute to enhance the brilliancy of the festival, and the result is one which our thousands of visitors will doubtless enjoy, and of which our townspeople may well be proud.

II.

The original conception was to have the different amusements on the river itself. The very sight of such a broad and rapid stream as the St. Lawrence solidly ice-bound and traversed by roads in every direction, was enough to elicit the admiration of strangers, and all understood that with the further advantage of St. Helen's Island as a background, the effect of the whole in that locality would be very striking indeed. Another point in favour of this plan was the facility which the quays and long revetment wall would afford for an unobstructed view of all the proceedings by thousands upon thousands of spectators. Unfortunately, owing to the mutations of the four or five past winters, it was thought best not to try the experiment this year, but it is to be hoped that next winter arrangements may be made to utilize our grand old river.

In devising the programme, the first thing to be determined was a central attraction. An Ice Palace at once suggested itself to most minds, and an Ice Palace was decided upon. An appropriation of over two thousand dollars was granted for the erection of this characteristic building, and Mr. Hutchinson, the well-known architect, imagined a picturesque plan which was readily adopted by the Committee. The work was begun with a will, and several of the principal builders came forward to divide the labour between themselves gratuitously. The Ice Palace speaks for itself. As it stands on Dominion Square it is a gem to feast the eye withal. Its dimensions are rather slender, and its general effect is somewhat dwarfed by the gigantic proportions of the Windsor Hotel and St. Peter's church on either side, but it is a thing of beauty all the same—the first and best of its kind ever erected, for the Russian ice-palaces that we read of are not a circumstance to it. We have heard of walls of roseate marble, of minarets of burnished ivory, of golden domes and argent wainscotings, of jasper floors and the celestial gates of pearl, but never before have we seen in the flesh a quadrangle and spire of crystal ice. The translucent blocks, arranged with symmetrical skill, present a charming appearance during the day, but when illuminated in the evening by the blue electric light or the red fires of Bengal, the impression is really fairy-like. We shall be mistaken if the Ice Palace do not prove the bright, particular attraction of the Carnival, and remain its most agreeable memory.

III.

It was seemly that around this central building all the other events should group themselves. And so they did. The snowshoers took the lead. Up came the "boys" from all sides in variegated tuques, blanket coats, striped sashes, embroidered moccasins and webbed sandals. A noble set are our snow-shoe men, and we are all proud of them. The numerous Clubs formed a strong and full Committee, with Angus Grant, of the old Montreal, at their head representing the English element, and I. A. Beauvais, President of "Le Canadien," representing the French. They figure largely throughout the programme of exercises on the several days. They stand six hundred strong, with torches, on Dominion Square, at the inauguration of the Ice Palace. They have a concert all to themselves at the Queen's Hall, wherein snow-shoe songs and tableaux form the principal feature. But far above all these is their grand Torchlight Procession. The present writer lately had occasion to say, in another place, that "the most magnificent and picturesque event in the sporting annals of this country was the torchlight procession held in honour of Lord Dufferin and his beautiful Countess, late in the winter of 1873. No one who witnessed the gorgeous spectacle will ever forget it, and we shall hope in vain for its repetition." He had no idea that he should so soon be agreeably deceived, and he ventures the belief that our American visitors will acknowledge the sight to

be unparalleled in their experience. They will long remember the serpentine line of torches, first moving up the steep side of the Mountain, then attaining the summit; now running forward in a succession of fiery brands, then advancing slowly and drawing over the sky a curtain of orange light. They will retain their admiration of the varied effects of light and shade, as the torches glanced behind the trees, or dipped into the hollows of the road, and the glorious bursts of reflection on the opalescent banks of snow. The scene will have reminded them of Sicilian troopers scaling the flanks of Ætna in full eruption, and seeking the lava caverns in quest of hidden treasures. This city has a very large number of snow-shoe clubs, the oldest being the Montreal, among the English; the Canadien among the French, and the Emerald among the Irish.

IV.

After the Snow-shoers, the Skaters. Skating is another exercise in which Montrealers excel, and it is the more popular that ladies are enabled to engage in it. There are few sights more enchanting than that of our young girls, in knitted hoods and short skirts, balancing like lapwings to the music of their silver sandals. Owing to the snow there is not much skating on our rivers and ponds, and we must have recourse to artificial means. Montreal is abundantly supplied with rinks, but chief among them is the Victoria Rink, which is simply unrivalled in America. Its masquerades and fancy dress entertainments are celebrated over our continent, and well known in England. Our double page coloured plate in the Supplement gives a view of one of these, and we publish another sketch on the same subject in black. As was to be expected, the members of the Victoria Rink were not behind in contributing their share toward the success of the Carnival. There is no danger in predicting that their costumed exhibition on Thursday evening will be one of the most brilliant in the records of the rink. A special feature will be a series of historical characters from Jacques Cartier down to our day. This will be specially valuable as partially supplying the place of the grand Historical Procession through the streets which had been contemplated, but was unfortunately abandoned through lack of funds.

V.

Close on the heels of the Skaters come the Curlers. Here again Montreal is magnificently represented. We have not only the oldest Curling Club in America, but also the largest affiliation of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland outside the mother land. The Montreal Club dates back to 1807, and we have also the Thistle and Caledonian, in the most prosperous condition. The curlers have stationed themselves on the bosom of the broad St. Lawrence, full in view of the city, where they have built an ice mansion, and laid out no less than thirty rinks. Brother curlers from so far away as New Brunswick have come to join them. It is certain that this is going to be the grandest Bonspiel ever held in America. Our Scotch friends are enthusiastically fond of their national game, and as there are many exceedingly strong players among them, the way they will make the "stones" whizz and whirr will be a caution.

VI.

The Toboggan! To hosts of our American cousins the very name is unknown, and when they see the thing itself, the charm of novelty will immeasurably enhance their pleasure. This is a purely Canadian sport, and it is nowhere carried on so thoroughly as in Montreal, on account of our Royal Mountain and the declivities around the city. Every preparation has been made to give our friends a full exhibition of the capabilities of the toboggan. Those long Indian sleds, thin as wafers, strong as steel, and with curled noses to whisk away the snow, afford an amount of exhilarating fun that is peculiar to themselves. They are softly cushioned for the fair, who boldly entrust themselves to their vertiginous descent, and have no time to catch their breath or exhibit any fear before they glide away into the vale beyond the reach of danger.

To steer this skeleton craft there is need of nerve and a quick eye, but every precaution has been taken in this instance to render accidents impossible. Three hills—the Cote des Neiges, Mountain Park and Peel street—have been set aside, and they will be lighted by electricity during the evening. There is also a North-West block-house for the reception of ladies. Our earnest recommendation is that no young American lady coming to the Carnival should go away from Montreal without taking at least one toboggan ride, and our word for it, she will experience a sensation—short, sharp and singular—that she will not forget for many a day.

VII.

We shall not be taxed with exaggeration, nor charged with boasting, when we affirm that, with the possible exception of St. Petersburg, there is no city in the world that can turn out such a number, variety and magnificence of winter equipages as the commercial metropolis of the Dominion. Not only have we good horses, but we have also incomparable designs of vehicles. Our fine sleighs are all home made. Montreal sleigh builders are renowned far and wide. Our North-west supplies us with rich robes and furs. And then our boys know how to handle the ribbons. We have many artistic tandem drivers among us. Every Saturday afternoon Beaver Hall Hill and St. James street present a beautiful spectacle with the procession of fashionable sleighs. Not the least is the beauty of the lady occupants, esconced in the cosy seats, with cheeks like roses and eyes that sparkle with enjoyment. The great drive of the Carnival takes place on Wednesday afternoon, between two and five, and the route lies on Sherbrooke, between Guy and St. Denis streets. The chairman of the Driving Committee is C. P. Davidson, Q.C., who closes his invitation to the public by the following lines:—

"Nor less than Northern Courts, wide o'er the snow,
Pour a new pomp, eager on rapid sleds;
Their vigorous youth in bold contention wheel
The long resounding course—meantime to raise
The manly strife, with highly blooming charms,
Flushed by the season, Canada's fair dames,
Or fairer bright-eyed daughters, glow around."

VIII.

Closely allied to the work of the Driving Committee is that of the Trotting Committee. The object is to give our guests an idea of the speed of our Canadian horses. It is not exactly a winter sport, except inasmuch as the track is on the snow or ice, but the Carnival being designed to give pleasure to as many visitors as possible, the Committee was encouraged to proceed in its work, and do all in its power to achieve a success. This it has done beyond anticipation. Five hundred dollars were allotted it out of the general fund, and this money has been so made to fructify that the Committee is in a position to offer cash prizes to the amount of \$1,000, in addition to diverse cups and medals. There is no doubt that the ice at the foot of McGill street will be crowded during the races, and that some notable feats will be accomplished, as a number of famous horses have been entered. It will be curious to learn in what proportion a trotter can move faster on the ice than on dry land. The Chairman of this Committee is H. Beaupré, who represents the profession of journalism in the work of the Carnival.

IX.

The social aspects of the Carnival have not been overlooked. The Citizen's Ball has been mounted on a scale of rare magnificence, and the probabilities are that it will prove one of the most brilliant of its kind ever given in Montreal. The tickets and programmes, from the presses of the Burland Lithographic Company, are masterpieces of design and execution. They are an exquisite representation of our principal winter sports, worthy of being preserved as works of art. The accommodations for visitors are ample. All our hotels, especially the superb Windsor and the old St. Lawrence Hall, have made all the arrangements requisite for comfort, and a number of private houses are likewise thrown open. The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association invites the various clubs to make its gymnasium their headquarters during the whole of the Carnival week, while the Victoria Skating Club, the Montreal Hunt Club, the Tobogganing, Curling and Snow-shoe Clubs extend all