

U. S. Ski Experts Praise City For Sports Prospects

Fond du Lac Region Extolled for Natural Advantages.

Prospects of making Duluth a popular winter sports center were enhanced yesterday with the visit here of Fred Pabst, Jr., of Milwaukee and Manchester Center, Vt., international ski expert and head of Ski Tows, Inc., a concern specializing in the construction and operation of ski tows.

Mr. Pabst, together with Lester Golner, Ski Tows' consulting engineer, was in the city conferring with Barkley Schroeder, director of the Chamber of Commerce publicity, conventions and visitors bureau, relative to Duluth's possibilities for attracting winter sports enthusiasts.

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While here the visitors were taken on an inspection tour by Dudley Russell of the Duluth Ski club and John V. Hoene of the city park department through the Fond du Lac area, site of the city's new winter sports center.

Impressed by the natural topographical advantages of this area and of the plans already developed by the park department, Mr. Pabst declared the Fond du Lac area "has great potentialities."

"I believe the prospects here to be better than in any of the communities we visited during a recent survey we conducted throughout northern Michigan and Wisconsin. I see no reason but that with the proper facilities available Duluth can attract thousands of winter sports fans," he said.

The company headed by Mr. Pabst has installed 13 ski tows in the United States and Canada, including the one built last year at Wausau, Wis. Ski Tows, Inc., finances the construction, operation and maintenance of its tows without local aid required.

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He cautioned against attempting to "merchandize Duluth as a winter recreation center" until an adequate sports center is available. Such a center, he said, should be designed to meet the requirements of the amateur skier and not the expert. "Just remember that for every expert there will be a thousand dubs on skis in America this winter," he pointed out.

In this, Earl Sherman, city park department director, said he was in complete agreement and that the new sports area was designed to provide for mass participation.

Indicating he was definitely interested in operating a ski tow here, Pabst announced he was returning to Duluth this winter to study snow conditions. Should his investigations warrant it, he said he would then discuss the installation and operation of a ski tow here with parks department officials and Chamber of Commerce representatives.

Mr. Pabst is the son of Fred Pabst, president of the Pabst Brewing Co., Milwaukee.