

Winnipeg At Play

Sixteen Hours of
Sunshine in Summer

Baseball, Lacrosse
Polo, Tennis
played in the evening

Auto Drives among
Wheat and Wild Flowers

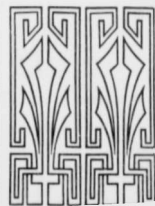
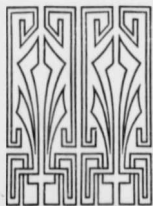
Winter happiest season
and the Annual Bonspiel
a national event

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CHAS. F. ROLAND

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Industrial Bureau
Winnipeg





IN no great city in the world does the sportsman feel more at home than in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Its breezy open spaces, broad rivers, and, above all, strenuous inhabitants, devoted to all forms of open air pastime, render the metropolis of the West an ideal home for the lover of the Anglo-Saxon athletic games.

If somebody were to tell you that there is a city where league baseball games are played in the evening after six o'clock dinner, what would you say? Nix. Well, there is such a place, and not only baseball is played but many other games are enjoyed in the long evenings that make a part of summer days sixteen hours long.

All of Western Canada has these long summer days. Winnipeg, however, is the city of Western Canada where evening sport events are most noticeable, because Winnipeg is so big and its population so cosmopolitan that nearly every game known to sportsmen is played here, and, through the summer almost altogether in the evening after business hours and when the people generally have finished their day's work and are in possession of unfettered leisure for games which they play themselves or see others play. There are some 175,000 people in Winnipeg, and it means a great deal to them to be able to give a full day to work or business and then put in a couple of hours in the evening in enjoyment of sports.

Evening games played in Winnipeg are: Lacrosse, baseball, football, tennis, polo, lawn bowling, golf, trap-shooting, road racing—up to twenty miles—quoits. Even cricket—in cross sections of a game—is played in these

long summer evenings when Winnipeg puts on its sports clothes and takes life al fresco and happily.

Winnipeg has drawn its population from all quarters of the earth. Lured by the marvellous growth of the city and the country, of which Winnipeg is the chiefest centre, people have flocked to the capital city of Manitoba and have swelled the place from a tiny village to a fine, modern city in thirty-five years. The man from Eastern Canada has come, bringing lacrosse, hockey and baseball. The Britisher has crossed the ocean with his cricket bat and shin-guards, or golf sticks, or tennis racquet, or soccer football outfit, snugly tucked into his luggage. Up from the South, comes the "American"—so-called by his Canadian cousins—and if he doesn't tote a bat, ball, a mitt or glove, he is pretty sure to have the constitution and by-laws of the brotherhood of baseball fans tucked in his pocket, at the very least. Sundry of his kind, too, play tennis with energy, dash and much assiduity, and when trap-shooting or hunting is on, there is none more eager or able than the sportsman from the South. The combined effect of this exodus of men of various sport tastes from their several home countries, produces a fine symposium of sports in Winnipeg and gives the most catholic taste in sports a chance for entire satisfaction.

Climate and latitude has much to do with the enjoyment of these several sports in Winnipeg. Very few summer days in Western Canada are rainy, very few are too hot. As a rule, the rain comes in short, sharp showers, followed by brilliant sunshine that dries up the ground quickly and does not interfere with outdoor work or play. Occasional days are hot, but the heat is of a sort that permits one to go about on the open prairie, bareheaded and with nothing but the natural growth of hair between his skull and the sun's rays, without fear of sunstroke and in comfort. Even the hottest days are followed by cool evenings and nights, so that it is no exaggeration to say that

summer weather in Western Canada is a thing of beauty and a joy—if not forever, at least as long as it lasts.

With this splendid and dependable weather as a means, and their love of sports as the incentive, the people of Winnipeg take hold upon out-of-doors life with zest and pleasure. The congregation of games gives every man a chance to see his favorite sport, and the long days give him the opportunity to engage in it and attend to business as well. The working man, who finishes his day's labor at from half-past four to half-past five o'clock, has time to eat, change his clothes and get to a baseball, lacrosse or football game that does not begin until half-past six, and he sits in the cool, pleasant evening and sees the game or dons his uniform and takes part in it if he is a player. The business man is equally fortunate in being able to close up his day's work and to get to his favorite game as a spectator or to hit the trail for the links and make the round under the pleasantest weather conditions to be found on top of earth.

Winnipeg in shirtsleeves and shirtwaists is thus an inspiring sight. Not all of the sports are put on in the evening, of course. Every Saturday afternoon is holiday and full holidays are rather numerous, besides. The Queen's Birthday—May 24—is the first regular summer holiday. Then comes Dominion Day—the first of July. Labor Day is a holiday, too, and the Canadian Thanksgiving comes in October. Besides these, there are civic holidays appointed for one reason or another, but at bottom resting soundly upon the irresistible temptation of summer weather so beautiful, so delightful, so nearly absolutely perfect, that it makes an appeal to the heart of outdoor man not to be decried. With so pressing an invitation from Nature, her children waste no time in demurring, but joyfully take off superfluous garments and go to their sports with whole-souled delight.

Association football is, perhaps, next to baseball, the most popular game with Winnipeggers, and but few of the

older cities have more clubs. The Western Canadians have not only the enthusiasm but the open space, which many of the players in the busiest countries in Great Britain and the United States crave for in vain. In Winnipeg they have a magnificent Country Club, with spacious grounds, six miles out, where society daily gathers throughout the bright summer days to watch the polo, tennis, croquet, shooting and other sports that take place.

Probably more individuals engage in soccer football in Winnipeg than in any other one sport. The game is well suited to Winnipeg's climate and is played in all but the real winter months. There are a hundred soccer football teams in Winnipeg this year, and a department store with sixteen football teams is one of the features of Winnipeg's business growth and disposition towards sports.

Cricket suits a large number of Winnipeg's sportsmen, and there is a good cricket league, made up chiefly of players who got their early education in the game in the Old Country.

Cricket is as inevitable as "God Save the King" under the Union Jack, and Winnipeg is a keen cricket city. There are more than a score of teams who play in a league, and the fight for the championship is followed with the greatest possible interest by the whole sporting fraternity. Every season enthusiasm is stimulated to fever heat by the visits of bands of players from the South, West or East. The athletic reputation of Manitoba's capital is generally well looked after by the Winnipeg players selected to represent their country in these great matches against the outside clubs.

Tennis is very popular, and every college campus, lawn or vacant lot that chances to be conveniently located, is pre-empted by the tennis men and maidens who play their favorite game there in the long summer evenings.

Lacrosse is very near to the heart of every Canadian, and there has been a strong movement made in the past two years to revive this game as the national sport of Canada. This attempt has resulted in a marked revival of lacrosse, especially among the schoolboys, where the movement was started in order to bring up a big number of lacrosse players from the point of beginners to that of perfection.

Baseball has not made the progress in either amateur or professional ranks that it has in the States, but this is chiefly due to lack of cities of size, and in sufficient number, to make professional baseball profitable or the amateur brand sharp enough in rivalry to bring out the game in its strongest points. When Winnipeg's sister cities of the West get as big as she is; when distances between such points of baseball magnitude shall have become shortened by the growth of towns nearer to Winnipeg; there will be baseball in Western Canada as good as the best in the States and as well patronized. As it is now, when Winnipeg has a good team in the Northwestern League, the fans turn out in crowds to see the games and are as critical—and as excitable on occasion—as their brothers and sisters across the line. Moreover, the youth of Winnipeg take kindly to the game, and the day is coming when the Northwest will send its stars to the big leagues as California and the way-down South have done.

Automobiling, canoeing and horse racing are three forms of summer sports not to be overlooked in a summary of this sort. The first automobile in Winnipeg was bought in 1902, and now there are over two thousand cars in the city.

When Jack Frost appears on the scene the inhabitants of the capital of the West are perhaps happiest of all. They then get out their skates and hockey sticks, brooms and curling stones, and challenge the world to do its best to beat them. Ice hockey is Canada's winter national game,

and is played in no place better than Winnipeg. The city supports two crack professional teams, and could array a whole army corps of excellent amateur players. To realize what it is to be at home on a pair of skates, a Winnipeg youngster should be seen on a corner lot sheet of ice. The great Scotch pastime of curling is now quite as enthusiastically followed in Canada as it is in the Old Land, and the Winnipeg Bonspiel every February is generally regarded as the biggest event of the curling world. Players come from all corners of the earth to compete in it, and the town goes "en fete" as if a great exhibition or some other similar event was in progress.

Automobiles are run the year around—not all of those that are owned in Winnipeg, but as many as people choose to run. The snow packs down hard and smooth. Non-freezing liquid and a cover over the engine cap does the trick. In the summer, Winnipeg and the country about it are ideal for automobilizing, and the good roads movement is a live issue in Manitoba. The public is getting together on this point, though, and it is but a matter of time when Winnipeg will have suburban roads as good as the city streets have been made with asphalt or macadam. Meanwhile, the split-log drag and a top-dressing of gravel on the clay roads does much for the country road, and there is no better road in the world than the prairie trail in summer. It is hard, smooth and level, and it is one of the summer joys in this remarkable country to ride across the prairie in an automobile. The scorcher can go his limit of speed and the distance man get his fill, while those who love Nature and her beauties have their full share of enjoyment in the bright sunshine, blue skies, and cool breeze, and the birds and wild flowers that liven the prairie with song and color. There are thousands of birds and wild flowers in profusion.

On the first of July, the Manitoba small game shooting season opens, and with plover in July, snipe in August,

ducks in September and prairie chickens in October, the wing shot is a busy man—as busy as he chooses to make himself.

Sixteen hours of sunshine; summer days that are bright, beautiful, alluring; a city where there is the greatest variety of games on earth; a country beautiful to look upon and alive with game and fish; dependable weather; the boundless sky overhead and the almost boundless prairie underfoot; with these elements of sport and joy, the man who cannot take his full of happiness of summer sports in Winnipeg must be more than hard to suit; he must be an incorrigible.



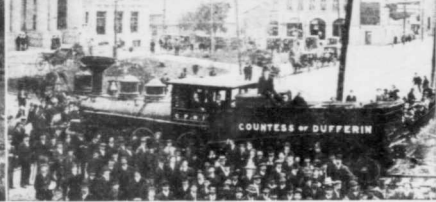
TO THE MANUFACTURER:

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CHAS. F. ROLAND, Commissioner
Winnipeg Industrial Bureau

Winnipeg, Manitobn



What Story Writers Feature.—Winnipeg has labored widely and well to keep every natural beauty of the park grounds and to emphasize them as much as possible. The upper scene shows one effect of this wide endeavor. The lower left picture is a Winnipeg suburban street, well planned and kept. In the upper insert is shown what was known in 1877 as the "Edmonton Limited," starting on the western 1000 mile trail. At the bottom is shown the first engine to reach Winnipeg in 1883 now on exhibit in front of the C. P. Ry. depot in Winnipeg.