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The Royal Carnival

THE most lavish and brilliant enter-tainment ever given at Rideau Hall took place on February 18, when their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught gathered around them a large crowd of enthusiastic Ottawans at a skating enthusiastic Ottawans at a skating carnival. Former Governor-Generals have been good enough to include a function of this sort in their scheme for entertaining, but fetes in the past cannot compare in magnificence with that which recently took place.

The request that skaters go in fancy costume was a happy thought. That

costume was a happy thought. That it came rather late was also an advantage, saving many hours of worry and fretting over the selecting of something unique and suitable. Impromptu affairs are, proverbially, the most successful. The costume idea was no exception to the rule.

ception to the rule.

For some distance before entering the grounds at Rideau Hall, the reflecthe grounds at Rideau Hall, the reflection of gigantic bonfires could be seen. These enormous stacks of timber, seen from afar, fired the imagination and brought back pictures of history when armies lay camped upon Canadian hills—hills covered with snow and with only such warmth as could be had from bonfires. Chemically treated, the colour changed every now and then—a lurid red faded into green or blue; two fires on nearby elevations coming within the range of vision, spoke of old-time signals; with a curious thrill one walked out of civilization back to the days when Canadian history was being born.

Turning into the grounds, however, the imaginative guest was pulled up

Turning into the grounds, however, the imaginative guest was pulled up sharply. Even from the gate myriads of Japanese lanterns could be seen. Stalwart minions of the law patrolled the drives or stood at hand, possibly to extinguish any ambitious flames which might seek to creep beyond their confines. The rink was brilliantly lighted, as was the toboggan slide and the log cabin. In fact, lanterns crossed and re-crossed one another in endless strings throughout an enormous area surrounding the rink and nearby buildings. Their number must have run into thousands. From different parts of the grounds rockets hissed themselves into the sky, looking like so many lurid shooting stars. There was light and music and laughter everywhere. ing stars. There was light and laughter everywhere.

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES received their many guests in the rink building, and shortly after nine o'clock the grand march was p'ayed—some two hundred skaters taking part. His Royal Highness led with Mrs. Robert Rogers. They were immediately followed by the princess with the Hon. Martin Burrell. Several intricate figures were performed before the lanterns carried by the skaters were discarded and dancing commenced. The ice was unusually good, and spills unusually few.

Not only had the pleasure and the comfort of the skaters been taken into consideration, but that of the HEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES re-

Not only had the pleasure and the comfort of the skaters been taken into consideration, but that of the spectators as well. The benches placed around the rink were greatly appreciated; boards arranged to keep already cold feet from becoming colder sooner than absolutely necessary, were never vacant; carpet spread over the ice in the curling rink, where an elaborate supper was served, was a thankfully recognized blessing.

The weather having moderated in honour of the occasion, costumes varied from the heavy Russian models to such airy conceits as Night. The princess, who was constantly on the ice, and the ladies-in-waiting wore white velvet Russian costumes, trimmed with fur, white toques to match, and the whole effect offset with bright orange sashes. The Duke and his aides were tobogganing costumes, consisting of white sweater coats, white trousers white toques red sashes and sisting of white sweater coats, white trousers, white toques, red sashes and red putties. The Duchess, who remained with her guests throughout the evening and looked better than she has for some time, wore an attractive reddish brown soft leather costume. tume.

Time and Tide wait for no man, but Time, if he is a gentleman, waits for women.



