

THE TOBOGGAN SLIDE.

E. PAULINE JOHNSON DESCRIBES ITS PLEASURES AND DANGERS.

Reckless Young Canada Risks Life and Limb in the Pursuit of a Winter Sport That Takes One's Breath Away—A Vivid Sketch.



WHAT is that constituent of youth inherent with us all that yields to this witchery of recklessness, that loves a dash of danger in our pleasure making? We see it in the child who wants to play with Lucifer matches because it is told by nurse that "they are bad, and will bite baby," it bubbles out in the school boy, who skates so near to the big yawning airhole in the ice that the brittle substance splits beneath his feet and he strides off just in time to save himself from a horrible death, or a perilous ducking because it is contended by the "wash't start," and tries the experiment again just because the dangerous sport adds such intoxication to the otherwise uninteresting, because undeniable security of his pastime and play hour. We see it in the man, whose friend coaxes him to drop that hazardous friendship with his old-time love, who is another man's wife now. Only to the aged whose life lies behind them does danger lose its spice of flavor, but to youth, and health, and warm young blood, oh! the irresistible fascination of risk and venture. To hold one's breath on the pinnacle of uncertainty, to feel one's pulse bound with excitement, then freeze with the horror of physical extinction. This, indeed, is the essence of life and pleasure and existence. This indeed is the essence of tobogganing.

Young Canada is wonderfully vigorous, daringly reckless as far as sport is concerned, but of all the wild, heedless pastimes in his long catalogue of physical exercise, tobogganing is undoubtedly the most hazardous.

Many a gay young life has been dashed out at the foot of the treacherous slide, many a sturdy limb snapped asunder, many a glowing cheek cut and scarred for a lifetime, but still the rollicking sport goes on, each robust gamester strong in the faith that theirs is the one charmed existence to which mishap is least likely to occur. And after all there is little to fear if the "man at the helm" knows the track and has confidence in his own steering, but he must be strong, keen-eyed, and absolutely fearless, or were to the passengers he essays to pilot down hill on the wings of the wind, woe to his craft, and, direst of all calamities, woe to his reputation as a tobogganist.

But, like all true sportsmen, he is keenly alive to the dangers of careless and tricky practices. One can always distinguish the reliable veteran by the painstaking fashion he has of seeing that the passengers' coats, skirts and sashes are all well tucked under before the start, by his immutable law of never permitting the craft to escape the touch of his hand or foot while the passengers are mounting, and by his despotism of command that they "hang on whatever happens"—for fun is ended and foreshadowed begins the instant some swashbuckler thinks it very clever to go down hill backwards or standing up, or to get a crowd aboard only to terrify them by letting the toboggan creep some feet toward the shute before he tears madly after it, pitches himself on the scant space left him "aft" while the craft swerves from side to side with his blundering antics and an accident is barely averted. But many a terrible spill have I had where no one was to blame. Perhaps some tiny obstruction has been on the shute, perhaps some unfortunate on the foregoing toboggan has lost his toque on the track and we had dashed over it, or a bit of our rope line had slipped underneath; ay, for less things than these have I been pitched into space, tangled up informally with the rest of the crew and landed with painful velocity in a snow-drift or ice-hole, with an inharmonious mixture of toques, mittens, moccasins and toboggans atop of me, or worse to arise and see the latter sliding wilfully off by itself down the long, long shute, whither one must travel to recover it. But who minds an upset when there are no serious results? You scoop the snow out from the depths of your collar, from the heights of your sleeves and on you go, willing to risk it again, just for that dizzy moment of peril that hovers above you as you take the "dip," see you skim away on the level and realize that you have a half mile tramp between you and the spot you left a few seconds before.

The best toboggans are constructed of hickory, and measure anywhere from five to eight feet in length, exclusive of the curl at the bow, which should not roll above eight inches. The fastest craft are built in slats between four and five inches wide, bringing the total width up to about seven inches, and the thinner the slats the better. Some of the builders run small wooden rails along the edges from stem to stern, just sufficiently high for the fingers to slip underneath, but in any accident the brittle wood is liable to snap and splinter, which is exceedingly dangerous to the passengers. The better way is to run a rope very taut and strong through small staples screwed into the crossbars, and it has the advantage of being much easier to "hang on to," as it gives slightly at every "jump" and never jars the hands.

The cost of a toboggan runs from \$5 upward, but a very neat one built of Indiana black hickory, with a thick handsome cushion laid firmly in place, may be had for \$7 or thereabouts. One can soon become an expert at racking the craft. You have but to pack your passengers, forward, all sitting "Turk fashion," and as close as sardines, leaving a foot's space at the stern, upon which you drop one knee as you start the load, grip the side ropes with both hands, kneel high enough to admit of your chin just skimming the shoulder of the person directly in front of you, and "let her go"—using your free foot as a rudder, of which the slightest touch on the track will bend your craft into obedience, but your foot must be absolutely free, swinging and loosened, or command of your load is lost.

Of course if you are a lady, the fewer skirts worn the better, and unless you are as fearless and sturdy limbed as La Canadienne, you would be wiser to reserve more space for yourself if you intend to steer than the messenger above mentioned foot. But you soon get accustomed to a short allowance of room, for some way or other there always seems to be space enough for just one more on a toboggan, and then you dash down on the few inches left you and away you go, caring little for the snow spluttering and whirling about your ears, as you plow through drifts, and scale the "bump" with a flying leap, for most of the sliding in Ontario is done on snow, which, though spicy enough in itself, is not nearly the fun which one can get out of it in the Lower Province, where they turn a hose on at the top of the shute until the entire track is veneered with a thin stream of water which congeals in ice almost instantly in an atmosphere that often drops to thirty degrees below zero, and over this crystal track I have bounded more than once at the rate of a mile in thirty seconds.

Like all other winter sports, tobogganing is seen to perfection in Montreal. The slides are owned and managed by the respective snowshoe clubs, and each endeavors to rival each in speed, accommodation and hospitality. At carnival time the slides are a sight worth crossing the continent to see. One fete I attended, the Montreal Club had a slide well-nigh perpendicular, the descent of which came nearer making my hair stand on end than anything I ever experienced, for it is constructed by nature, and, like all her works, transcends the most cunning artifice of man. Down the long, steep slopes of Mount Royal, that lifts its huge bulk behind the curious old French-Canadian city, the two gleaming tracks of ice look like silver wires suspended in midair, with a gray, cobwebby something, winding up alongside, which a nearer view reveals to be a staircase. This and a few yards of particularly abrupt "shute" are the only artificial adjuncts required to perfect the most precipitous slide in Canada. The double tracks are separated by a ridge of ice, a little above a foot in height, so that two toboggans can with safety race each other, from start to finish, a distance of three-quarters of a mile, at the end of which you are quite willing to dismount, considering the fact that the atmosphere always tarries at zero or thereabouts, and your mad flight through such air leaves you as nearly frozen solid as humanity can be and yet live.

The first trip I took on this slide was a revelation to me as far as sport and speed are concerned. Throngs of merry-makers crowded the stairs and encircled the bonfire, chattering vivaciously in French and English, laughing, jesting, trifling, and all awaiting with utmost good humor their turn at the slide, down which every second or two whizzed a daring little craft with its light-hearted crew, that disappeared for an instant under the first dip, arose on the second, vanished again, then slipped straight and swift down the long, narrow path, out of sight. Before us stood seventy-nine people, by actual count, all with toboggans up-turned on the stern end to make room for those behind them—never an impatient word, never a jostle, never a pushing to get ahead or a rude, ungallant word. In all my life I have never witnessed such a brilliant well-bred throng.

In an incredibly short time our turn came. They tugged me well into the bow, packed three or others on behind me, down on one knee dropped our agile steerer, and we were off—slowly, slowly at first, with a subtle, deadly sort of movement, like the waters creeping fathfully to the brink of Niagara; then with a quick, sharp flash down the "shute," and we whizzed through a world of light to the crest of the first dip. "Hang on now!" was all I heard from somewhere aft of me, and the next instant we dropped, down, down, a seemingly endless abyss, while the lights flashed by like the teeth of a comb, and we sped along something like horizontally again.

"Look out, now, and hang on; we're going to jump the second dip!" Hardly had the words reached my ears before the toboggan leapt four feet into the air, struck the track, flat as the proverbial pancake, about fifteen feet beyond, and careened madly, wildly onward, slacking gently and reluctantly a half mile further on. The instant we stopped stalwart

arms assisted us to scramble out of the way before the next toboggan came crashing down. I had not time to think of the headlong plunge, of my frozen brain, of my hands strained with their desperate clutch on the ropes. The big steerer hurried me into a warm, bright booth, where girls with glowing cheeks and sparkling eyes were drinking hot, savory beef tea. They gave me a large bowlful, which I swallowed gladly while they told me a story of an American who had taken his first trip down the previous day.

"I would not have missed that ride for a thousand dollars," he remarked to the gallant young Montrealese who piloted him. "I'm glad you like it," laughed the latter, "get warmed up now and we'll try it again."

"No, thank you," replied the visitor. "I would not take that trip again for \$10,000." Nor would he, despite all coaxing. "For," said he, "I have a wife and children in Baltimore—and they need me."

On the return tramp I thought of the Chinaman, who, when asked what he thought of tobogganing, said: "It's just swir-r-r!—walkee backe-mile." But that that warms every particle of your body to blood heat, that sends young life and vigor bounding through your veins in a way that defies cold and danger, and intoxicates you into the state of pluck and fearlessness requisite to repeat the whirlwind ride.

Will Carry Russian Convicts. An ocean-going steamship, first-class in general construction, but fitted below with small iron cages for the accommodation of her passengers instead of state-rooms, is building on Clyde, and is to be launched in a very short time. It was contracted for by the Russian government, and is intended for the business of conveying convicts. The vessel is of about six thousand tons. No secret is made of her character or as to who her owners are to be.—Argonaut

Scriptural Authority for Advertising. A reverend gentleman, who has charge of the advertising of a prominent religious weekly, was recently asked what scriptural authority he could find for his occupation. "Oh," he replied, "that is easy enough. Advertising not only has scriptural authority, but is of very respectable antiquity as well. If you will look in Numbers, xxiv, 14, you will find Balaam saying, 'Come, now, and I will advertise,' and Boaz says in Ruth, iv, 4: 'And I thought to advertise.' Advertising is no modern thing."—New Orleans Picayune.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria. Middle aged woman to do general house-work in small family, must be fair, cook, neat and clean. For right party good wages will be paid. Address Post Office box C., Kingston.

WANTED! Middle aged woman to do general house-work in small family, must be fair, cook, neat and clean. For right party good wages will be paid. Address Post Office box C., Kingston.

Mackerel are very scarce. —Str. Mary Odell sailed yesterday for Loggieville with a cargo of blueberries for A. & R. Loggie. —On Tuesday evening bon fires testified to the satisfaction felt here when it was learned that Hon. Mr. Blair was elected. —There is a considerable quantity of deals here awaiting shipment; but it is almost impossible to get suitable vessels to charter. —There was a pleasant dance in the public hall, Kingston, on Tuesday evening. A few parties from town attended. The party broke up about 1 o'clock. —Tuesday was election day in Queens and Sunbury, N. B., and in North Gray, Ont. In the former, Hon. Mr. Blair, Minister of Railways, was elected by a handsome majority of over 600 and in the latter, Hon. Mr. Paterson, Minister of Customs, received over 200 majority. These are the figures as near as we can get them as we go to press. —Messrs. Wm. D. Carter, Henry O'Leary, John McInerney, Alexander Lennox, Roderick McDonald and Frank McInerney returned Thursday from St. John, where they had gone to attend the suit of Grattan vs. O'Leary et al before the Equity Court. The case was referred by consent to arbitration. Messrs. W. B. Deacon, W. J. Brait and John T. Caie were chosen as arbitrators. Messrs R. Saulnier and W. Thurber, of Harcourt are on a canoeing cruise down river. Mr. H. H. Warman, of Moncton, was in town yesterday.

Piles Cured in 3 to 6 Nights. Dr. Agnew's Ointment will cure all cases of Itching Piles in from 3 to 6 nights. One application brings comfort. For Blind and Bleeding Piles it is peerless. Also cures Tetter, Salt Rheum, Eczema, Barber's itch, and all eruptions of the skin. 35 cts. Sold by W. Short.

To Sunday School Workers. Delegates to County Convention Sept. 8th and 9th will kindly send names to Miss Minnie Bowser, Kingston, at once. Though Miss Bowser is away she has made provision for the due care of all correspondence addressed her in this connection. Each Sunday School can send two delegates besides the Supt and Pastor. For these entertainment will be provided. As many as come will be welcomed at the Convention but only those specified can be entertained. All delegates who wish entertainment will go directly to St. Andrew's Church for the first session, Tuesday 2 p. m.—but send card to Miss Bowser at once. Yours Respectfully F. W. MURRAY, Co. Sec'y. Bass River, Aug. 25th 1896.

CHURCH SERVICES. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Rev. Wm Hamilton, pastor. The following services will be held on Sabbath first, viz: Kingston, at 11 o'clock a. m., Richibucto, at 7 o'clock p. m. METHODIST SERVICES.—Rev. W. Lawson will preach at Mill Creek, Thursday, 27th at 7 p. m.; St. Nicholas River Bridge, Friday, 28th at 7 p. m.; Pine Ridge Saturday, 29th at 7 p. m.; West Branch, Sabbath 30th at 10.30; Kingston, 3 p. m.; Richibucto, 7 p. m. Sacrament at close of service at West Branch.

The Matebele Surrender. BULWAYO, Aug. 24.—The mission of Hon. Cecil Rhodes to the Matebele is reported to be a pronounced success. The natives have yielded and the war is considered at an end. Cecil Rhodes inspired the confidence of the Matebele chiefs by going among them unarmed. The chiefs complained that illusage by native police provoked rebellion and Mr. Rhodes promised them that reforms in this respect would be inaugurated at once. Earl Grey who was appointed to administer the affairs within the jurisdiction of the British South African company, believes that the surrender of the natives was practically unconditional.

Lock-Jaw Cured. WOODSTOCK, Ont., Aug. 21.—Two weeks ago, Fred Hill, aged 22, arose in the night to shut down a window. He stood on a chair to operate the window, over-balanced and fell with his back across a knot projecting on the chair. A small cut was inflicted, but Hill went to his employment as usual. On Monday he was suddenly taken with lock-jaw, and was removed to the hospital. An operation was performed, and a piece of cloth 1 1/2 inches square, was found in an aperture large enough for the doctor to insert his finger. Hill had so far improved that he was able yesterday to move his jaws an inch.

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WANTED AT ONCE: Active agents for each county. Exclusive control and no risk. Will clear twelve to twenty-five hundred dollars a year. Enclose stamp for full particulars or 25 cents for \$1 sample. Big Rapids Mineral Water Co., Big Rapids, Michigan.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

WANTED 100 Tons Blueberries! We will pay cash for 100 tons of blue berries, delivered in Richibucto. A & R. Loggie

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE. The under mentioned non-resident ratepayers of school district No. 2 in the Parish of St. Paul's, in the County of Kent, N. B., are hereby notified that unless their school tax set opposite their names together with cost \$1.00 each is paid to the undersigned, within two months from the date thereof, legal proceedings will be taken to recover the same. John and Domitide Sawyer—1893, \$2.36; 1894, \$3.00; 1895, \$2.32. Total, \$7.68. Anselme M. Leger—1893, \$1.40; 1894, \$1.98; 1895, \$1.45. Total, \$4.83. Dominique Belliveau—1893, \$2.20; 1894, \$1.13; 1895, \$7.00. Total, \$4.20. SYLVAIN C. ALLAIR, Sec'y.

Notice. Thomas George Dixon, a pedlar, left my hotel on the 7th day of February, last past and leaving in the hotel a quantity of goods and chattels and owing the undersigned a board bill, if the said George Dixon does not call and pay the said bill together with storage in twenty-one days from the date hereof, the same will be sold at public auction, on Monday, the 14th day of September, next, at 12 o'clock noon, in front of my hotel for the purpose of liquidating the same. MAXIME L. D. CORMIER, Buctouche, Aug. 21 1896.

Final Warning! The subscriber has for years past had the fruit stolen from his Cranberry Reserve situated on the westerly side of the back road near the town of Richibucto, and has determined that in future he will take the severest measures to protect his property against all thieves and trespassers. This last public notice is therefore given that all persons, regardless of age or sex found in any way trespassing upon the said Reserve or taking fruit therefrom, will be summarily dealt with and severely punished. J. F. BLACK, Richibucto, 4th August, A. D. 1896.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS ALWAYS CURE AFTER TEN YEARS SUFFERING Two Box Cure MILVERTON, 28TH JULY, 1895. Gentlemen,—For the last ten years I had been troubled with kidney disease, being so bad at intervals that I could not lie in bed at night nor stoop to the ground. I had tried all the remedies I could find without effect, but heard of Dodd's Kidney Pills and procured a box. I am most happy to say it for my own sake as well as for others that I am perfectly cured after using four boxes. JOHN RILEY.

Agents wanting profitable employment through the summer can find it with us, as we have newest Russian varieties of Nursery stock, and new Seed Potatoes. Salary on commission. Write us at once for territory. Pelham Nursery Co., Toronto, Ontario. 3m

The D. & L. Emulsion Is invaluable, if you are run down, as it is a food as well as a medicine. The D. & L. Emulsion Will build you up if your general health is impaired. The D. & L. Emulsion Is the best and most palatable preparation of Cod Liver Oil, agreeing with the most delicate stomachs. The D. & L. Emulsion Is prescribed by the leading physicians of Canada. The D. & L. Emulsion Is a marvellous flesh producer and will give you an appetite. 50c. & \$1 per Bottle Be sure you get DAVIS & LAWRENCE CO., LTD. the genuine MONTREAL.

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Hotel Stanley, KING SQUARE, ST. JOHN, N. B. J. M. FOWLER, PROPRIETOR. HOT-WATER HEATING THROUGH-OUT. First-Class in all its Appointments.

QUEEN HOTEL, FREDERICTON, N. B. First-class Livery Stables in connection. J. A. EDWARDS, Proprietor.

GRAND ANSE HOTEL, GRAND ANSE GLOUCESTER CO., N. B. This house is but a short distance from Grand Anse Station on the Caraquet Railway, and possesses unsurpassed advantages as a watering place. Bathing, Boating, Fishing, Beautiful Drives, etc., etc. Sample Rooms and Livery Stable in connection. Charges moderate. WM. THERIAULT, PROPRIETOR.

BELMONT HOTEL, SAINT JOHN, N. B. (Directly opposite N. B. and I. C. R. Stations.) J. SIME, Proprietor. Horse Cars pass the House both ways every five minutes, and connect with all steamboat lines. Bargeage taken and from the station free charge. Terms moderate.

TERRACE HOTEL, AMHERST, N. S. Large and well Lighted Sample Rooms in centre of Town formerly occupied by Lamy Hotel. FREE COACH TO AND FROM ALL TRAINS W. and W. CALHOUN, Proprietors.

H. M. FERGUSON, J. P. Noary Public, Conveyancer, ec. Issuer of Marriage Licenses, ACCOUNTS COLLECTED AND PROCEEDS PROMPTLY PAID OVER. Commissioner of the Richibucto Civil Court. KINGSTON, KENT COUNTY, N. B.

WORK FOR MEN AND WOMEN We pay \$6 to \$10 per week for easy home work. Child can do it. No Scheme, Books or Peddling. This is bona fide. Send stamp for work and particulars at once THE SEYMOUR SUPPLY CO., Masonic Temple, Camden, N. J.

Geo. W. Wilson, CARRIAGE & SLEIGH MANUFACTURER. Repairing and painting done a shortest notice, and satisfaction guaranteed. Carriage fittings of all kinds for sale. Undertaking promptly attended to. KINGSTON, KENT CO. Peters's Mills.

The Grist mill and Carding mill being in good condition, the undersigned is prepared to promptly attend to the wants of the public in those lines. Carding, 3cts. per lb., wool taken in payment when preferred. F. S. PETERS, Proprietor.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION ST. JOHN, N. B. EXHIBITION 1896

THE EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD ITS FOURTH ANNUAL FAIR ON ITS EXHIBITION GROUNDS, Opening Sept. 22d and Closing Oct. 2d, 1896. Exhibits of Machinery and Manufactures, Farm and Dairy Products, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, &c. Products of the Forest, Mines and Waters, Paintings, Sculpture, &c., Fancy Work. The Provincial Government herd of Live Stock, just purchased, will be exhibited and sold on the Grounds. Large Prizes in all the Usual Departments. Special Attractions.—Fireworks every suitable evening, Band Music, afternoons and evenings, Attractive Performances in the AMUSEMENT HALL, Varied Attractions on the PARADE GROUNDS. SPECIAL PASSENGER RATES ON ALL LINES OF TRAVEL. PRIZE LISTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AFTER JULY 15th. ENTRY FORMS AND ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION WILL BE FURNISHED ON APPLICATION TO CHAS. A. EVERETT, Manager and Sec'y. W. C. FITZFIELD, President.

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NEW VICTORIA HOTEL 268 to 282 Prince William St., St. John, N. B. J. L. McCOSKERY, Proprietor. One minute walk from steamboat landing. Street cars for and from all railway stations and steamboat landings pass this hotel every five minutes.

INTERCO ONIAL HOTEL, OPPOSITE I. C. R. STATION. SACKVILLE, N. B. FIRST CLASS LIVERY IN CONNECTION.

BRUNSWICK HOUSE, (Opposite Railway Station.) OGERSVILLE, N. B. Open Day and Night. Sample Rooms on premises. Baggage carried ad from Station. M. O'BRIEN, Proprietor.

ADAMS HOUSE, CHATHAM, N. B. Sample Rooms and Livery Stable in connection. HOS. FLANAGAN, Proprietor.

VICTORIA HOTEL King Street, ST. JOHN, N. B. O. W. McCORMICK, PROPRIETOR.

THE DUFFERIN, E. LE ROI WILLIS, PROPRIETOR. King Square, ST. JOHN N. B.

UNION HOTEL, RICHIBUCTO. This popular hotel is now open for the reception of guests. The situation of the house, facing as it does, the beautiful Richibucto River, makes it a most desirable place for visitors and business men. It is within a short distance of all parts of the town. Has been newly furnished. Special attention is given to boarders, etc. Livery stable in connection. ADOLPHE T. LEBLANC, MANAGER.

HOTEL AMERICAN, MONCTON, N. B. CASSON & CHISHOLM, Proprietors. Cuisine Unexcelled.

THE KENT HOTEL, Richibucto, N. B. GEO. A. IRVING, Proprietor. CENTRALLY SITUATED. Good Sample Rooms. Newly Furnished. Free hack attends all trains.

Commercial Hotel, KINGSTON, KENT CO. FRANK McINERNEY, PROPRIETOR.

Hotel Brunswick, MONCTON, N. B. The largest and best Hotel in the City. Accommodating 200 Guests, situated in the centre of spacious grounds and surrounded by elegant shade trees, making it especially desirable for Tourists in the summer season. GEO. McSWEENEY, Proprietor.

KFNT NORTHERN HOTEL KINGSTON, KENT CO., N. B. RICHARD HEBBERT, Proprietor. Passengers and Baggage taken to and from the Station free of charge. Fine Sample Room and Livery Stable in connection.

NEW KENT HOTEL, QUEEN ST., RICHIBUCTO, NB. THIS HOUSE BEING FITTED AND REFURNISHED THOROUGHLY, IS A COMMODIOUS RESIDENCE FOR PERMANENT AND TRANSIENT GUESTS. BAR IS ALWA'S WELL SUPPLIED WITH THE CHOICEST WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS PROCURABLE. LIQUORS FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES A SPECIALTY. FURNISHED SAMPLE ROOMS FOR COMMERCIAL MEN Livery Stable in Connection. S. O'DONNELL, Proprietor.