

## The Roaring Game in Canada.

Montreal Witness.

The 'roarin' game' of curling shows no sign of decay. It is indeed more popular than ever. In a history of sport in Canada a long chapter is devoted to this game. It is an old-established game in Canada, probably the oldest organized game, as the Montreal Curling Club was founded as long ago as January, 1807, and is therefore four years past its centenary. Scotchmen, however, had curled in Canada long before that. The Montreal Curling Club had for some cement a somewhat precarious existence by reason of lack of proper stones, but this difficulty was overcome by the substitution of irons. These were shaped something like tea-kettles and weighed from forty-six to sixty-five pounds each. Irons were found to be more suitable than stones, and their use has been continued to the present time. History records that in 1821 a regular club was organized at Quebec, and that in 1835 a match was played between the two clubs at Three Rivers. The Thistle Club of Montreal, was founded in 1742, and the Caledonia in 1850. Clubs elsewhere followed rapidly, Kingston in 1859, Ottawa in 1862, Belleville in 1867, and Arnprior in 1868. Numbers of other clubs have been established in this district since that time, and this has been repeated all over the country. The 'roarin' game' now flourishes in Canada everywhere where ice is to be obtained, even in the Yukon; and in the Northern States of the Union there are clubs of curling enthusiasts.

Because of our long reliable winter period, Eastern Canada is eminently fitted for the pursuit of curling; much more so, indeed, than Scotland, the first home of the game. It is asserted—and there are more unlikely things—that the eagerness of the Scotch to enlist for active service in Canada during the contest between France and Britain, was due to the opportunities in this country for continuous curling! It is recognized that curling is primarily a Scot's game, but it has long been "adopted" by people of diverse nationality wherever there is an icy winter. But perhaps the game does not represent so much to the latter as it does to the former; because among the Scotch the game is not only a pastime, but as the Scotchman has expressed it, a bond drawing Scotchman together in clannish and national relationship. As a game pure and simple, there is this to be said about curling—it is eminently adapted to a spirit of fair-play and good-fellowship as well as requiring the physical qualifications of a cool head, a keen eye, and a steady hand. A mere Sassenach has complained: "That it lends itself to considerable merriment, no one who has watched the game can doubt; that there appears justification for such merriment is not so clear to the uninitiated, and such are apt to regard it in the same light as the Frenchman, who on seeing a game for the first time, said: 'I saw today a group of Scotchmen throwing big round irons, like bombs, on the ice, after which they shouted 'Soop! soop!' Then they laughed like lunatics. I think indeed they are crazy!' But give the Frenchman an opportunity and he will develop an affection for curling as deep and fervent as the Sassenach, 'Pattison Cobay Torbay' did, after a while, for the appearance of a Scotchman, in Gilbert's 'Bab Ballad' about Ellen McJones, 'Aberdeen.' Says Gilbert: 'Torbay had incurred a good deal of expense To make him a Scotchman in every sense; But this is a matter, you'll readily own. That isn't a question of tailors alone.'

A most pleasing feature of Canadian curling is the loyalty of our clubs to the mother club, the Royal Caledonia Club in Scotland. All our Canadian curling clubs are affiliated with it, and the Canadian curlers, at their annual banquets, after having honored the King and the Governor-General, invariably hail the Royal Caledonia as "Oor auld respectit mither." And the 'auld respectit mither,' it may be said, is even yet more than a match for any of her children, for when they have played with her they have found her skilful and valiant and still capable of outplaying them. Where the game originated is not exactly known, but it has been popular in North Britain for three hundred years at least. Burns in literature called it 'the roaring game,' and many fine songs have been written about curling, descriptive of all its leading points, its implements, and in praise of the game as a promoter of mutual enjoyment, bodily health and the best of good fellowship. The 'Etrick Shepherd' ranks among the laureates of the rink, but Henry Duncanson's song is quoted as the most excellent on the subject, as he succeeds in packing into a single stanza some of its chief characteristics:

There draw a shot; there lay a guard;  
And here beside him lie, man;  
Now let him feel a gamester's hand;  
Now in this bosom die, man!  
There fill the port, and block the ice;  
We sit upon the tee, man!  
Now take this in-ring, sharp and neat,  
And make this winner flee, man.

Wicking, or inringing, says Sir Richard Brown, in 'Memorabilia Curliana,' is the proudest and most scientific point in the game by far. It sometimes happens that the stone nearest the tee—the winner, as it is called—is so well protected that it cannot be touched directly, and defies removal unless it is assailed by an ingenious master stroke technically termed wicking or inringing, whereby a stone is sent in an oblique direction so as haply to hit the winner; if it not only does that, but becomes the winner instead the player who throws the stone is sure to be hailed by the exulting comrades as a prince among curlers, if not 'the king o' the core.' The rules of the game almost universally followed are those of the Royal Caledonian Club, and they are not difficult to learn. But to apply them well is almost as difficult as for a tailor to make a Scot.

## Dominion Alliance Convention.

The annual convention of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance will be held in Toronto on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week Feb. 14, 15 and 16. It is desired to make this convention as large and as representative as possible, and all churches and temperance organizations are urged to send delegates. Special reduced rates will be given by the railways. Among the important matters that will be discussed at the convention will be the demand for province wide abolition of the bar, the repeal of the unfair three-fifths majority clause, the effective enforcement of law, especially in local option municipalities, and the laying of plans for another campaign. The place of meeting will be Cooke's Church at the corner of Queen and Mutual streets.

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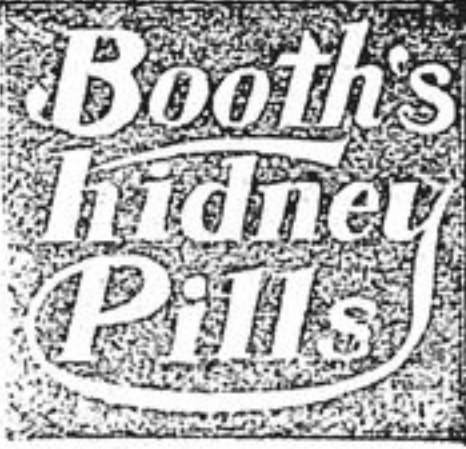
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Butter, per pound, 19 to 22.  
Eggs, per dozen, 22 to 24  
Hay, per ton, \$8 to \$10  
Hides, \$7  
Hogs, live, \$6.90 to \$7.00  
Hogs, dressed, \$8.50 to \$9.00  
Beef, \$ 7.50 to \$8  
Sheepskins, 50 to 80  
Wool, 12 to 20  
Flour, Samson, \$2.80 to \$3.00  
Flour, Winnipeg, \$2.70 to \$2.90  
Flour, Silver Leaf, \$2.50 to \$2.70  
Flour, Victoria, \$2.45 to \$2.65  
Flour, new process, \$2.40 to \$2.60  
Flour, family, clipper, \$2.35 to \$2.20  
Bran, per 100 pounds, \$1.15 to \$1.25  
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