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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SNOW SURFACES

Some winter sport can be found to fit almost any variety of snow surface or snow depth. A light snow cover usually provides good coasting, though even with a deeper cover, coasting will be good on roads or tracks where the snow is compacted. Cold dry snow will make faster going than wet sticky snow. If, however, a good freeze follows a thaw, the resulting crust may afford very exciting sport.

For skiing a crust is not satisfactory, to state it mildly. True, plenty of speed can be attained, but the lack of track leads to disaster. Dry cold snow no matter how deep is best for skiing. Snow-shoeing also, is most enjoyable on dry snow, as wet snow adheres to the snowshoes, making them heavy to lift. A self-respecting person, moreover, will not want to appear in snow shoes unless there is sufficient depth to make their need obvious. With a firm crust as well as with a small amount of snow, there is no necessity for snow shoes. A difficult combination is a smooth thin crust on deep snow. Without snowshoes one breaks through without creepers one can make no headway; so the creepers are strapped under the snowshoes.

If the snow is very soft and wet and most forms of sliding or walking are likely to be unsatisfactory, one may still make snow balls. Such sticky snow is ideal for rolling up large balls for forts or snow men.

Finally, when the snow cover is neither wet nor dry, nor heavy nor light, but merely absent, one may resort to skating, temperature and available ice surface permitting.

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