

# SNOW-SHOE RACES ON A BLUSTERY DAY

Photographs by A. A. Gleason.



The Snow-shoe Races at St. Hyacinthe, P.Q., on February 5th, were favoured with very blustering weather. This picture shows the Officials discussing matters of importance. Snowshoers were present from all the big Clubs in Eastern Canada, that are members of the Canadian Snow-shoe Union.



Spectators watching the Races. Lukeman of the Montrealers won the 100-yard in 8½ seconds—a wonderful feat. McCuaig of the same club won the three-mile but was beaten in the mile by Hebert of the Nationals. The Montreal A.A.A. won 14 out of the 21 places.

## TANKARD CURLING OF 1910

By J. K. MUNRO

CURLING appears to have its fashions. Last year everybody seemed to yearn for the material prizes that go to bonspiel winners and the good old Tankard that for thirty-five years has been the blue ribbon of Ontario curling was somewhat neglected. This year the bonspiels have been few and unimportant, while the ninety clubs of the Ontario Curling Association have swung back into line and joined in a roaring race for the honour of carrying off the silver can that has to be tinkered with toothpicks to make it hold the refreshments with which the winners never fail to fill it. Just how much of this fresh enthusiasm is due to a redistribution of the groups that sends sixteen group winners to the finals at Toronto instead of the eight of other days is an open question, but certain it is that the new grouping furnished the best finals the Tankard competition has ever seen.

Good grouping, coupled with lots of early ice for practice enabled the clubs to play to form—and any close student of the "roarin'" game will tell you that curling runs to form better than any other sport. And the net result was that sixteen of the classiest curling clubs in Ontario earned the right to start in the finals. Of the sixteen, fourteen faced the starter, while the absentees were Owen Sound, whose bonspiel clashed with the final dates, and Southampton, whose star performer and his rink were away to Winnipeg in a chase after the jewelry the biggest of bonspiels offers.

But the rest looked well on paper and just as well on the ice. From the north came Collingwood with Wynes and Vernon holding the brooms. And every curler who meets this pair knows that he has his day's work cut out for him. From farther north still came Parry Sound, the terrors of every bonspiel in newer Ontario.

From the east came Lindsay, the veteran Flavelle, winner of a thousand games and more than one Tankard, in command, and George Little as his running mate. Belleville came, too, the best of a weaker group and good enough to make an argument if not to win a game.

Stratford, Galt, Grand Rapids, Fergus, Lucknow, and Glanford came out of the west. The latter were the ones folks wondered at. How did they beat Dundas and Hamilton Thistles? But they turned up a husky lot of young men who had to be watched all the time. To be sure their life in the finals was a short one, but the clubs that defeated them had to work all the way.

The city was represented by Queen City's and Granites, the latter last year's Tankard winners and the former their dearest enemies. Everybody in Toronto admits they are the strongest city clubs, while their reputation abroad is enhanced by the

fact that Major Bob Rennie skips a Queen City rink while Tom Rennie skips a Granite quartette and his brother John plays third for him. That name Rennie carries weight in the curling world, you know. More than one country rink has been beaten by the sound of it.

Anyway, by the time all those group winners reached Toronto there weren't many really crack rinks left in the outlying parts of Ontario. They were all there and ready for the fight and with such a gathering of the clans there could be nothing to it but excellent curling. And excellent curling there was in abundance. A soft spell that happened along in the middle of it gave the soft ice curlers a chance but the beginning and end were on good ice and the surprises were few indeed.

Lindsay, Toronto Granites and Queen City's were the choice of the wise ones to furnish a winner and as they were all drawn in the same half of the grouping the less likely ones had a chance to fight it out among themselves for a place in the big finals. Stratford were looked for to win this section but Grand Rapids after winning from Glanford in a close finish took on the Classic City club on soft ice and in a slugging match managed to win out by a single shot on the last end and make curling history as the first club from the United States to ever reach that stage of the competition.

In the other section, Granites after disposing of Queen City lasted long enough to beat Lucknow in the slush and then outcurled Lindsay in a game full of exciting situations and good shots. This brought Grand Rapids and Granites together for the trophy. The game was played on a perfect sheet of ice at the Queen City Club and goes down in history as one of the best of many well played final games. The Americans lacked the skipping ability of the Canucks but their accurate playing and the sporting chances they took kept them in the game till the last few ends when the steady, heady curling of the Granites gave them a winning lead.

And those two rinks of Granites are well worthy of special mention. The same eight men playing the same positions won the Tankard in 1909 and in the Canada Life Competition, in which ninety-three rinks started this year, they were the two survivors who faced each other in the final. Tom Rennie skips one with his brother John as vice, and two newspapermen, Bert Nichols of the *World* and Charlie Knowles of the *Telegram*, playing second and lead respectively. This rink in the Tankard last year and the Canada Life and Tankard this year have a record of nineteen straight wins to their credit.

H. T. Wilson skips the other rink, with Dr. Hawke vice, R. Hunter second, and F. Tremble lead.

Which is the better of the two? That is a hard question. Both are very strong in front and have skips and vices who know every trick of the stones and every curve of end architecture. And what makes them seemingly unbeatable is that both skips are "pinch" players, that is when a shot has to be made to save the situation they will make it no matter how hard it is to make.

Now that's a good deal about the winners, but as they have made such a record that will probably never be equalled in curling in Ontario, they're probably worth the space. No eight men ever won the Tankard twice in succession, and then followed it up by cleaning up all the really good prizes in the Canada Life, the second largest curling competition in Ontario.

But just a word about Collingwood, those good old pluggers from the north. Lindsay put them out of the Tankard, but it took the last stone on an extra end to do it. Then they turned in and pegged away till they had cleaned up all the others and carried off the Governor-General's prize. And in the final game of that consolation series they had the satisfaction of meeting Lindsay once more and getting revenge for their only defeat. Collingwood have been plugging along doing pretty well for years and they should soon be due to carry off a Tankard.

### Besom and Stane at the 'Peg

NOW comes the great Winnipeg bonspiel, beginning last week; which is to Winnipeg what the Mardi Gras is to New Orleans or the Ice Carnival to Montreal. For the past ten days the wheat city has been a fore-glimpse of what it will look like in 1913 at the Selkirk Centennial. Rinks gathered from east and west and south and north; three from old Ontario; a dozen from new Ontario—for they're used to rocks and "stances" up in that country; six from Minnesota; from Saskatchewan and Alberta several rinks; balance of 187 rinks from Manitoba, including Winnipeg, compared to 160 rinks last year. In the game on February 12th Winnipeg defeated the world in the blue ribbon event; twenty-eight rinks from the city lining up against twenty-eight from among all comers, whom they defeated by an aggregate margin of sixteen points.

No curling event in America compares to this and no winter event anywhere is more interesting. It's the international and inter-provincial Scotch picnic of the greatest curling Monte Carlo in the New World.