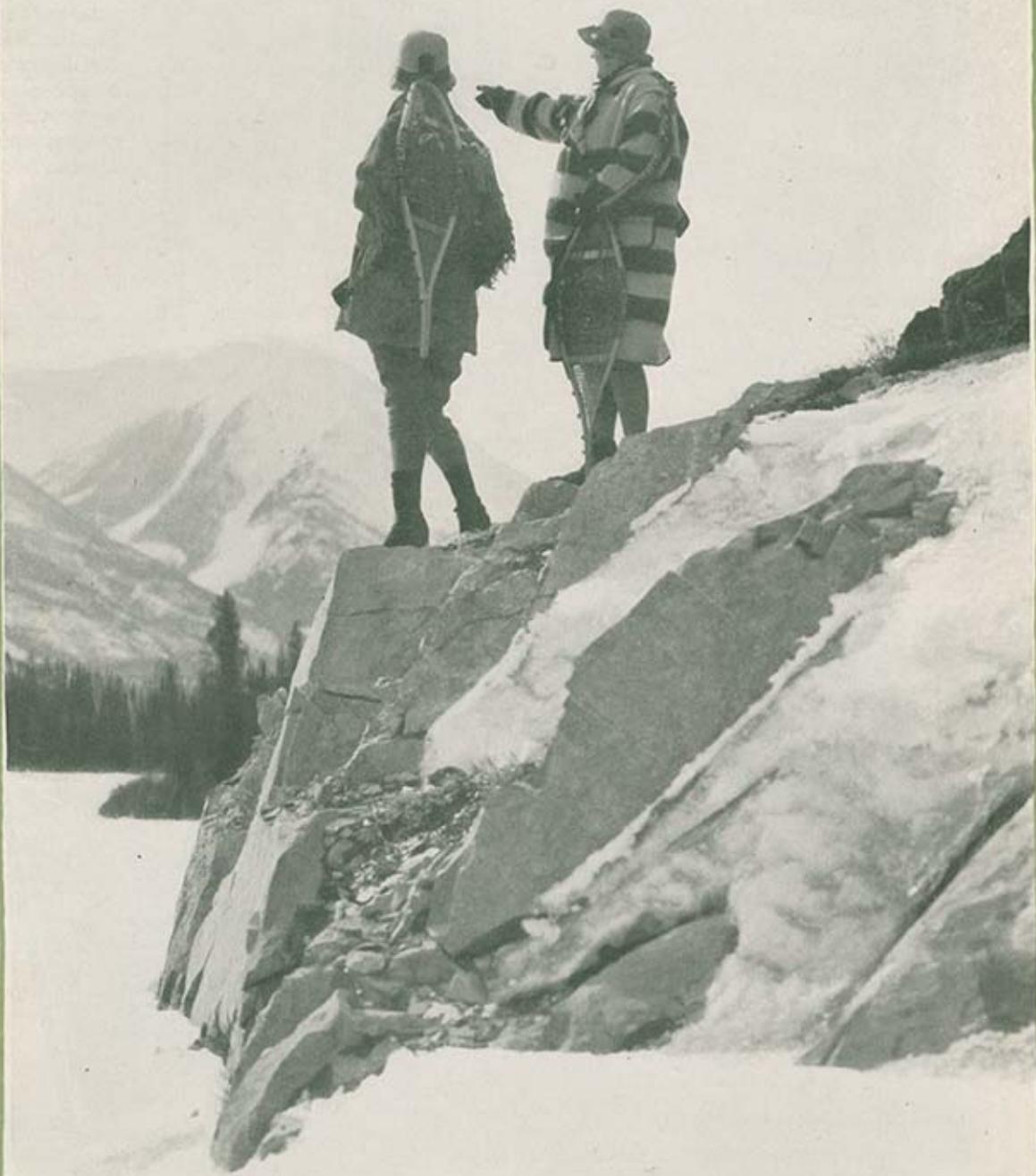


# Winter — Sports at Banff



# Winter Sports at Banff

LET a crowd gather anywhere, and someone is sure to speak of Banff, Capital of Rocky Mountains Park. Banff is known to the whole world as one of the most beautiful and most fascinating of mountain resorts. Someone, it seems, is always just leaving for, or just returning from, a summer where the glacial-green Bow breaks into silver spray beneath the rim of magic mountains. But ever the talk was of Banff in summer; that is, until these last three or four years.

So long it lay waiting there, waiting to be discovered, that beautiful winter world, that it was like the sleeping princess of old-time story. It was the sudden world-wide vogue of Winter Sports that awoke winter Banff. Before the Great War, its own people who knew it in winter, and loved it just as much then as in summer, had begun to realize its possibilities, and had organized small annual carnivals—mostly confined to Banff people, with occasional visitors from nearby towns.

But it was this last decade, when winter sports—which we had always until then practised on this continent as a kind of unimportant by-product—leapt into capital letters and became Winter Sports, when skiing similarly leapt all at once into fame and extraordinary popularity, when hockey got into the Big League, when all kinds and conditions of men (and, more noticeably, women) began to discover the thrills of outdoor life in winter—since winter has, in fact, changed from being merely the space of time between fall and spring, and has been found so full of “pep” and “kick,” that Banff has come into its own. It has the background, the scenic setting and the warm hospitality for the finest winter sports resort of the continent. The stick-at-it-ness of its citizens has simultaneously developed the facilities for enjoying all forms of sport, so that Banff now stands unchallenged in North America.

But Banff, you might say (before you go there), is in the Canadian Pacific Rockies—and aren't the mountains really the most petrifying place in winter, cold and shivery? If Banff were perched on top of Mount Rundle you might be right. But Banff isn't. Banff lies tucked away snugly in the head-lip of the Bow River Valley. Massive circling mountains shelter it from winds. The sun shines on Banff in winter as in summer, and the blessed, whispering chinook—that mysterious, soft breeze—steals down the valley now and again; just often enough to lend a pleasing variety to the weather, and not so often as to put an end to the life which flourishes so lustily in the brisk tonic-like air.



And scenery! The winter scenery in Banff is like the winter scenery nowhere else. The snow here is a little less dry than in colder climates, and Nature takes a seemingly elish delight in moulding it into an infinity of fantastic shapes. During a snowfall, the large flakes fall lazily one upon another, to cling and then to merge. Gradually, almost before your eyes, there grows a Snow Kingdom as weird and magical as Alice's Wonderland. It is a pure-white kingdom dimmed by the dark beauty of spruce and pine on the mountain-side, and enshrouded by a perfect blue sky. Every tree is laden with snow that shines and glistens by sun and moon alike. Arches of astonishing symmetry join tree with tree, until the whole vista is a maze of dancing lights and shadows. Laughably grotesque animals, all of snow, stand here erect, there lie



creuched. Snow-mushrooms spread blanched parasols in componiorable array. Flowers, uncannily perfect, grow beside the small, turbulent mountain streams that sing and bubble away in defiance of the sway of Jack Frost. Through this exquisite still land white ptarmigan move down to drink from the streams.

Night comes only to heighten the beauty of Banff. The huge mountains grow dim and loom shadowy above the valley. Colors blend on mountain-side and forest. Then—above the snow, above the jagged outline of the encircling peaks, far up where the stars gleam like diamonds on the black breast of the night, the Northern Lights go alame, weaving their multi-colored ribbons in and out, up and down, with an occasional crackle punctuating the calm stillness. Banff's winter nights are truly things of glory.

No longer is Banff's beautiful winter wasted. The Winter Sports Season starts with the coming of snow and ends only with spring. It reaches its gayest height during CARNIVAL WEEK, which in 1918 will be held from February 4 to 11. For this occasion, the picturesque town dons its most gala garments. From end to end the white streets blaze with colored lights. Here and there are the tepees of the Stoney Indians, come with their bright-hued blankets, befeathered head-dresses, beaded squaws and shiny-eyed puposes, to take their part in the fun making.

The rendezvous for sports and merriment is the gleaming ICE PALACE, so proclaimed by royal decree of the Carnival Queen. At

For full particulars of the BANFF WINTER CARNIVAL  
February 4th to 11th, 1918, apply to any Canadian Pacific Ticket  
Agency, or to the CARNIVAL SECRETARY, BANFF, ALBERTA.

night searchlights play dazzlingly upon the crystal walls and towers of the Ice Palace, and the whole shimmers like a house of silver in the thickening glow of flares and tall Roman candles. Joyous crowds mill happily in Banff's streets, spread in laughing groups into the open spaces beyond, and watch and take part in the innumerable events. Over all rules the Carnival Queen—private life, Miss Emily Mason. She and her smart-attired retinue of ladies-in-waiting and courtiers set the pace for the merrymakers who come from all parts. And a gay, madcap pace it is!

There are Masquerades and Dances, and Entertainments staged by the Indians. There are displays of fireworks around the resplendent Ice Palace. And Swimming! Spectators, swathed in furs or blanket-cots, stand on the edges of the warm sulphur-water pools and watch bathing-suited men and women, boys and girls, enjoy their sport in comfort. Old-fashioned sleighs go jingling by, laden to the “gunnel,” with happy passengers, drawn along the smooth roads by powerful horses bedecked with nodding plumes and regalia in keeping with the Carnival spirit.



A Sled Race on Snowshoes

There are Sports for everyone. SKI-ING of course is perhaps the most popular. The countryside round about Banff is all that the most ardent skier could ask. It has its level stretches, its low, rolling hills and its mountains, all calculated to meet the demands of the beginner as well as of the expert on skis. Ski parties are a pleasant feature of this sport. One by one you see them skimming away, some of them across the lowlands, some perhaps to a game warden's cabin hidden amid the dark, fragrant pines, where a hot lunch will reward them. Skiing Races are also held.

(Continued over page)

## In the Canadian Pacific Rockies



Whe-e! Then walk back a mile! The Toboggan Slide on Tunnel Mountain.



The Winnipeg Skating Club stage an eighteen.

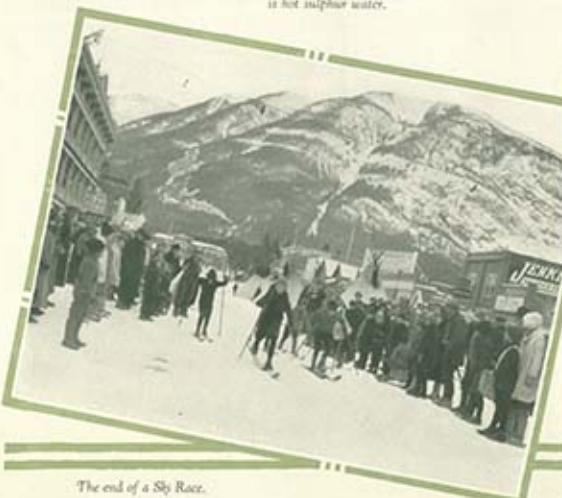
A Fair Hockey Nine.



The Bow Valley from Banff Springs Hotel.



You can't keep the bathing girls back, even in zero weather—especially when the pool is hot sulphur water.



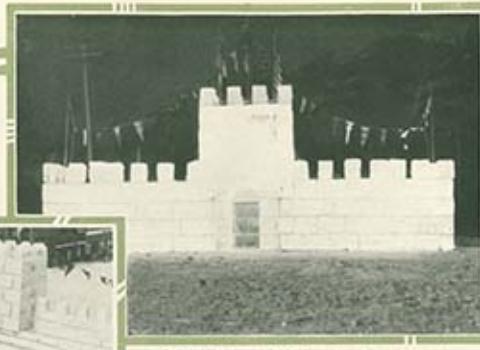
The end of a Ski Race.



Miss Emilie Mason, Queen of the 1925 Carnival.



Reminiscent of Hampton Court, but of ice instead of evergreen—The Maze.



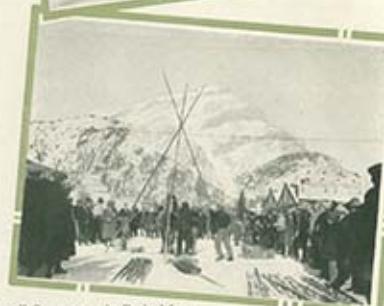
The Ice Palace at the Carnival—glittering at night like a fairy tale.



The Carnival Procession.



An Impromptu item not otherwise listed.



A "Packing" Competition by Rocky Mountain Guides—who show you how to run up a teepee or tie the diamond hitch.

## WINTER SPORTS AT BANFF

**T**HIS SKI JUMP is one of the world's most picturesque, conforming at the same time to professional requisites. Here, during Carnival Week, jumping competitions are held for professionals, amateurs, and young boys. If you wish the thrill of a lifetime, stand at its foot, bend your head back, and watch one of the jumpers come hurtling down the steep incline, soar above you into the sky, and swoop dizzy down like a giant eagle into a sudden swirl of snow far below.

**SKI-JORING** is Skiing with a trifle less effort and with a few more thrills. It is a popular feature of Carnival Week. There are Skijoring Races to watch or take part in, or leisurely jounts out far away, behind well-trained horses which will take you where you wish, as fast or as slow as you wish to travel.

Carnival Week has its SNOWSHOE races and its snowshoe novelty events. Each day, parties tramp off to sheltered spots in the outskirts of the valley, there to eat lunch in the crisp outdoors beside a roaring bonfire.

The twentieth annual BONSPIEL of the Banff Curling Club will also be held during Carnival Week. There are four sheets of ice at Banff, covered; invariably hard and fast, and competition ruts keen. If you care for the old "round game," Banff facilities will please you.

**HOCKEY**, Canada's great and kaleidoscopic national game, is, possibly, skating excepted, the biggest drawing card for teams to gather in Banff from all points. Teams both of men and women come from the Prairie Provinces and the Pacific Coast to take part in the keenly-fought tournaments. Banff is the home of Ladies' Hockey in Western Canada, and the Alpine Club Cup is fought for each year by leading women's teams throughout the West. The Hockey programme also includes a series of senior, intermediate and junior contests.

One of the outstanding events of Carnival Week is the DOG DERBY for the celebrated "Strongheart Trophy." World famous drivers and dogs compete in this race over the long course from Calgary to Banff, about 84 miles in length. Banff's schoolchildren are enthusiastic dog-trainers, and special junior races are staged for them. It is doubtful who derive the more amusement from these juvenile races, the young masters or the spectators.

**SKATING** is always a delight if the music and ice are good. But skating on the Bow River at Banff, by the light of the moon, is superb. The white peaks are silhouetted against a clear sky; perhaps there are Northern Lights to rival the myriad colored lights among the trees and around the rink; the keen bracing air, vibrating with voices and laughter and rhythmic forms gliding here and there to the music, adds to this perfect setting—a sensation not often experienced!

Competitions for figure and speed skating are held during the Carnival. The Winnipeg Skating Club come en masse for these events, also members of various clubs as far West as Vancouver.

Park up on the wooded side of Sulphur Mountain, the top of the TOBOGGAN SLIDE that sweeps down the slope to its end at the Recreation Grounds. Down it drop the low toboggans one after one at a breath-taking speed, dispensing en route a plenitude of thrills—great but safe.

Toboggan Races, too, are on the official programme for Carnival Week.

Could more activity be crowded into one short week? Indeed, yes. Banff finds it easy. There is TRAP SHOOTING. The Banff Gun Club holds its annual meet during Carnival Week, and those who come for it will enjoy the shooting and the club house with

its many unique furnishings. And there's PACKING, perhaps the most singular of all the events. Members of the Rocky Mountain Guides' Association take part in it. Prizes are offered for single and double contests—making and breaking of camp, packing, and for the famous diamond hitch.

Then there is SWIMMING—swimming in below-zero weather sometimes—but in the famous hot sulphur baths that are fed by the springs which bubble up from the ground, with beautiful pools as a setting. Here also there are special competitions during carnival week. The baths are open all day, and visitors can have the experience of bathing in hot water, with snow and possibly icicles around.

And there is sleighing, in real old-fashioned sleighs with horses in carnival regalia, with bells that jingle-jangle like a fairy-tale. And masquerades and dances, and Indian entertainments, and fireworks around the Ice Palace. The Carnival ends in what one can well call a dizzy round of gayeties.

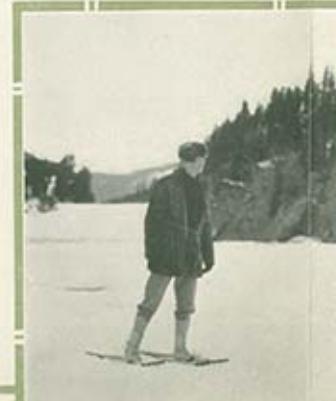
### HOTELS

Banff doesn't invite you to come and share all these attractions without making adequate provision for your comfort. It has grown to a town of fairly considerable size, with a permanent winter population of two thousand. The King Edward Hotel, Mount Royal Hotel, Brett Sanatorium, Cascade Hotel, and Hot Springs Hotel, are open to receive visitors. Huge logs burn night and day in the big open fireplaces. The guest rooms are warm. The meals are good. If you do not bring clothing suited to the climate there are good stores near at hand which will supply you at reasonable prices. Banff enjoys having you come, and does all it can to make your stay pleasant.

## CANADIAN PACIFIC WINTER AND SUMMER—THE ROUTE TO BANFF



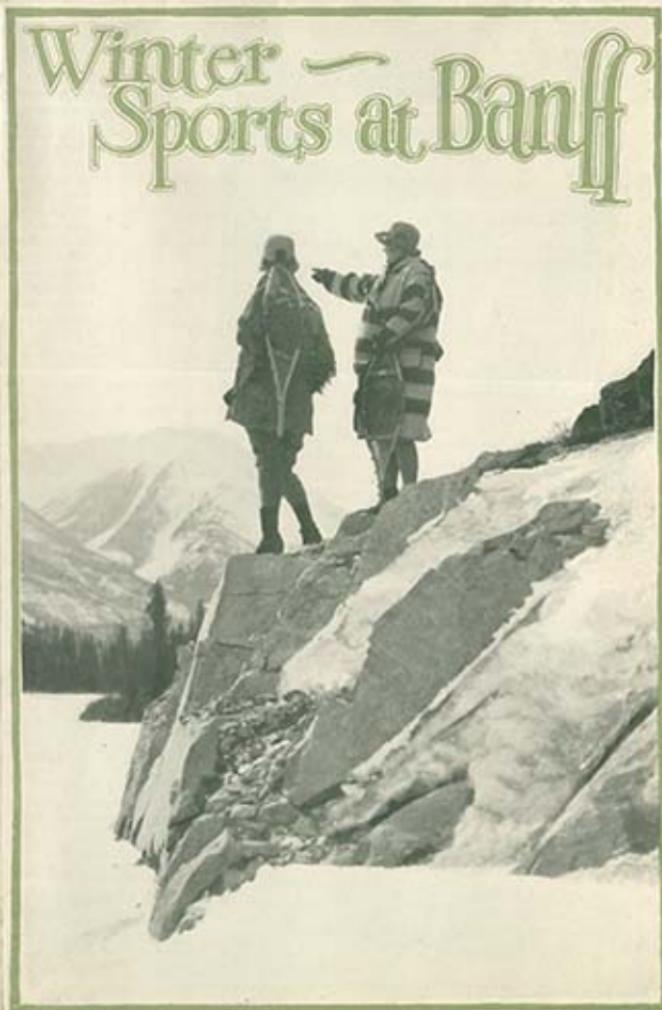
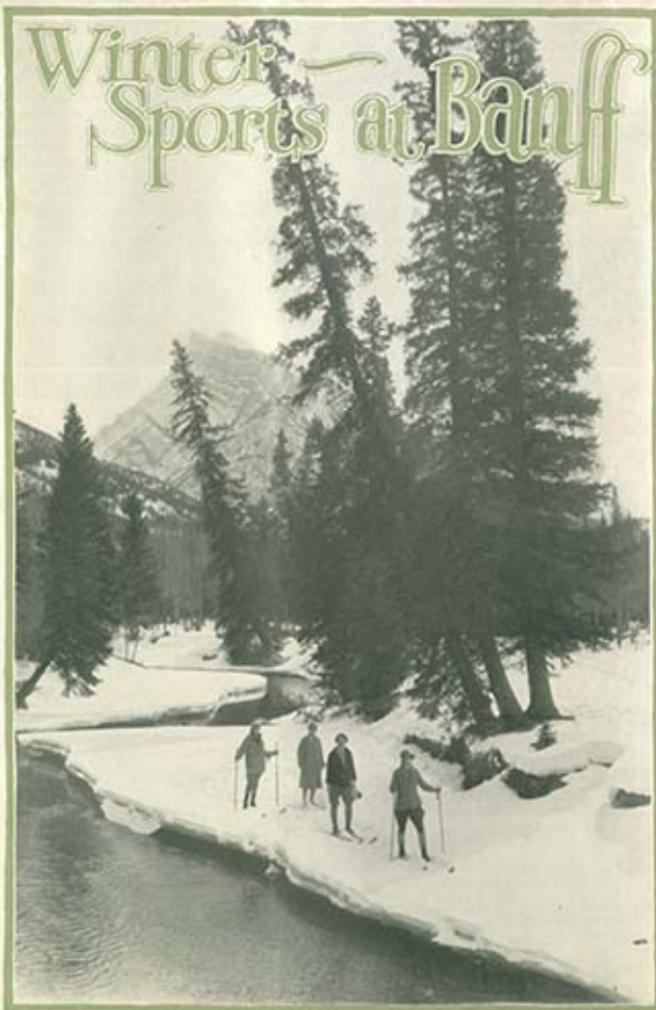
Gold! Well, they don't seem to worry!



Bliss Carman, Famous Canadian Poet.



An Excursion by Dog Team along the Bow River.



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