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Winter Sports in Canada.

 HERE can be no doubt with regard to the statement that our winter in Canada is an unusually severe one. To those of warmer climes, and even to the efeminately inclined of our own, its harshness presents such a formidable aspect that every means possible is taken by them to avoid its icy embrace. To these people, during that season our fair Dominion is a barren, snow-covered waste over which the cold Arctic blasts are always sweeping,—fit habitation only for the Esquimaux, the polar bear and fox.

Our hardier citizens, however, and they are in the very great majority, see no terrors in this part of the year, and are inclined to cherish a feeling of contempt for those who retreat before its vigorous onslaught. On the contrary, they look forward with joyful anticipation to the coming of the first frost and snow, because with the arrival of those the means of enjoying the many winter sports which are ours has come. So many and varied are these that amusement is provided for all, and amusement of that hearty, invigorating kind that gives a wholesome zest to life.

Of our very long list of outdoor winter amusements, skating certainly holds the premier position. Whenever the frost has covered the lakes and streams with a thin but firm sheet of ice, all the boys and girls of the country sally forth to glide steel-shod over the glassy surface. In towns and cities the nearest bodies of water, with their welcome covering, are patronized until the rink managers have their sheets of ice in order. The popularity of the pas-