

MONTREAL HIGH NOON GOSSIP

BY EUSTELLA F. BURKE

Montreal, January 1.

IT IS many a season since Montreal has had such perfect quantities of snow for the Christmas holiday. This dazzling white heaven obliterated the fences, lowered the hedges by feet and yards, and half buried the little farms that nestle close to the earth in the outlying districts.

Just for the fun of it, break trail on skis over the brow of any hill with a southern slope, and there is a chance that you will suddenly go plop into Jean Baptiste's back yard, to the barking of startled curs and the amused chuckles of the good people. The snow has a way of ironing out creases between hill slopes and cottages tucked in at the foot.

In the heart of the city where nowadays the white stuff disappears magically, there are signs of the return of the good old times when to see across a street was impossible for the piles of snow. A few more snowstorms and the horse and sleigh will laugh at the motors that are falling in increasing numbers by the wayside. We counted nine outside a McGill Frat house the other evening, all chugging and snorting and wheezing, making desperate efforts to get away from the side of the road.

Suddenly into the midst of the whirl of dances and teas, comes a whirl of snowflakes and like a flash interest turns to skis and skates and bobs, and as a result, the mountain resorts are jammed.

We would not be at all surprised to discover the entire farming population living at the *Ritz*, while their houses are commandeered by earnest seekers after the simple life. There won't be a cranny for the one who has a last minute inspiration to go out into the great open spaces.

When all is said and done, most of us like a dash of modern comfort with our sports, and chalets and lodges with hot showers and steam heated rooms are the ones that have the general appeal. When Gray Rocks Inn at St. Jovite lit the New Year's fire, a great throng joined hands for Auld Lang Syne. Among the Canadians there, were Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Meighen, Miss Eileen Larkin, Mr. A. P. Hughes, Mr. G. B. Puddicombe, Miss Agnes Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hayman, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Lafave, Mr. F. W. Lynch, Mr. Alexander Michaud, Mr. Gay Hamilton and Mr. A. P. Grigg all of Montreal. Among a party from Ottawa was Miss Agnes McCloskey.

The Chalet Cochand at Ste. Marguerite in the Laurentians had a merry gathering at this time: Mr. and Mrs. G. Ross Sims, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Molson, Mr. and Mrs. Ross H. McMaster, Mr. and Mrs. Gregor Barclay, Mr. E. H. Elder, K.C., and Mrs. Elder, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hesse-White and their two children, Col. R. O. Wheatley, whose wife and daughter are visiting relations in England, Col. Prower with Mrs. Prower who is a pianist, and their elder daughter, Una; Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Irwin and their family, Mr. and Mrs. MacTier and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Landry.

The Leslie Wilsons came from Toronto with a party. Also from Montreal were Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lawson, Mr. Walter Merrill, K.C., and Mrs. Merrill, Dr. Hamilton Baxter and Dr. Stewart Baxter. Cochand's has many things in its favor including Mr. Emile Cochand, who was a famous ski runner in his native land of Switzerland, not forgetting Mme. Cochand, an artist whose works are unveiled to critical, hungry guests three times a day.

At the Alpine Inn at Morin Heights one party included the Misses Anne Logan, Stella Frosst, Dorothy Hyde, Anne Hyde, Helen Stocking, Nina Rutherford, Ruby Hutcheson and Edith Foster.

Everywhere in the mountains, country houses were opened for the holiday fortnight. Co. E. G. M. Cape and Mrs. Cape welcomed the New Year at their beautiful place on the lake at Ste. Agathe des Monts. No need here to go far afield for hills. A bit of a run at the side of the house and one is headed for the lake at a good clip. Across the lake, like some grey bird clinging to a rocky wall, is Mr. and Mrs. Henry Joseph's house. It will be quiet this Christmas for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph are holidaying in warmer climes. Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Brainerd and their children will go to Ste. Marguerite for New Year's.

[See also page 68]



Miss Kathleen Sibbitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Sibbitt, of Ottawa, who made her bow to society along with her sister, Miss Margaret Sibbitt, at a dance. Portrait by Paul Horsdal. Miss Teresa Guadagni, daughter of the Marchese and Marchesa Guadagni, of Montreal. Portrait by Rice Studio

