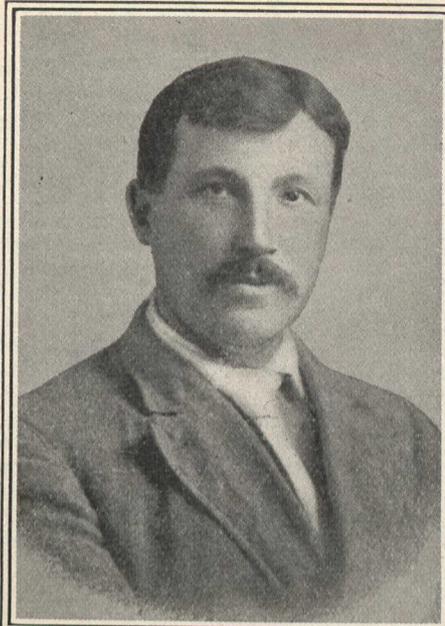


Prof. W. C. Murray, Secretary, Maritime Province Branch of Royal Caledonian Curling Club.



Lieut.-Col. James Walker, Founder Alberta Branch, R.C.C.C.



Judge P. E. Wilson, President of the British Columbia Curling Association, 1907.



Mr. J. S. C. Fraser, of Rossland, an ex-President of the British Columbia Curling Association.

Tankard in 1897 and again in 1898, also the Governor-General's Cup both of these years, together with a number of other cups won at different curling centres in Ontario. Mr. Flavelle again took a rink with him to the Winnipeg bonspiel. During this visit the rink had an exciting experience, as they were guests at the Hotel Manitoba the night that it was destroyed by fire. In the year 1902 the Lindsay rink won at Winnipeg the International Trophy and the Galt Cup, and in this province the Ontario Tankard was won by Lindsay curlers. In 1903 Mr. Flavelle took a Lindsay rink to Winnipeg and as this was the year of the visit of the Scotch curlers to Canada he had the pleasure of journeying with them from Toronto to Winnipeg. This year the Flavelle rink won first prize for grand aggregate. In the season of 1905, the Flavelle rink won the fourth place at the Winnipeg 'spiel for the grand aggregate and the Dolge trophy. In this year the Lindsay club had two rinks present at the Winnipeg gathering. The second rink, skipped by Mr. L. V. O'Connor, made a creditable showing. Last year Mr. Flavelle visited the Winnipeg bonspiel, but though the average of wins and losses was good, none of the big trophies were won. The record of the Lindsay club would not be complete without some reference to the other games of the club. It has been mentioned that the club won the Ontario Tankard in 1897, 1898 and 1902, and for the fourth time this Tankard was won in 1905, while Governor-General's cups have been won at Ottawa in 1884, 1887 and 1889.

As little is known in these parts about curling in the Maritime Provinces, I wrote on the advice primarily of Mr. J. A. McFadden, the courteous and always obliging secretary of the Ontario Association, and secondarily on a suggestion from Mr. J. A. Craig, president of the Nova Scotia branch of the R.C.C.C., to the secretary, Prof. W. C. Murray, of Dalhousie College, who was kind enough to furnish complete details of curling progress down by the sea. To a distinguished naval officer, Captain (afterwards Admiral Sir Houston) Stewart, Halifax, and consequently Nova Scotia, owes its first introduction to curling. In 1825 Captain Stewart induced a number of army officers and some ardent citizens of Scottish descent to form a curling club. For a few years curling flourished and then with the departure of the Scottish officers it disappeared for a time. Towards the middle of the last century it revived and waxed mightily. In 1851 the Royal Club in Scotland sanctioned the formation of a Nova Scotia branch. This was organised the next year and clubs in Pictou, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Dartmouth and Halifax became members. For fifteen years the branch kept the clubs together and proved a useful medium between the curlers in the old land and the new. In 1886 a Maritime Association arose in the place of the branch which had become dormant. For a few years the association held annual bonspiels. Uncertain weather coupled with long distances made the bonspiel a dubious joy. With the bonspiels disappeared the association. The visit of the Scottish curlers led to the revival of the old Nova Scotia branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Already the branch has brought nearly every active club in the province within the fold. The branch offers two trophies, the Johnson Cup and the Junior Cup. The latter is open to junior players only. Medals for competition at points are offered

to the different clubs in the branch. The interest in curling is keen and several new clubs have been organised within the last few years.

Nova Scotia curlers have had few opportunities to test their skill with curlers outside the Maritime Provinces. Yet in the days when the Marquis of Lorne was Governor-General they gave a good account of themselves abroad. In 1881 the Governor-General offered a valuable trophy to popularise the points game. Each club in the Dominion had the privilege of entering eight men in the first stage of the competition. The two clubs making the highest scores (for the eight) at points played off at Ottawa for the trophy. In each of the six years of the competition Nova Scotia was in the finals and in five of the six years the trophy went seaward. 1881, New Glasgow defeated Toronto; 1882, New Glasgow defeated Hamilton; 1883, New Glasgow defeated Halifax; 1884, New Glasgow defeated Halifax; 1885, Lindsay defeated Halifax; 1886, Truro defeated Lindsay. The recent points competitions of the branch have resulted: 1904, Halifax 41; 1905, New Glasgow 49; 1906, New Glasgow 50; 1907, New Glasgow 49. The MacLellan Cup has for a number of years been the great inter-provincial trophy. For several years the Truro club was the undefeated champion, but last season the Thistles of St. John succeeded in capturing the prize. The Johnson Cup, presented to the branch by Mr. J. A. Johnson, has hitherto shown a tendency to alight among the trophies of the Truro or New Glasgow clubs, but has never been quite certain as to which it intended to favour. The Bluenose Club of New Glasgow last year succeeded in persuading it to honour them. The Junior Cup has shown a preference for Halifax and Antigonish. Last winter a successful bonspiel was held in Amherst. The grand prize went to a rink from the small and comparatively young club at Hampton, N.B. In the other competitions the Amherst rinks made an excellent showing.

Curling has made great advances in Nova Scotia within the last ten years. Not only has the number of clubs increased, but better rinks have been built, better stones are used and greater numbers have turned to curling. It is still a question whether the crack curlers of other days—the famous fighting rinks of Truro under the leadership of Mr. H. C. Blair or the New Glasgow or Halifax combinations—have their equals to-day in Nova Scotia or in the Maritime Provinces. Yet the wonderful successes of the St. John, N.B., Thistles with the great fighting combinations of Malcolms and Shaws seem to shake the faith of those who think only of the glorious days of old. The Thistles have shown themselves experts in the driving as well as the drawing game. The older game was a draw game, first, last and all the time. It is possible that the better ice makes the drawing game more certain. In knowledge, in generalship as well as in skill, Mr. H. C. Blair stands unrivalled among the curlers of the last twenty-five years, and to this day the Truro Club has not lost the beneficial effects of his work among them. The most notable improvement in recent times has been in the character of the stones. Nova Scotia ice is subject to sudden and great changes of temperature. Irons are out of the question. The cupping of the granites must be suitable for all conditions of ice. At present the most popular stone has a raised sole. It is claimed that this frees the

stone from many of the dangers of straws, particles of dirt and other obstructions on the ice. It also seems to keep the stone more true to its course and to make it less susceptible to moisture on the ice. Another innovation of less popularity is the "T" handle. Old curlers prefer the "goose-neck" handle, but the young curlers find the "T" handles helpful in preventing the "round arm" delivery and in securing greater delicacy in delivery.

This article has run to such great length that I shall have to ask the editor to allow me to deal with curling in New Brunswick, Manitoba and the Northwest at some future time.

California and the Asiatics.

By Harold Sands.

CALIFORNIA, of course, is just as much interested in the Asiatic labour question as is British Columbia. The year before last fruit growers and farmers of Nelson, B.C., adopted a resolution favouring the admittance, without paying poll tax, of a limited number of Chinese who could work in the fields. The farmers of Northern California recently sent a memorial to Congress advocating a similar move on this side of the line. The big newspapers in San Francisco opposed the movement and in pelting the farmers they used more epithets in a day than the strongest anti-Asiatic newspaper in Vancouver would get rid of in a week. While I have hitherto written strongly in favour of the regulation of immigration from across the Pacific, I believe in giving both sides of the case. Therefore the "Courier" may be interested in the opinion of a sane and conservative editor of a well-known California agricultural paper. He said:

"Everybody is against the further encouragement of Japanese labour. No one has yet denied the superiority of the Chinese for the common work of fruit farm and vineyard, and with one accord every man admits that the American will not do the menial, stooping work of cultivating and harvesting many of the dominant crops of the State.

"I believe the following facts are admitted on every hand: The shortage of lower-class labour has caused the introduction of Greeks, Hindus, Mexican peons and to some extent of Southern Europeans, a majority of whom are degraded physically and morally; meetings have been held to protest against further influx from these sources; there is no solution of the farmers' stress in sight except the introduction of sober, honest, industrious Chinese; the white labour offering spasmodically for the fruit growers' work is unreliable, scant and generally inefficient; the conditions of labour are now altogether different from those prevailing when Coxe's men marched eastward.

"All agree that further Asiatic or other immigration is not the ideal solution of this vexatious and paramount problem. Ideally there should be little villages of American labourers in every raisin, wine and sugar-beet district. . . . But many circumstances conspire against the farmer in his efforts to improve the labour problem by the employment of his own race. There seems to be no solution upon a better basis than the introduction of Chinese. The man who solves this burning question will be great indeed."