



Ice-Boating on Toronto Bay.

Winter Sports

SOME FACTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING HOW CANADIANS ENJOY THEMSELVES DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

CANADIANS manage to enjoy themselves at most seasons of the year, but joy in sport is at its greatest height in mid-summer and mid-winter. In mid-summer, sports are mainly aquatic, though tennis, cricket, baseball and bowling on the green have considerable attention.

In mid-winter, sport attains even greater enthusiasm. When the frozen earth is well covered with snow, when the air is cold and bracing, when all sorts of exertion but serve to keep the blood coursing naturally, all stirring sports are keenly enjoyed. The sun sinks early to rest, the days are short and the evenings long. Therefore there is much time in which it seems natural to forget study and business, and to seek pleasure in healthful form.

There are those, no doubt, who believe that snow and ice prevent the Canadian winter from being enjoyable. These have not lived in Canada. Every race adapts itself to its environment and Canadians have learned to make the most of their winters. In fact, mild weather in December, January and February makes the people dull and sad. They are looking for cold weather, and if it does not come their plans are frustrated and their enjoyments cut off. When the sleigh bells jingle and the ponds and rivers are thronged with merry-makers, hilarity attains a height not otherwise possible.

In mid-winter, the country boys and girls drive long distances to dances and social evenings. What can be more pleasant than a few miles under a bright star-lit sky, seated on the straw-covered bottom of the sleigh-box, protected from the cold by warm robes, with the laugh and chatter of a half-dozen companions to make the moments speed faster than the prancing horses? The merriment of a farm-house kitchen in winter time when the "neighbour's" boys and girls come in, is of the highest grade.

In the towns and cities, the covered rinks are frequented by enthusiastic curlers, skaters, or hockey-players. The toboggan slides are patronised by all classes. The sleighing parties to neighbouring villages or rural hostelrys are sufficient to keep many livery-stables empty. On the bays, harbours and rivers skating and ice-boating furnish day-sport as well as evening. For those who love tramping in the open air, snow-shoeing offers limitless delight by sunlight or starlight.

True, one must be warmly clad, but warm clothes are cheap because they are not necessarily fashionable. There

is less style in winter clothing than in summer and few people seem to suffer from the cold. If all the world might come and see, they would discover that winter brings no fears to the Canadians but rather a sense of happiness and jollity which seems natural and essential.

Tobogganing

TOBOGGANING and sled-riding are almost synonymous. The Canadian toboggan is of Indian origin; the sled of European. The long, thin toboggan with its turned-up bow to throw off the loose snow was designed by the Red Man to enable him to transport his family and belongings in winter with the greatest ease. Sled runners would sink in the unpacked snow. The toboggan, presenting a broad surface, glides over the surface with slight resistance.

Canadians have taken the Indian means of winter transportation, unhitched the dog and made it a vehicle of pleasure. In the districts of which Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec are the great cities, tobogganing has long been a popular sport. This popularity is said to date from the time the British officers with the Guards, Rifles and Line, quartered in Canada at the time of the Trent Affair in the sixties, tried to make the sport fashionable and exciting. At least so says Lady Macdonald in "Murray's Magazine" of January, 1888. In a later article in "Outing," a writer says that it "originated in the city of Montreal * * * Fletcher's Field, Bre-



Tobogganing in Montreal, Park Slide.