

**ABOUT TOBOGGANING.**

Several valued acquaintances write asking me to publish an illustrated article telling "all about tobogganing." It would take a long time to do that. There is a good deal of it. There are some things about it that never will and never can get into any newspaper.

To be sure tobogganing is simply sliding down a snow and ice hill upon a flat bottomed sled and then slowly up hill, only for the fun of sliding down again. But the possibilities of tobogganing that walk up hill are something worth while to stop and contemplate. An enthusiast has written a pretty 12-page booklet on tobogganing, and he is particularly eloquent on the subject of sliding up hill. He seems to know how it is:

"Uphill we clambered, and as I felt the gloved hand of Dick's younger sister upon my sustaining arm, I wished the climb might have been twice the distance; and right here I want to say that if ever a woman looks fresh and young and irresistibly lovely it is when at the top of a toboggan slide she stops with her cheeks flushed, her lips parted, and her eyes shining with the exertion of the tramp. At least I thought so when I glanced into the glowing face of my pretty companion. What a sight it was to look back down the slide as we stood at the starting point."



THE UPHILL ROAD.

Artificial hills have been made where the natural ones are wanting, and it is said that these are even more successful than the natural ones, being smoother and having a more regular descent. To build one a place is chosen which has some natural descent. Then a scaffolding of heavy timbers is erected forty to fifty feet above the ground. At the top of the scaffolding a platform is made whence the tobogganers start. Descending from the platform, tracks or chutes are built in which the toboggans run. They lead to the ground at an angle more or less acute, according to the natural lay of the ground thereabout. Sometimes as many as four chutes run from one platform, giving ample room for every adventurous tobogganer. Facing downwards are built to each chute, so that the toboggan will not leave the track.

Thus being substantially finished, the slides are next made ready for the revellers. They are firmly packed with snow, rammed and jammed down. Then, to catch matters, water is poured upon the snow and allowed to freeze. Last of all, this ice track is carefully planed off and swept to make it as smooth as glass. Then it is ready. Down sweep slides the sled goes with a velocity that makes the head swim. The rate is sometimes above a mile a minute. The track at Niagara Falls, which is a model in its way, is one of the steepest in America. Perhaps the most famous slide is that of the Touque Blou Toboggan club at Montreal. The starting point of both these and the Niagara slide is forty feet from the ground, the track being lengthened by natural ice of the land to three times the length of the level ground, too. It is to be remembered that the gathered impetus of the icy way is enough to drive the toboggan yet three or four times the distance of the length of the track.

The toboggan itself is made to combine toughness and lightness. It is composed of a strip of wood one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch thick, steamed and bent up in front to keep the slider from slipping forward. Cleats are nailed inside to give it strength. The newest and most approved pattern has also three or four wooden strips nailed upon the bottom lengthwise to serve as runners. There are hand rails along the side to keep the rider from falling off, and the bottom and inside are warmly lined with cushions and fur.

A double toboggan is usually 6 feet long and 24 inches wide. A single one is 4 to 5 feet long and 16 inches wide. They may be easily obtained, already made, first class ones, too.

Now for the costume. Of course, either a sunlit or torchlit tobogganing scene would be robbed of half its brilliancy without a picturesque costume for the players. The toboggan dress is made of blankets of showy colors—cream, purple, blue, scarlet and orange. These have borders, and when the blanket cloth is cut into the costume the borders are picturesquely arranged. Men wear their blankets fashioned into a blouse reaching half way down their thigh. It is belted around the waist and worn with blanket knee breeches, long woolen stockings that reach to the breeches, and moccasins. Women wear a blanket frock or coat buttoned down the front, and finished with or without a belt. The frock comes to the ankles sometimes, and sometimes not much below the knee, leaving the full blanket trousers to show underneath, with the warm leggings and moccasins below.

The lady rides in front, the gentleman half lies down upon the toboggan behind her and steers the machine with his toe. The moccasin-clad foot sticks out behind him, and a touch of the toe is sufficient to turn the flying sled to right or left. Leather boots are not allowed to be worn to steer with upon a toboggan track. They would destroy its smoothness. Rubber overshoes or moccasins are necessary.

The costume described is sufficiently picturesque. It is completed at the top by a gay woolen cap or hood, with a long, narrow top, ending in a tassel.

Tobogganing is the fashionable sport wherever in America snow and ice are this winter. It is a most exhilarating pastime, too, far better than any artificial indoor amusement. It is set going and maintained by toboggan clubs, which have their own colors in costume, like baseball clubs. The members "chip in" and share expenses.

If not all, this is at least considerable about tobogganing.

**Eugenie's Mausoleum.**

The mausoleum prepared by the Empress Eugenie at Farnborough is now almost ready for the reception of the bodies of the late emperor and prince imperial.

A cursory glance over the list of contributors to Longman's Magazine discloses eight American writers, namely: John Burroughs, Mr. Matthews, Edgar Fawcett, Charles G. Leland, Bret Harte, W. J. Henderson, Mr. Howells and Henry James. Three others—Grant Allen, W. Charles Russell and Julian Bourgeois—might almost be designated as American writers.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Information concerning lands, lots, and business chances in Griggs County, can be obtained from the COURIER office.



COOPERSTOWN.

In the above engraving of Cooperstown it will be seen, that the waving wheat fields, encroach upon the village green—that the suburban villas, are not as yet in *esse*—that the city is immersed in an illimitable sea of pure air, resting upon a basis of vegetable loam, of unparalleled extent, and fertility—that air and earth are shimmering continually in a proxysm of mutual admiration. But for the necessary curtailment of the horizon in the illustration the honest farmers might be seen to approach, the great rural trading point, from the Mouse river, on the north, to the main line of the Northern Pacific,

on the south; from the United States on the east, to where the foot hills of the great western watershed commence to pitch and roll—

- Some in rags,
- And some in tags,
- And some in velvet gowns.

With a population of less than 1,000 souls, draining the trade of 1,600 square miles of richness, populated by an honest, industrious and thrifty people, it is not to be wondered at that its churches, banks, elevators, stores, hotels, newspapers, horse markets, lumber yards, coal and wood depots, architects, ministers, lawyers, doctors, milliners, dress-makers, blacksmiths, machine warehouses, are the best in the world.

In 1885 *Nine Thousand Tons* of wheat was marketed at this point at such a price that had the receipts been equally distributed to the people of the county, \$100 in cash would have been given to every man, woman and child. So rich and vast is the country that centres at this point, if one-half of the arable land should be cultivated to wheat, the yield at 20 bushels per acre, by close mathematical calculation would be in excess of 175,000 tons.

In addition to the cultivation of cereals, the surrounding farmers are raising horses, cattle, pigs and poultry for which they find a ready market. As a grazing country the only draw back is the exceeding fertility of the soil, for it requires moral courage in the husbandman

to graze land that by tickling with a plow will "laugh with a harvest," and that breaks a cast iron binder all up the first season. Cattle fatten at the straw stack, while barley in sixty days converts lean "razor back" into a shapeless of lard. The finest breeds of Perch and Clydesdale horses are carefully cultivated, and thrive upon the native grasses better than the best timothy red top.

The horse, cattle and hog market Cooperstown is a revelation to carvers.

The very best of land can be had \$5 per acre in the vicinity of Cooperstown, while the city offers the best inducements to enterprising business men.

An improved farm of 506 acres within sight of three elevators will be sold very cheap. Every acre is first-class wheat land, except some excellent meadow. An improved farm of 320 acres—all good wheat land—cheap for cash. A magnificent improved tract of 520 acres adjoining a live town can be had at a bargain.

**F. H. ADAMS.**