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Kirkland Lake Jan. 15th—Jan. 23rd  
Larder Lake ... Jan. 26th—Feb. 3rd  
Matheson ..... Feb. 6th—Feb. 15th  
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Cochrane ..... Feb. 27th—Mar. 8th  
Hearst ..... Mar. 10th—Mar. 18th  
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## Some Sidelights on Curling And Some Scraps of Its History

Second of the Series of Articles on the "Roarin' Game" Just Commencing in Timmins and South Porcupine. Comments and Comparisons with Other Games. Don't Miss Reading This. It's Good!

Below is given the second of the series of articles on "Curling" written specially for The Advance by an enthusiast at the game. Further articles will follow in the coming weeks and will undoubtedly add to the great interest now felt in the "Roarin' Game."

### Some Side Lights on Curling

There are two games which may be said to be indigenous to Canada, lacrosse and ice hockey, in that they have been produced naturally by our country and our climate. Lacrosse has a longer and perhaps more picturesque history than ice hockey. In its beginnings it was the Red Man's game though its great development in Canada came when the White Man added to it rules for its playing and science in its playing. As for ice hockey there are many, even in this day and generation, who remember how shiny was the school boy's pastime and how nearly every school boy had to find and trim his own shiny stick.

If memory serves us right, ice hockey received its first real impetus back around 1880 when the game was started in Paris, Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec. From humble beginnings when "Shiny on your own side" was the slogan of the day, truant or otherwise, Canada has in the sporting world monopolized the hockey honours as our Liberty-loving cousins to the south monopolize the greatness of baseball and umpire-baiting.

Hockey is a game for the swift and the strong. It is essentially a young man's game. In making these comparisons it is not with intention of proving that curling is either an old man's game, or even an old woman's game, but one which is suited to young and old—yes, men or women. Its playing depends more on a skill, deft of hand and accurate of eye. The noise which gives to it the name, "the roarin' game," is the result of enthusiasm when the skip or captain is calling for certain shots or for vigorous sweeping and is added to by the sounds of the curling stones as they bump into one another.

In this article we shall offer a little of the history of the game of curling in Scotland. It may not have been indigenous to Scotland as lacrosse and ice hockey have been to Canada but it owes its development to the land of the oat cakes and Scotch—the O.T.A. forbids us from advertising anything but accent, people and history, so the reader accustomed to the daily crossword puzzle will supply his own word somewhat from the following information:—"Horizontal and vertical and zigzag. In Scotland a beverage; in Quebec an intoxicant; in Ontario, issued on prescriptions and used only for medical purposes; and in the U.S.A. metaphorically (only) unknown."

Just where curling originated is not exactly known—maybe like Topsy 'it jest grewed up'—but Scotland has played the game for over 300 years. Some writers trace the origin of the game to the Netherlands and add that the German 'kurzweil' (a game) gives us the word 'curl' while 'tee' comes from the Teutonic 'tighen' to point out; 'bonspiel' a district curling competition from the Flemish 'bonne' a district and 'spel' play. One who has travelled in the north of England and in Flanders will have been struck with a similarity of words that are used in Northern English dialect and in the language of Flanders. What Canadian soldier is not familiar with such names as Steenbeeque, Morbeeque, Esquelbeeque and many others? In the Lake country of the north of England you will hear the creaks spoken of as 'bees'. But this is not an article on philology with the reader studying the art of interpreting a language by its affinities and analogies to another language.

However, if to Curling is assigned a continental origin, this is done without any records in the literature of the Netherlands. It is perhaps possible that Flemish merchants who came to Scotland towards the close of the 16th century brought the game with them. The Scotch people recognized a good thing and kept it—like the Sabbath and everything else, that they can get their hands on.

There has been advancement in the

During the first half of the 16th century several authors referred to curling as being played in Scotland. In 1607 William Camden, the English antiquary and historian, in describing the Orkneys tells that "one of the islands supplies plenty of excellent stones for the game called curling." The stones used in the early history of the game were primitive granite boulders.

The earliest stones were light in weight; probably 5 to 25 pounds and probably were thrown much after the manner of quoits. Channel stones, those rounded out by the action of the water in river-beds, were favourites, the shape being left to the individual taste so that oblong and triangular stones became common. The soles were artificially flattened. On these stones there were no handles but notches were cut in the stone for finger and thumb. If these stones were thrown (and Cornelia Kiliaan in his Teutonic dictionary gives the term 'khyuten' as meaning a pastime in which large globes of stone like the quoit are thrown on the ice), it is quite likely that when stones weighing 115 pounds were used that they were slid along the ice rather than thrown. In the next stage of the evolution the heavy stones were bored into and the thumb of the player inserted into the hole much in the same way as the ball is held in playing at ten pins on an alley. The weights were reduced to 70 to 80 pounds and handles were fitted to the stones and the distance for sliding much shorter than it is today.

Even with the advent of the rounded stone made on scientific principles in the early part of the nineteenth century, the use of handles was optional; the stones were of all shapes and sizes and some times the 'stones' were wood. Like all the equipment used in games

art of making curling stones. (Who does not remember the first hockey pads—two Munsey's magazines, price twenty cents if purchased? Or the first hockey skates, which have given way to the tubes? What a change?)

Curling stones of today are quarried and never blasted, as the shock of the explosion is apt to strain and split the stone. The rough whinstone or granite block has given way to a symmetrical stone usually of granite, beautifully rounded, brilliantly polished, with true running surfaces designed for keen or heavy ice and supplied with convenient and graceful handles. As evidences of that artistic and accurate design and symmetrical perfection the reader can see that himself by examining a set of Excelsior Curling stones as made by Andrew Kay and Co., of Haugh, Mauchline, Scotland, or the Perfecta Curling stones as made by James T. Keanie, of Johnstone, Scotland.

What with its development and popularity in Scotland it is passing strange that curling has received but scant notice from such famous men as Burns and Scott. Possibly the game had not enough of romance in it for Scott while Burns spent his metrical moments in adding to fame such characters as took their Scotch neat or without a chaser of curling.

In 1834 curling got a start in an organized way in Scotland when the Amateur Curling Club of Scotland was formed. This being a mutual admiration amateur society it soon died as the words 'amateur' and 'mutual admiration' have no place in a curling organization. No one ever has to take an affidavit that he has resided 60 3/4 or 90 1/2 days, as the case may be, in any community before taking part in curling matches. Even when he does get on to the ice no one accuses him of having money slipped into his mackinaw for playing services.

In 1838 the Grand Caledonian Curling Club began its existence on November 15th, a day akin to holy in the curler's calendar. In 1842 the 'Grand' gave place to 'Royal' fol-

lowing the initiation of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort into the mysteries of the game at Place of Scone where on the polished floor of one of the rooms of the palace the game was shown to her Majesty and the Prince. The latter became patron of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and on his death the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, became patron.

Today the Royal Caledonian Curling Club still operates and is regarded as the mother club and legislative body in all parts of the curling world. The Club's main duties are to further interest in the game, to revise the laws governing the game and to arrange the important matches, especially the grand match between the Scotch clubs north of the Forth and Clyde Canal and those to the south. The first match was played in 1847 when twelve rinks were represented. In 1903 these increased to 286. As evidence of the fact that the game of curling has had a splendid growth it is pointed out that in 1838 there were 28 clubs affiliated with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and that in 1880 this had increased to 500 clubs and in 1903 to 720 clubs. It was under the auspices of the Royal Caledonian that the Scottish curlers made their first trip to Canada and the United States in 1903, and several trips have been made since that time, one as late as 1923. These trips have done much to bring together the lovers of the game on both sides of the Atlantic and each trip brings a fund of Scotch stories to Canada as these Scotch curlers know their country, its people and its products. Anyone who thinks that the Scotch are entirely devoid of humour should make it a point to get an invitation to one of the banquets when visiting Scotch curlers are in Canada. Hearing will put away from the mind all such erroneous ideas.

Canada has been playing the game of curling for close on to 75 years and in another article we may be able to trace out something of the history of the game in Canada.

## International Dog-Sled Derby For February



In and around Quebec. Top left—Trotting on Exhibition Grounds. Right—Earl Brydges huskies, winners of last year's derby, nearing the post. Left—A fair skiing enthusiast. Below—The Chateau Frontenac dog team with "Mountie," famous north-west husky leader inset.

In a guide to "The City of Quebec" one reads that among other things Quebec is celebrated for its horse races, which for more than a century were organized and kept going by the wealthy officers of the British crack regiments stationed there on garrison duty, and that the organization of the Quebec Turf Club dates back to 1789. Horse racing is still a seasonal attraction to the Ancient City. The Fall meet brings horses and racing enthusiasts from practically all over the continent, and has done for years, but the native Quebecer is inclined to enthuse more over the trotting races that take place when the snow is packed hard on the course. Then there are horses he knows and really belong to him. Horses from "way back", perhaps.

One has only to attend a trotting meet in Quebec to know just how much of the true sporting spirit is inherent in the French-Canadian. It is not always the one who has placed most money that is the most vociferous as the trotting nags near the post. Racing is in their blood. They excitedly shout their favourites name, and wave their arms for its encouragement, and if it wins,—all right. If not,—all right, it's a darn good horse, anyway.

It is perhaps the enthusiasm for the race shown by the people of Quebec that is responsible for the continuance of the Eastern International Dog-Sled Derby,

held annually in that city. The Derby is supported by winter sportsmen from all over the continent, and entries are made from all parts of the continent upon which snow falls to stay for the season; but without the support of the people of Quebec the event could not be the great success it is. On the three days for which the Derby is scheduled, everyone who can declare a holiday and gets as close to the starters' stand as is possible for the crowd, and when the dogs come panting home, it is not so much the visitor at the Chateau as it is Jean Baptiste of Quebec who cheers them in.

This season's Eastern International Dog-Sled Derby has been definitely scheduled to take place February 19, 20 and 21st. As in former years the distance to be covered will be 120 miles, at the rate of 40 miles more or less each day. Earl Brydges, winner of last year's Derby with the Ontario Paper Company's team, will defend his honors in the face of much competition. An American team won the gold trophy in 1922, and it is expected that several teams will try to regain it for the United States. Possibly fifteen or more teams will try to keep it from going across the border, including one of five Alaskan huskies which is being entered by two McGill students. This is headed by "Dan Jo" which led three teams to victory in three sweepstakes in the Yukon district last year.

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