

## Bethel's Winter Potential Recognized—1937

January 7, 1937 Oxford County Bethel Citizen

Herbert R. Rowe and O.B. George of the Bethel Outing Club attended the meeting for the formation of the Maine Winter Sport Federation at Augusta Tuesday. The president of the new organization is H.H. Sampson: principal of Bridgton Academy and Philip Marx of Rumford is head of the Oxford County district.

The secretary of the Federation, Wallace Lovell of Augusta, has made an extensive survey of the State's winter sports possibilities. His review of Bethel's facilities for development was most encouraging. He said: "The town of Bethel has in and around it, an ideal location for extensive development. It is easily accessible, has good hotels and inns, also facilities for every phase of winter sports. On Sparrowhawk Mountain which has an elevation of 1425 feet, excellent ski trails could be cut and brushed out, the most ideal location on this mountain for such trails would be north and south as the east slope which is the steepest, runs almost to cliffs. Then there is Ellingwood Mountain which climbs to the height of 1500 feet, its steepest slopes being on the south south east side. Trails cut to the north and northeast would be most advisable. Barker Mountain with an elevation of 2582 feet and reached from North Bethel is also an ideal spot for the cutting of ski trails. Caribou Mountain which is 2828 feet above sea level comes under the territory of the White Mountain National Forest. It has a fire lookout and ranger trail, also a cabin at the halfway mark. Best location for ski trails on this mountain would be in the general direction of the trail already cut."

Bethel is one of the very few towns having good skiing so far this season. Although not widely known, members of the Outing Club have had excellent sport for some time past on good woods trails. Although a good skating place has not been developed near the village as yet, the ice covered fields and meadows are providing an unlimited and safe skating area.