

## THE “ STEEL SKELETON ”

---

It is a pity that, at the Stockholm games, the St-Moritz « Steel Skeleton » should not have been given a chance of proving its superiority on any other tobogganing machine. The Swiss *Schlitti* and even the Canadian toboggan are as far from the « Steel Skeleton » as may be the old-fashioned bicycle from the most refined modern « chainless ». It is true that making use of it on snow-road runs would be without any interest ; but snow-road runs are gradually replaced everywhere by artificial ice-banks and if there is but one « Cresta » in the world, shorter and less perfectly curved, though sufficiently scientific runs could be easily established, and nowhere better than around Stockholm.

The ideal of tobogganing is no longer what it was some years ago, when Quebec and Montreal's rough riders used to start from the top of any convenient mountain and slide forthwith to the bottom, provided, as puts in M<sup>r</sup> Thomas A. Cook, « Providence were kind enough not to stop progress on the way by some rock or gully along the unknown slopes. » Between this somewhat barbarian sport and its almost effeminate counterfeit known as « Russian Mountains », there was room for something requiring as much pluck and far more quickness of eye and promptness of mind than any former kind of tobogganing. Rapidity of motion is valuable, but certainly skilful riding is much more valuable and with a « Steel Skeleton » on an Ice-run carefully built and properly curved, skilful riding can be brought to its highest degree of perfection. Since the wood has been removed above the runners, giving thus a much greater elasticity and an increase of strength and solidity, and since the head-foremost position has been recognised as the swifter and the safer, « body-steering » has become a necessity and, surely, when a movement of the head alone is often sufficient to alter the line, the tobogganist can claim that a more subtle, delicate and obedient servant than his « Steel Skeleton » does not exist anywhere. To the exciting character of ordinary Tobogganing, it has added much, for it requires every quality of skill, of balance and of nerve. Let us hope that the organizers of the Kristiania games of 1903 wont forget the « Steel Skeleton ».

---

*Le Gérant* : J.-W. HARRIS.

---

AUXERRE. — IMPRIMERIE ALBERT LANIER, 43, RUE DE PARIS