

time never wanes as those who have charge of rinks in the urban districts can well testify. Day after day, night after night, hundreds of men, women and children flock to the rinks to spend two or three hours of their spare time in this pleasant and useful recreation.

From the pastime of skating has been brought into life and fully organized our national winter sport, hockey. All over the Dominion, in every city, town or village; in fact, in every community where an area of ice, however small, can be kept in a fairly slippery condition, our boys, and sometimes even the girls, play this great game. From the proficiency which constant practice gives, some boys become expert in the game, and are chosen to undertake the defense of the good name of the home town in the hockey world. Matches take place between the teams of different towns, which are generally organized into leagues, and then the winners of the leagues play off for the championship of all Canada.

To know just how popular the game of hockey is it is necessary to visit one of our rinks when an important match is being played. From the minute the game starts until the referee's whistle proclaims its ending, the crowd is in a fever of excitement, which finds vent in almost continuous cheering, and in a roar of applause that is almost deafening whenever the "puck" lodges in the opponents' nets. The game is so fast, and the dexterity of well-trained players so remarkable, that this enthusiasm seems not at all out of place. There is probably no other game that so completely holds the attention of the spectator during every minute of the play. Those sportsmen who have been captivated by the charms, but who live in warm countries where King Frost doesn't produce ice so bountifully, have tried to foster the game there by providing sheets of artificial ice. We need hardly remark that their efforts are meeting with complete success.

Besides hockey many other games which are played on ice have been organized. Curling is well liked by those who play it, and is especially adapted for providing amusement and exercise, for those who are a little too old and stiff to take part in more strenuous games. To the spectator, unless he be an ardent curler, the game is altogether too slow and lifeless to arouse very much interest.

Those people who are fortunate enough to live near a great body of water, where an immense field of ice is formed, can get much exciting but rather dangerous sport from skimming over the smooth surface in boats propelled by sails and fitted with skates or runners. As much, if not more, interest is excited in races held