

While I cannot help regretting our enforced idleness, I am yet pleased to think that the very late season may enable me to do a benefit to some of my fellow-curlers by giving them a wrinkle as to how to get their ice in the quickest way, and in the way which will give them greatest pleasure when they have made it.

I have seen ice made by a good many men, and after a good many different ideas,—all, however, with one object in view, and that was to get sufficient to curl on at the earliest possible moment, and yet in nine cases out of ten the workers would defeat their own object by being in too great a hurry.

As a general rule, I have seen men, when a hard frost would come, proceed to soak their ground thoroughly and then wait for it to freeze, possibly puddling the edges of the rink with snow made into a mush. Others will dump into the rink a few loads of snow as soon as it is obtainable, and then pour on it a quantity of water and wait for the frost to work.

These and all other methods which begin by drenching the ground are fatal errors, and tend in a great measure to spoil the ice for the whole season.

The best ice I ever played on was obtained in the following manner, and it was not only the best I ever played on, but it twisted and heaved less than any other I have seen.

Early in the autumn a sufficient quantity of sand was obtained to form a layer of from two to three inches in depth on the bed of the rink. This sand should be well levelled and thoroughly rolled with a heavy roller.

When the first heavy frost occurs the work of making the ice begins by sending a man with a large watering can, to the mouth of which is attached a fine nozzle, up and down the rink, gently sprinkling the surface. This process shall be continued from morning to night and from night to morning, if necessary, repeating the sprinkling as soon as the previous one is frozen, until a solid bed of ice is obtained which will hold tight any water which may be put on it. Then, and not until then ought the hose to be used, and at no time should more than a quarter, or at most half an inch of water be put on at any one time.

In many small towns where waterworks do not exist, curlers have fancied themselves under a disadvantage about getting ice. As a matter of fact the waterworks are hardly an advantage. The method I have advised only calls for a large watering can, until the ice is almost level and then if there are no waterworks, or large hose available, I would recommend having ten or twelve large puncheons placed on the side of the rink at equal distances, filled with water, and when the bed of the rink is ready to hold, let the contents of the barrels out through large bang holes, running the water over a board, so that it will

not wear a hole in the ground, until there is half an inch or so of water on the ice, when the flow ought to be stopped.

This course, if pursued, ought to give early ice and good ice.

The members of the Thistle Curling Club of Montreal met in their club rooms on Christmas Day for their annual lunch. After the good things provided had received careful attention, the members consoled themselves for the absence of ice on the rinks by song, speech and story, and numerous wonderful tales of extraordinary shots that had been made in days gone by were told and retold.

Elaborate preparations are being made by the Ontario Branch Royal Caledonian Curling Club to ensure the successful issue of the international bonspiel which is to be played in Toronto on Thursday, the 7th January, 1892.

The secretary announces that it is expected there will be from 75 to 100 rinks of representative United States curlers present, and has asked for a representative rink from every club in Canada.

I had the pleasure and good fortune to play in the last international bonspiel played in Toronto, and can assure any curlers who may contemplate attending the present meeting that if they do so it will be their own fault if they do not enjoy themselves most thoroughly. The management is in the same hands as have carried through many similar gatherings, and Toronto curlers are proverbial for their open-hearted generosity and hospitable entertainments.

It is expected that the curlers of Canada will be represented by rinks from clubs in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, while the United States representatives will be drawn from the Eastern States, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

GOLF.

This favourite game is making rapid strides in Canada, taking into consideration the difficulty that exists in many places in obtaining suitable links, and the expensive character of the amusement.

The latter feature is one which will necessarily retard the adoption of the game except in the larger centres where a sufficient number of men with means can be found to ensure a membership large enough to make the game interesting.

The Montreal club season closed on the 14th December, and is claimed to have been the longest unintermitted season on record for the club, the game having been played continuously from early in May to the date named.

A scribe of the Montreal *Gazette* bursts forth into wondrous ecstasies of delight at the anticipation of ladies being admitted as members of the club next year, and

predicts all manner of extraordinary attractions and advantages the innovation will afford to members.

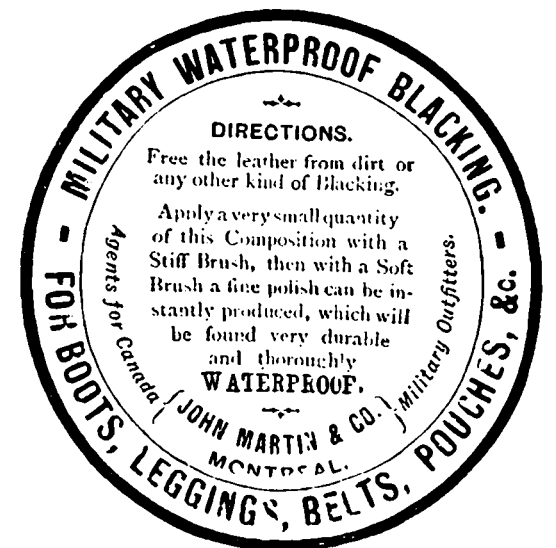
The Montreal Club will not be the first in Canada to admit ladies as members, the Kingston Club having had lady members for some time past, some of whom, I am told, are adepts at the amusement.

If some such attraction were added to the programme of the Ottawa Golf Club, it might have a very beneficial effect upon it, as the indifference shown during the past season, except by a very few members, demonstrates the necessity for some spur upon the members, if the club is ever to flourish.

HOCKEY.

The junior members of the Canadian Hockey Association, comprising the Hawthorn, Maple and Victoria clubs of Montreal, and the Ottawa Juniors of Ottawa, have formed a league, and arranged a schedule of games, under which each club in the league will play every other club home and home games during the season.

This will give the Ottawa Juniors three games in the Rideau Rink against clubs that are sure to give exhibitions of good hockey, while they will go to Montreal twice, playing two clubs on one trip.



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