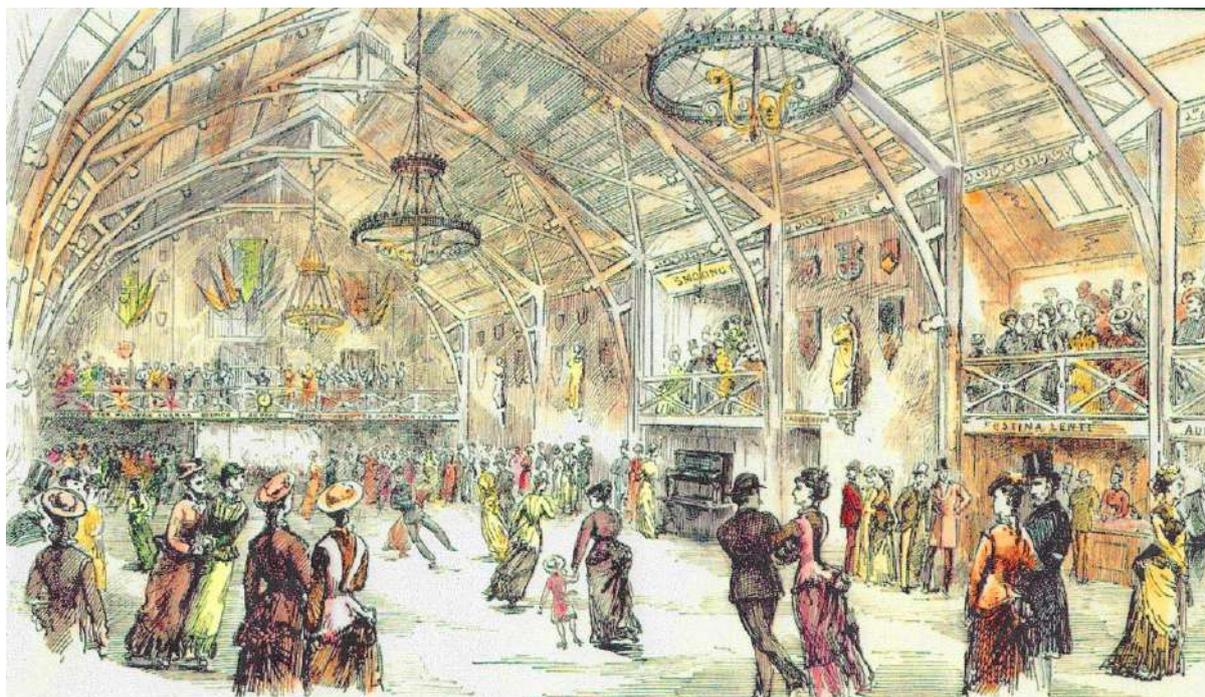


Who needs ice? Roller-skating in Victorian and Edwardian Harrogate

Gavin Holman – 24 June 2021

The first few indoor roller-skating rinks opened in London in the late 1850's. As the designs for the skates were improved, the 'sport' became more popular and by the late 1870's the modern style of four-wheeled 2 x 2 skate was introduced and there was a significant increase in the number of rinks established in towns and cities across Britain, with 50 rinks in place in London



at one point. The sport was promoted as a “proper” activity for ladies and young gentlemen, rather than for the masses (at least to begin with). The press dubbed the phenomenon “rinkomania”, and the healthy exercise that was boasted of was not all that attracted the young “rinkers”. It was also a neutral ground on which the sexes could meet, often without all the pomp and circumstances of society and with a lack of chaperones. Pieces of music and songs were composed with roller-skating as their theme, and many products found a new market to associate their wares with. Clothing and fashion was also affected, with “rink hats” and “rink costumes” being created by designers – often with closer-fitting dresses for ‘convenience’.

As far as the roller skates themselves were concerned, they were first said to have been invented around 1760 by John Joseph Merlin, a Belgian who famously introduced his new wheeled shoes at a masquerade party in London. Unfortunately, his skates lacked brakes, and as he attempted to skate through the crowd while playing a violin, he promptly ploughed into a mirror, broke his instrument, and ended up with severe injuries. The first patented skates appeared in 1819 from the French inventor M. Petitbled. These early roller skates were similar to the modern day inline skate, but with no way to turn. One of the big breakthroughs came in 1859 when the 'Woodward Skate' with rubber wheels was introduced onto the market. It seems Liverpool was at the forefront of this fashion, with a popular rink on Pembroke Place in existence for over a decade. The skates were also known at one time as ‘parlour velocipedes’, and some sources suggested their popularity stemmed from their use by German barmaids during the mid 1800’s in attempts to serve customers more efficiently. However it was the American inventor, James Plimpton, whose quad (four wheeled) skate design eventually took the world by storm, making skating very easy, and becoming the de facto standard roller skate design (at least until the development of the modern in-line skate in the later 20th century).

The rinks themselves, often with a live orchestra and then-uncommon electric lights, became the perfect place to see and be seen in the latest fashions, competing with ballrooms in their popularity.

One good example was the roller-skating rink, opened at The Scores, St Andrews, Fife, on Friday 20 October 1876. It had 2,000 square metres of asphalt 'of the consistency of ice'. The spectators were provided with a magnificent sloping terrace furnished with a sumptuous café. It was the rendezvous of the most select of society; ladies were not permitted, even as members unless 'accompanied by a cavalier'; and one day a week was set aside for 'high life' at an extra admission fee. Children under fourteen were provided with a separate rink. Comparisons with real ice skating, on lochs or rivers, were not complimentary, but the advantages of all-year skating and having no chance of falling through the ice did outweigh many objections.

The 1860's and 1870's in Harrogate saw both large-scale private and public investment. A syndicate of local men, including George Beazley and some hotel-iers, acquired the rival enterprise, built by John Williams in 1835, the Cheltenham Spa Rooms (now the Spa Concert Room), from Williams's executors in 1862. They formed the Harrogate Public Rooms Company with £5,100 capital to create a better entertainment centre, not to gain a direct profit but rather to draw visitors who would prosper their other enterprises. After making a new terrace in 1866 and improving the grounds, they undertook a major reconstruction in 1870, replacing the original Pump Room, on to which the main saloon was built in 1835.

Harrogate, being a significant Victorian spa, with thousands of visitors to its hotels and treatment facilities, was quick to recognise the benefits of providing a rink to accommodate this popular new pastime. It appears that the first rink was created in Harrogate in early 1875, starting off with a temporary rink, with a wooden floor, that was opened on Monday 29 March 1875 in the Crystal Colonnade of the Chalybeate Spa, with Mr Plimpton's Patent roller skates being available for hire for a small fee:

"Quite a large number of persons gathered in the Colonnade at the Chalybeate Spa, Harrogate, on Monday afternoon, to try the celebrated roller skates, which were then introduced into Harrogate for the first time. These skates were invented by one of our ingenious American cousins, named Plimpton, who expended the large sum of 20,000 dollars (£4,000) in one year in perfecting his idea. They are being introduced into Harrogate by Mr. George B. Lincoln, who holds the patent-right for this and neighbouring counties. Mr. Lincoln is assisted by Mr. Harrison, of the Skating Rink, Scarborough, and his two sons, who are extremely clever, performing many wonderful feats, and rendering great assistance. Although at first the inexperienced found the skates rather stubborn and wilful, still, in a wonderfully short space of time they had them under control; and those who were fortunate enough to have tried them even once before were quite at home upon them. The floor of the Colonnade was hardly fit to test the full merits of the skates upon, and it slightly prevented the professionals from showing to a full extent what could be done with them. However, it did not interfere with the pleasure and enjoyment of the afternoon, for we never remember witnessing a more lively and hilarious scene in Harrogate. We have every reason to believe that at the earliest possible date the Directors of the Concert Rooms will provide a suitable skating rink within the gardens (in the meantime using the Colonnade); and that it will be a great source of amusement, both to the visitors and residents, no one who was present on Monday afternoon will doubt."



**CHALYBEATE SPA, HARROGATE.
SKATING RINK.**
THE Directors of the Public Rooms Company having made arrangements with Mr LINCOLN, as an experiment until a new floor is laid, to open the Colonnade as a Skating Rink, have pleasure in announcing that it will be open daily from 3 to 5, and from 7 to 9 p.m.
Admission 6d; use of the Patent Skates, 1s.



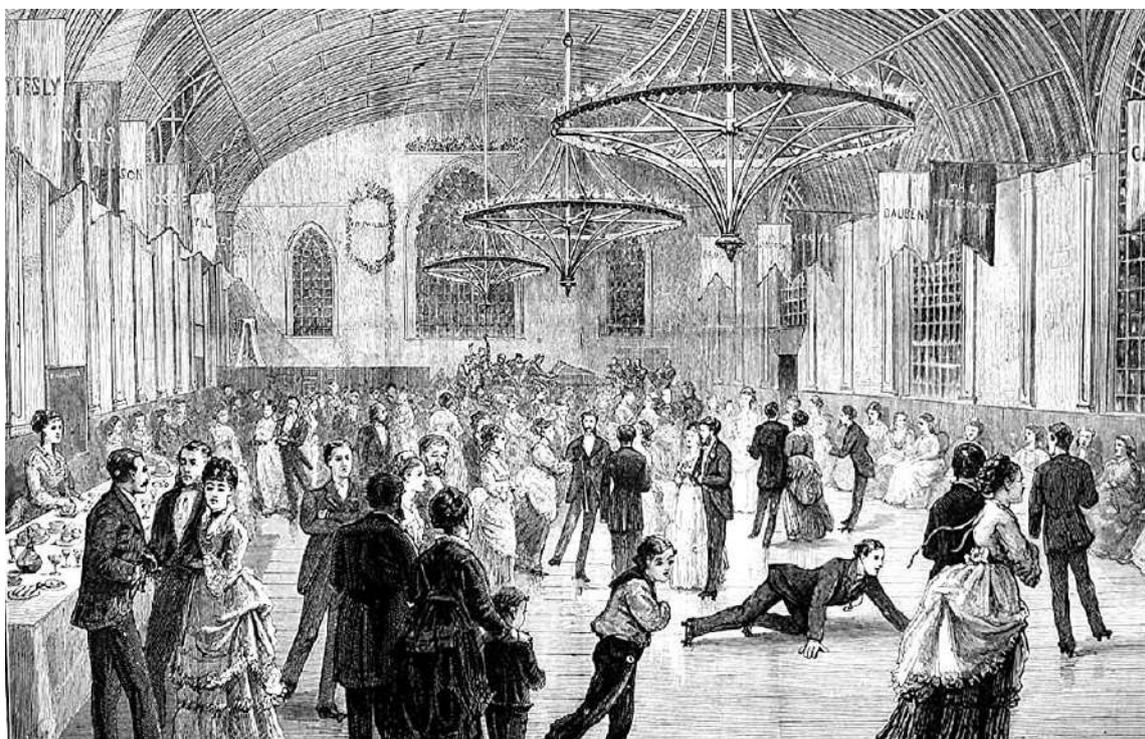
Roller-skaters in 1875 – unknown location

“It was decidedly amusing at the rink, to watch the uninitiated in their, at first, vain endeavour to keep their equilibrium. One little fellow in particular, through his strange propensities for falling, contributed greatly to the amusement of the spectators. In his first fall he came down rather heavily, and it sounded on that floor not unlike the sudden deposit of a cartload of bricks. A shadow of regret passed over his countenance, but it was soon dispelled by a gleam of satisfaction when he felt assured that he was in full possession of all his brains, and had broken no bones. Now the way that boy tumbled was extraordinary, for he never fell twice alike, and he was bombarding the floor continually. However, he will learn to skate, and for good humour and courage he deserves to. One individual who had been struggling manfully for some time, endeavouring to overcome the function of gravity, was heard to triumphantly exclaim, “I’ve got it now”, yes, poor fellow, he had “got it,” in fact, every time he had occasion to be seated. One of our staff thus describes his experience: “I put on a pair of those Yankee skates, and having steadied myself against something stationary. I don’t quite remember what, I struck boldly out, determined that I would not fail through want of confidence. It didn’t hurt a bit, on the contrary I rather liked the sensation. I got up, and once more struck boldly out and again enjoyed a little more of the sensation. Now I had a very poor opinion of those skates, and felt sure that they were not properly adjusted, or that something was amiss with them, so I directed my course, as well as I could, to the skate room, and there had them inspected and oiled, until they were pronounced ‘all right’. I was assisted to rise. I could stand on them beautifully, but feeling a certain want of faith I beguiled one of the attendants into lending me a helping hand just for the length of the room. This time I got on finely. It was particularly delightful skimming across the floor at such a speed, and I changed my opinion with regard to the skates, for they certainly did work like a charm. As I glided round the room my mind was filled with lots of kind thoughts and my heart swelled with gratitude towards Mr. Plimpton for conferring upon humanity this blessing. Just as I was in the midst of my swelling, the instructor released his hold of me to render his assistance to another needy person, and suddenly sat down, thinking that it was not such a blessing after all, that Mr. Plimpton had conferred upon us, and wondering if he hadn’t some spite against mankind when he invented those skates. But not wishing to block the way, nor to furnish facility to jumpers, I gathered myself up with a decided loss of assurance and a slight loss of determination. I tried again, however, and this time did a little better, managing to maintain the perpendicular without much difficulty, and before I left I was perfectly at home on them, and found myself looking forward with pleasure to the time when I should try them on the new rink. In all seriousness, skating with these wonderful skates is indeed a most enjoyable sport, and it is sure to prove a great boon to the visitors and residents of Harrogate. The Directors, we are sure, must feel gratified at the great success thus far of their experiment. The rink has been visited since the opening by large numbers of ladies and gentlemen, including members of the principal families of the town; and the enjoyment of all has been of

the highest character. To the non-skater, the graceful and rapid movement of the skaters afford much pleasurable surprise, whilst the skaters themselves have all the enjoyment of winter exercise on real ice, without the drawback of intense cold. All who have been present speak in the highest terms of the temporary rink, and look forward with pleasure to the completion of the permanent rink, which will no doubt be not only remunerative to the Directors, but also one of the best sources of enjoyment ever provided for the visitors.”

The Public Rooms Company started work on the new permanent rink during April 1875, overseen by the architect Mr J.H. Hirst of Bristol. A report on Saturday 1 May 1875 stated:

“The work connected with the new skating rink at the Chalybeate Spa is progressing finely, and rapid strides are being made towards its completion. The workmen engaged upon the levelling of the ground preparatory to the concrete being put on, will finish in ten or twelve days, and then the laying of the patent asphalt will occupy about a fortnight, so that if all goes on well, we may hope that by the first of June the new rink will be open and ready for use. The only feature about it which is likely to prove objectionable is the abrupt and awkward angle proposed to be made at the end of the stone wall at the north-east extremity of the Colonnade. We trust that this will be obviated, and at least a curve placed in its stead. Although it is not strictly according to our mind as regards position, still we firmly believe that it will be made a fine rink, and one of which Harrogate may well be proud.”

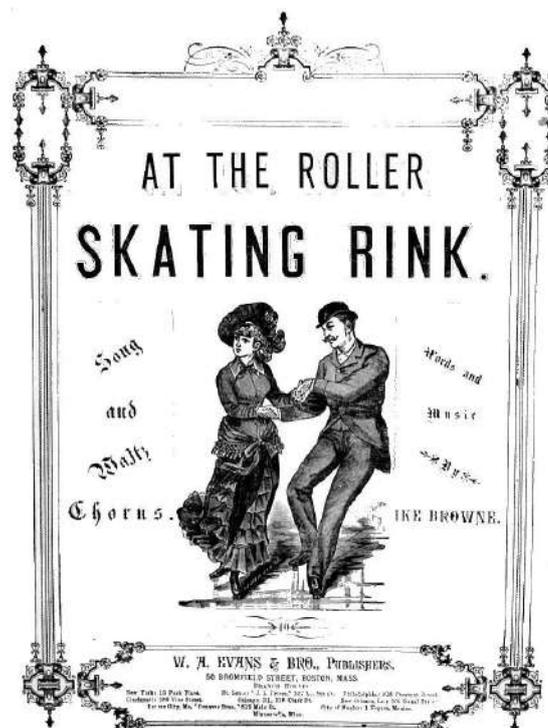


Roller skating at the Corn Exchange, Brighton, 1874

The previous report was a little optimistic, as it was not until Wednesday 21 July 1875 that the newly constructed rink at the Royal Spa Gardens was opened, having cost £700 to build. Its size was upwards of 1,200 square yards, and the surface was of a lead colour, with a broad promenade running along two of the sides.

“The new Skating rink and a bowling green were opened on Wednesday, when the band of the 1st West York Artillery Volunteers was in attendance, and in the evening there was a brilliant display of fireworks. The floor of the skating rink is said, by one of the highest authorities upon the subject, whose name we do not feel at liberty to publish at present, to be one of the finest in existence. It is composed of a substance known as Limmer asphalte, which, while in a liquid state, is flooded over a plain level surface and then left to harden. When it has become hardened, as it is now, the whole floor has exactly the appearance of being one great and continuous surface of smooth slate. The work has been executed carefully and successfully by the Limmer Co. It is laid upon a ground of solid concrete, at very

considerable expense, and it has been so arranged that in winter it may be flooded during a frost, and, when frozen over, may be used for ordinary skating, or for the Scotch game of curling. There is every reason to believe therefore, that in winter, as well as in summer, the rink will prove an attractive, fashionable, and enjoyable resort. One half of it is 205 feet in length and the other half 80 feet, the whole being 40 feet wide, and, as we have said, one floor. It is approached by way of the steps leading down from the colonnade. That half of it which is 80 feet long is covered over, and handsome seats will be provided so that in wet weather skaters may retire thereto, or skate at will, protected from the rain. This part is 20 feet wide, is under the colonnade, and at one end there are elegant and convenient refreshment rooms, which are to be supplemented by cloak rooms to which persons may retire to put on and take off their skates, etc. On the other side, a fine, commanding, asphalted, promenade skirts the rink, and is 230 feet in length. From this promenade an excellent view of the gardens is obtained. The walks in the



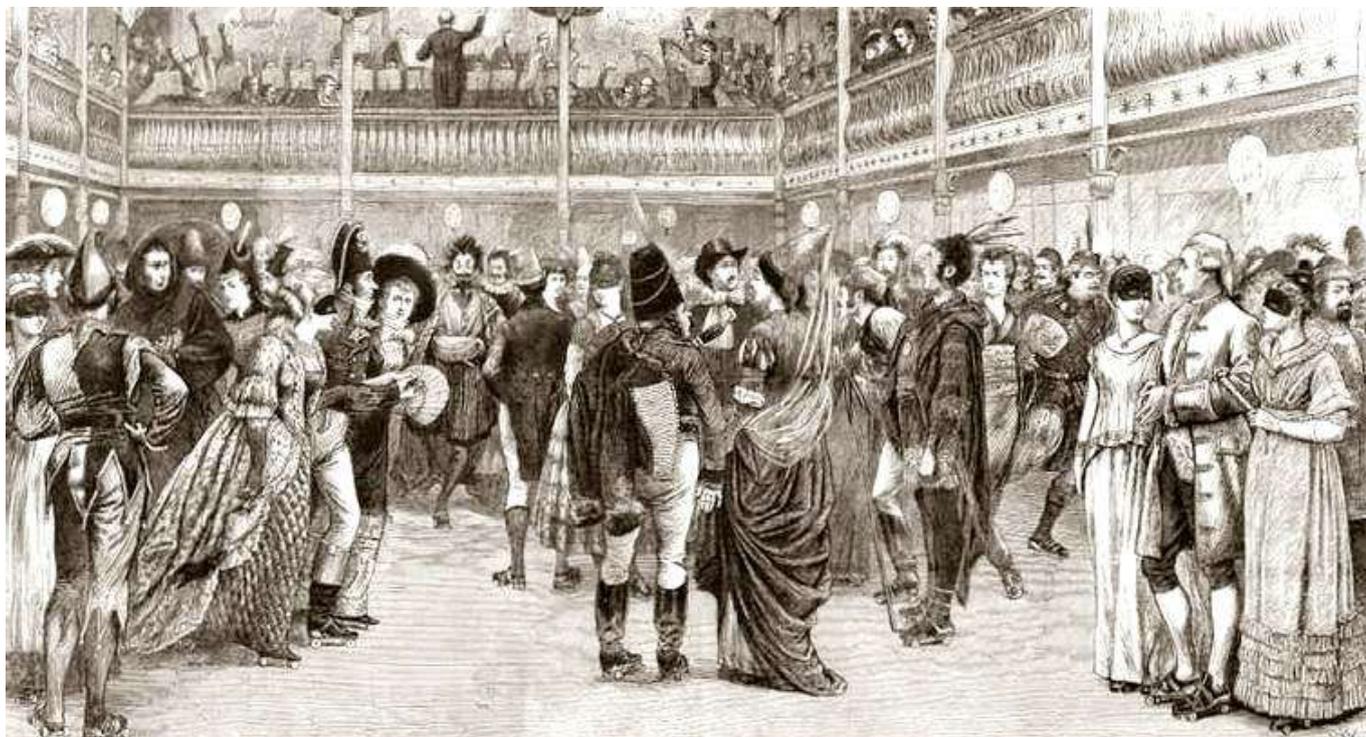
immediate neighbourhood have also been very much improved and a great quantity of what was formerly marsh land has been drained and utilised to a wonderful degree under the superintendence of Mr Monkman, who seems to be a remarkably intelligent, ingenious, and painstaking servant to the board. Under his directions, too, a new bowling green has been formed, 40 yards long by 28 yards wide, at the end of the principal and very imposing terrace. The green promises well, but as the sods have only recently been laid of course the bowling this year can hardly be expected to prove anything but comparatively indifferent. As we have said, the land has been well drained, and the green sward in the lower part of the grounds, once almost a waste, has been studded with attractive parterres, and additional long and beautiful walks for visitors have been formed. It is to be trusted that all the labour, the expense, the "wisdom and the skill," together with the really magnificent results, may be duly appreciated by visitors to this fashionable earthly Eden, and that the gentlemen who have provided it may receive, in addition to the satisfaction of known; that they have catered so well and so nobly, for health and pleasure seekers, a substantial pecuniary recompense. We may add that the roller skates now in use at the rink are an American invention, the name of the patentee who brought them into this country being Mr Plimpton. The weather on the opening day, notwithstanding the curious freaks it had played for some time previously, was highly propitious, and consequently there was a numerous gathering in the afternoon, about a thousand persons being present. The rink was encircled as it were by a rare galaxy of beauty, the ladies being present in considerable force, and in the richest and gayest of toilets. Mr Lomas in a few appropriate remarks declared the rink duly opened. Mr Lincoln, the agent to the patentee of the skates, declared the floor the best in England. Mr Boddy, Mr Dawson and Mr Millwaters also spoke, after which the skaters appeared, about 100 to 120 in number, and performed some really graceful and curious feats, which appeared to delight the spectators, of both sexes, amazingly. The skating of the two daughters, quite girls, of Mr Plimpton, was especially admired. The band played at intervals a well selected programme. In the evening there was grand display of fireworks, by Mr C. Randle, of Wandsworth, London, and a very pleasant day was enjoyed."

By September 1875, the new rink was in continuous use with its 'specially prepared Asphaltic Flooring'. The Harrogate Herald reported:

"Thrice daily the Skating Rink is attended by hundreds of ladies and gentlemen, who zealously pursue the fascinating, invigorating, and elegant amusement of Skating on wheels, to the intense enjoyment of hundreds of non-skaters who constantly throng the raised terrace by which the Rink is overlooked."

One of the 'expert performers' from the Harrogate rink, Tom Harrison, was invited to attend the opening of a new rink at the Victoria Rooms, Bridlington, on 20 September 1875, to teach beginners in the sport. He was accompanied by Miss B. Harrison, an expert skater from the Scarborough rink, who also demonstrated 'fancy skating'.

On Monday 20 September 1875, the Royal Spa Gardens Rink held its second masquerade, which was attended by at least 2,500 spectators. About sixty ladies and gentlemen were the active participants, dressed in an 'endless variety' of costumes.



A masquerade on wheels – roller skating fancy dress ball, 1877 – unknown rink

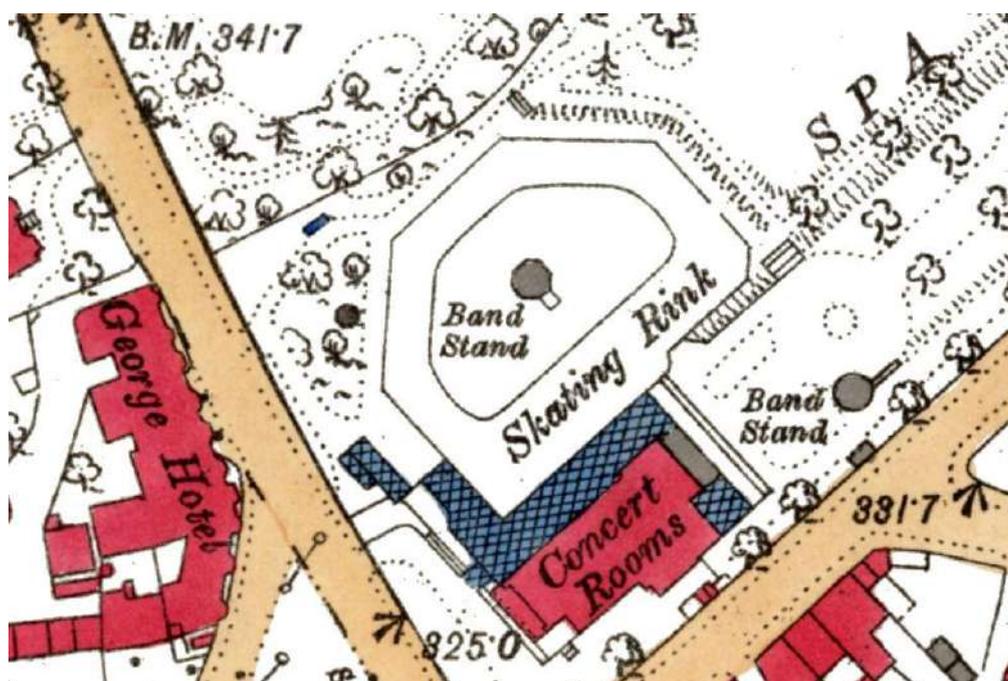
In conjunction with the end of the concert season at the Spa Rooms, in October 1875, there was a final gala concert with fireworks to conclude the evening. 250 skaters were active on the rink and the Harrogate Rifles Band played music in the grounds during the afternoon and evening.

In March 1876 Arthur Hiscoe, the architect, invited tenders for the masons', bricklayers', carpenters' and ironfounders' work required to build a skating rink 330 feet long and 25 feet wide for the Public Rooms Company, Low Harrogate. The new portion of the rink, which would be added to the existing one, would be in the shape of a bent bow. On each side would be a footpath 13 feet wide, and the path alongside the existing rink was to be widened to 20 feet. Where the two rinks adjoined there would be ornamental bridges, so that those skating would not be interrupted by people walking across the rink.

In 1867 the Harrogate Hotels, Mineral Springs and Bath Company, which had recently been established with £35,000 capital, bought the Montpellier Estate, the Pump Room baths and gardens and the Crown and White Hart Hotels. When it failed, it was foreclosed and sold to George Dawson, the builder, who added a wing at each end of the Crown Hotel, and began developing the Montpellier Grounds. During the spring of 1876, Dawson also started to construct a new circular roller-skating rink at the Montpellier Grounds. This was smaller than the Royal Spa Gardens, but it was completed in late May 1876 and opened by Dr Myrtle on Whit Monday, 5 June 1876.

May 1876 saw a closer link between Harrogate and the roller skating phenomenon with the publication of a patent for some roller skates by a Mr Walker of Harrogate.

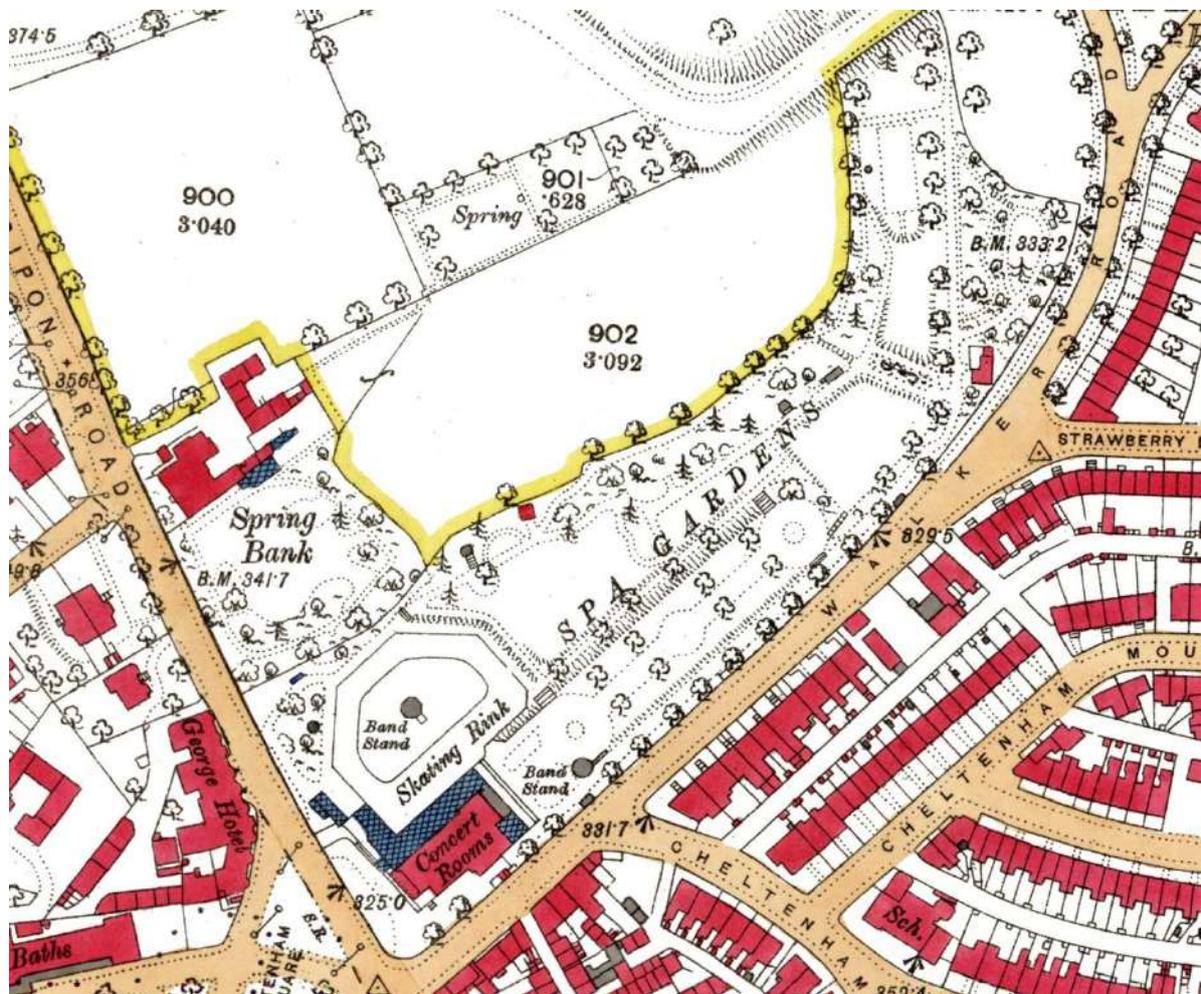
Work continued on the extension to the Spa Gardens Rink during June and July, with excavations and disruption, and a 'confused mass' of flagstones, iron castings and other materials, generally disfiguring the Gardens.



Detailed location of the rink in the Spa Grounds

The new extended rink, the "Prince Arthur Rink" was opened on Saturday 29 July 1876, with suitable celebrations and a major skating competition, which attracted amateur competitors from far and wide, but also a good number of local entrants.

"The Prince Arthur Rink was opened in the Royal Chalybeate Spa Gardens, Harrogate, when a skating contest took place. The rink opened is a very extensive addition to the present one, and was named the "Prince Arthur Rink" by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught when in Harrogate a few weeks since. The addition gives to the Spa rink the shape of the letter D, and for a continuous run is not equaled by any in the country. The surface is splendid, being composed of Limmer asphalt, and the opening of the Prince Arthur Rink on Saturday drew a very large assembly. The chief interest of the day centred in the skating contest, the first of its kind, we believe, in England. For the various competitions there were no fewer than 216 entries, and the prizes offered were for plain and fancy skating and racing. For the latter, the shape of the rink is admirably adapted, and the various heats caused great excitement. Among the ladies the skating of Miss M. Brown, of Underwood Park, Paisley, in the plain and outside backward and forward, was exceedingly elegant and graceful and could not be surpassed. Mr J. Farrar, Leeds, in his fancy skating especially, shone to advantage, and was awarded the handsome silver cup for the best all-round skater, and the gold medal for best feats on skates. Mr W. Harrop, of Harrogate, in the plain forward and backward, and the outside edge, had no compare, and ran Farrar a close race for the cup. The following were the results: Plain Forward and Backward Skating (gentlemen) - 1, W. Harrop, Harrogate; 2, T. Manley, Wrexham. Plain Forward Skating (lady) - 1, Miss M. Brown, Underwood Park, Paisley. Plain Backward Skating (lady) - Miss Brown; 2, Miss G.B. Saville, Retford. Outside Backward and Forward (gentlemen) - 1, W. Harrop, Harrogate; 2, Mr Myrtle, Harrogate 3. Mr Bean, Kent. Outside Backward and Forward (lady) - 1, Miss Brown; 2, Miss Priest, Harrogate. Cutting Threes on either foot - 1, W. Harrop; 2, F. Holroyd, Harrogate. All Round Skating - 1, J. Farrar, Leeds; 2, W. Harrop, Harrogate; 3, R.C. Marsh, Leeds. Best Feats on Skates - 1, J. Farrar; 2, R.C. Marsh. Race Handicap (400 yards), open - 1, E. Bartram, Harrogate (7 yards); 2, W. Horsfall, Leeds (5 yards). Race Handicap (300 yards), under 12 years - 1, J. Tipling, Harrogate; 2, G. Saynor, Harrogate. The judges were Mr Holden, London; Mr G. Renton, Knaresborough; and Mr W.H. Breare, Harrogate."



Location of the rink in the wider Spa Gardens

The competition was greatly appreciated by the crowds. The children's races caused much amusement, as they scarcely waited for the signal before dashing off and 'displaying arms and legs in the most eccentric and peculiar fashion, like little starfishes in rapid motion.' Some of the judges' comments on the competitors were published:

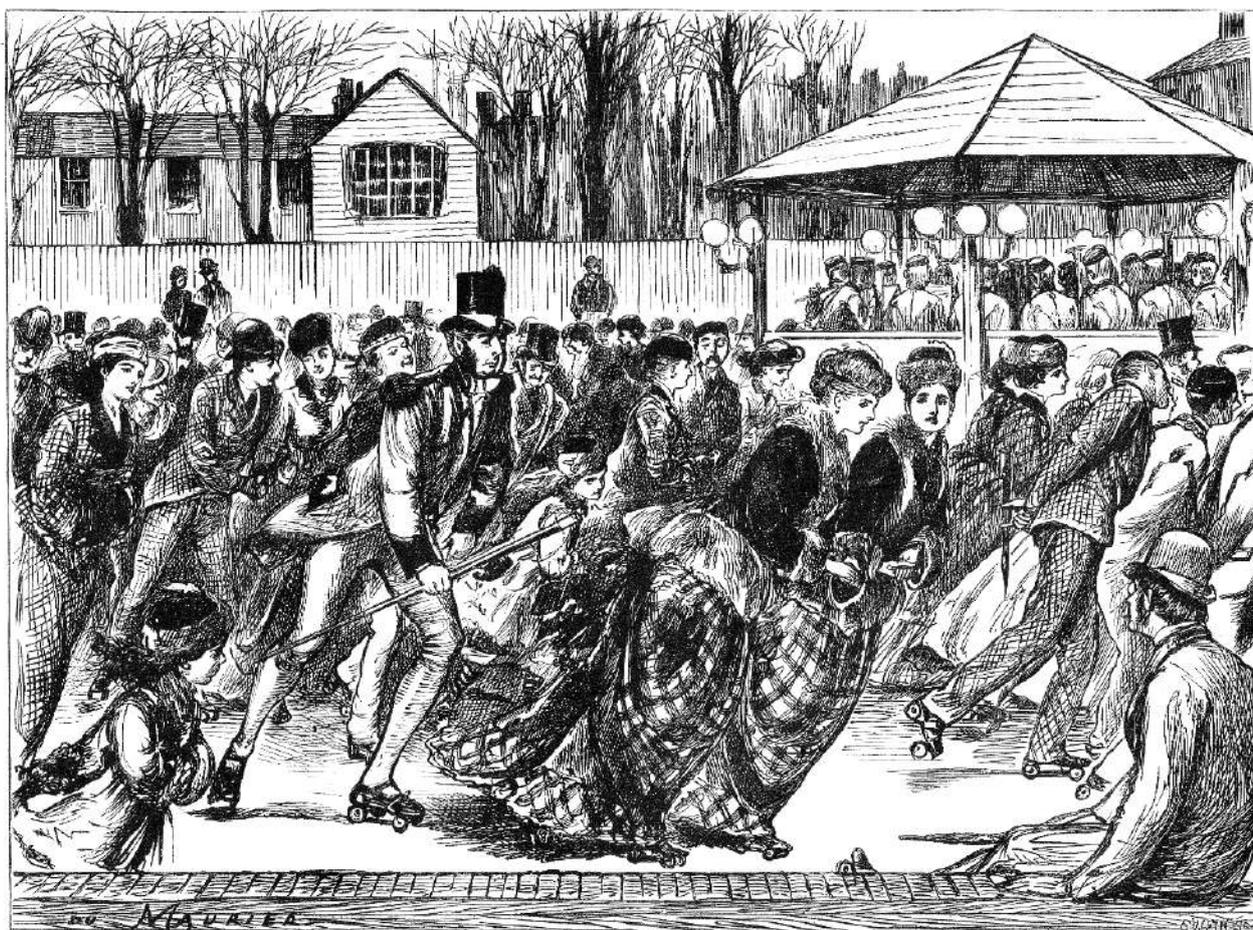
It may interest young rinkers to hear the grounds on which Miss Brown was awarded her two medals. In the language of the judges "The disengaged foot was carried at the heel of the other, and in changing there was no perceptible stroke, but the foot taking the stroke was allowed to drop close beside the other, and by inclining the body in the direction taken by the foot, a wonderful impetus was obtained, and a motion of the body that can be compared to nothing more appropriate than the waving of a willow in the wind. There was no spasmodic jump in the changing of feet, but a flowing movement was preserved throughout. The knees were kept straight; every point was thoroughly studied, and in strict accordance with the acknowledged laws of the art." A young gentleman had his commendation tempered with criticism. His skating was, we are informed, in the "all round skating" and "feats on skates" truly wonderful, for which he carried off the silver cup and gold medal. His spins, outside, forward, and backward, and the eight forwards, executed one half on the toes, the other on the heels, and the three and a half backwards taken from the cross on alternate feet, were all very well done. His threes with loops were rather imperfect, and not up to the mark, being clumsily executed and incomplete. The grape vine, too, was but indifferent; but the wind was rather strong at times, and this might, in a measure, account for the defects. Only one young lady met with an accident - a fracture of the leg - on opening day.

The opening day also saw bowls and tennis matches being played between teams from Harrogate and Ripon, with bands providing music, the events culminating with a grand concert and a fireworks display.

In addition to the crowds of skaters that used the rinks each day, there were occasional performances by experts – some professional and some amateur. The “*Imperial Russian Skaters*” were engaged in September 1876 at the Royal Spa Rooms, and gave demonstrations of their skills and feats with their skating.

Skating rinks often provided musical entertainment, particularly for special events and occasions. Many had an 'in-house' band which was usually a small brass band of perhaps up to 10 players, sometimes a wind or string band. Parties and masquerades were particularly popular. The Harrogate rinks did not have dedicated bands, but some of the local bands did perform there on specific occasions. In October 1876, the following report showed the progress made in the entertainment for the skaters:

“The directors of the Public Rooms Company have hit upon a happy plan for rendering the Prince Arthur Skating Rink the centre of attraction for some time to come. On Monday evening the Skating Rink and Colonnade were cheerfully lighted, and the persevering members of the band of the Harrogate Rifle Volunteers were stationed at the heart of the Rink, just beneath the Colonnade, where they performed a lively selection during the session from 7 to 9. There was a goodly number of skaters present, and the fair sex were liberally represented. A satisfactory feature was the entire absence of any rough element. During the whole session all was life and jollity, and the cheering strains of the band made many skate in direct opposition to original intentions, and exciting envy, and not a few regrets, among those who lacked the ability.”



1877 - John Thomas to the rescue! Rink society in the provinces is apt to be rather mixed. At all events, Lady Fitz-Toppington thinks so, and will not hear of her fair daughters skating without such attendance as befits their rank and station.

In March 1877 there was a court case involving the Montpellier Skating Rink, in Harrogate, which was owned by George Dawson. Frederick Issit had returned from New Zealand, where he had set up a couple of skating rinks, and established two small rinks in Bradford. On visiting

Harrogate he saw an opportunity with the rink there and made an offer to hire it. To begin with, Dawson thought to hire Issit as his manager, as the rink was apparently causing him some problems, not least because it was his wife that had led him into the business in the first place! An agreement was reached between them, for Issit to hire the rink for one year with a rent of £520 with, initially, £10 a week for the first four weeks and thereafter half of the weekly receipts from the rink until the whole rent would be paid off. The agreement also stated that Issit should not use any skates that were an infringement of the Plimpton patent. This was strange, because Issit himself had made a new design of skate, and patented it. His skates 'worked on an india-rubber pad which gave ease to the feet when skating.' Mrs Dawson, in the meantime, was very much not in favour of the agreement, stating that Issit would make £1,000 out of it at the rent proposed. At some point, Issit sent over 46 pairs of skates to the rink at Harrogate, and visited with the intent of taking possession, only to find that there was another manager in place, Mr Walkington, and that Dawson had since sold the rink. Dawson had heard rumours about Issit having problems with drinking, and after visiting Issit's father in Bradford, and hearing about his previous sobriety issues, and his apparent teetotalism now, stated that he could not continue with the agreement. He said that Issit was 'unsteady, he had been seen with his face much disfigured, and that his general character was bad.' Ultimately, the jury decided in Issit's favour and he was awarded \$50 in damages.

In May 1877 the Harrogate Skating Rink advertised the appearance of "*Bicycle Equestrians*" who would perform daily at 5.30 and 7.30. Admission to the rink for subscribers was free, non-subscribers, 6d.

HARROGATE ROYAL SPA CONCERT
ROOM, PLEASURE GROUNDS, AND
SKATING RINK.
GRAND VOCAL, INSTRUMENTAL, AND PROMENADE
CONCERTS DAILY DURING THE SEASON.
The Pleasure Grounds form an
**ELEGANT AND FASHIONABLE
PROMENADE.**
THE SKATING RINK,
One of the finest in England, open daily.
LAWN TENNIS,
Two Fine Asphalt Courts, Bowling Green, and other
Sports in the Gardens.
THE UNIQUE CHLORIDE OF IRON WATER
Is served in the Pump Room direct from the natural
Spring on the Estate.
THE NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE MEET
Will take place in the Pleasure Grounds, on **AUGUST 2nd,**
Bank Holiday.
GEO. THOMPSON, Secretary.

A masquerade was held at the Chalybeate Spa Skating Rink on Saturday 21 September 1878. The rink was illuminated by Chinese lanterns and also, in part, by Monsieur Mori's limelight apparatus, with Greek fire at intervals during the evening. A description of the evening was:

"... a grand parade of comic characters, including four clowns, harlequin, monkeys, bears, niggers, Sarah Gump, Mother Shipton, &c., who formed a motley group, as they skated in Indian file around the rink to the strains of the Harrogate Rifle Volunteer Band. These, after an interval, were followed an entrée of male and female court characters, many in really

gorgeous attire. The scene now became most animated; and the odd groupings of the characters, the strange medley of dresses, the ludicrous episodes ever and anon occurring from the incongruity of the characters brought into juxtaposition, the "strange, fantastic tricks" played by the comic characters - more especially the four clowns, and the graceful and expert skating of all the characters, made a *tout ensemble* long to be remembered with pleasure. The whole of the arrangements, we understand, were under the control of Mr. Monkman, and the success of the whole entertainment is ample proof of the wisdom of his arrangements. The same care that has always been taken to secure the select character of all who took an active part in the amusements was observed throughout, and the result was, as it ever has been at the Harrogate rink masquerades - a most charming evening's gratification, in which fun and frolic were free from rudeness or vulgarity, and the utmost propriety prevailed in the midst of the utmost good humour. We have said that the whole was a success; but we think that it would have been enhanced as a spectacle had the new (or semi-circular) portion of the rink been closed. By this means the whole of the illumination, as well as the whole of the masqueraders, would have been concentrated upon the old or oblong portion of the rink, and a double object thereby gained; first, greater brilliancy of light for displaying the dresses; and secondly, the prevention of those occasional gaps in the grouping of the characters which it is always most desirable to avoid. While saying this, however, we do not for a moment detract from what we have already said in regard to the unqualified success of the masquerade - an entertainment for which the visitors and residents have to thank the public spirit of these plucky caterers, the Directors of the Public Rooms Company."



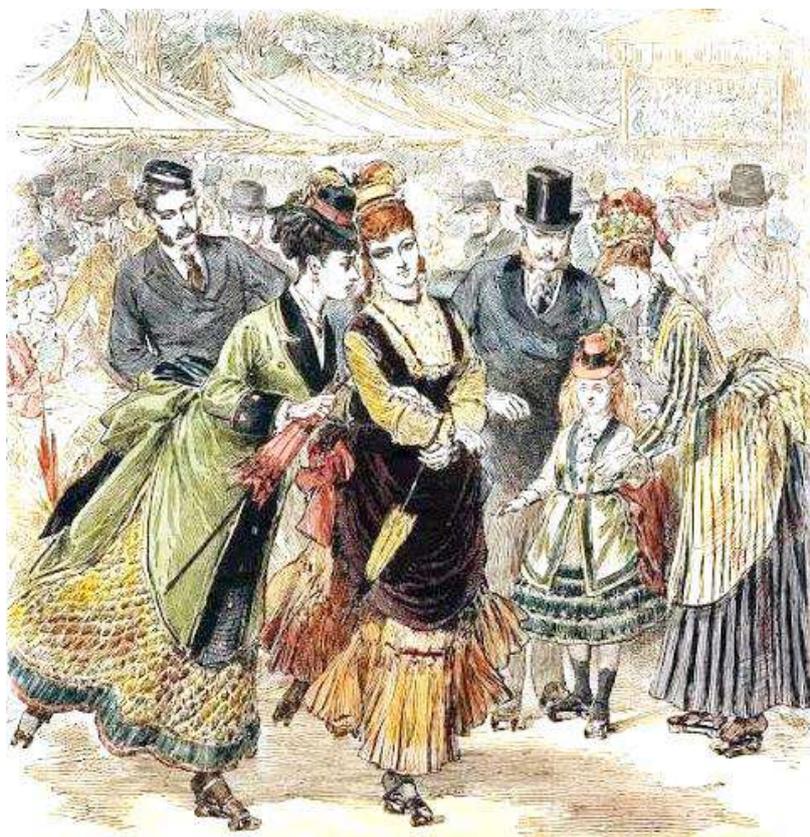
"Rink to me only with thine eyes..." (1876)

A bicycle race meeting was held at the rink on Saturday 23 August 1879, with the event including a five-mile race (20 times round the rink, prize – a dressing bag, value 5 guineas, won by A. Spalding, Harrogate), a four-mile race (a silver watch, value £3 10s, won by M.P. Appleton, Harrogate), "performance on the bicycle" (prize – a Gladstone bag, won by J.W. Medici, Harrogate), a skating race (10 time round the rink, prize – a gold pencil case, won by C. Maude, Harrogate), and a consolation bicycle race (16 times round the rink, prize – a silver cup, won by W. Johnson, Bradford). Mr Medici's prize, however, was withheld due to there being objection to him being a professional.

In the last week of January 1880, during the heavy frost and cold weather, the directors of the Prince Arthur Skating Rink flooded the whole of the rink, to create an ice-skating rink, which was visited by considerable numbers of people.

Saturday 21 August 1880 saw the rink again used for bicycle and skating races, followed by a masquerade in the evening:

“There were in all six events for competition, for which some excellent prizes were offered, and though the grounds are not especially adapted for bicycle races, all the events were most keenly contested. In the evening a grand skating masquerade carnival took piece upon the Prince Arthur Skating Rink, before a vast assemblage of spectators, numbering several thousand people. Almost every imaginable popular character was represented from Gladstone to Beaconsfield and downwards; court and comic characters were caricatured in endless profusion. Part first consisted of a grand burlesque, which was followed by a comical parade, and this was followed by the whole company making their appearance, to the number of 70, and a very imposing promenade took place on the rink to the intense amusement of the vast assemblage of spectators. During the evening at intervals the flower garden within the rink was brilliantly illuminated by Greek fire, and the *tout ensemble* presented a most pleasing and effective appearance. At the close the whole company divested themselves of their skates and joined in the Sir Roger de Coverley dance to the strains of the Harrogate Volunteer Band, after which the entertainment was brought to a close.”



The annual carnival took place at the rink on Saturday 27 August 1881:

“The Skating Carnival at the Harrogate Rink was a great success, and much interest was taken in the bicycling, which, to say the least of it, was a very clever exhibition, and I dare say many persons went away with the idea that Billy Maude and Bob Slee were professionals engaged for the night. The comic characters, mounted on bone-shakers, were amusing. There was a clown who had on his back a card, on which was inscribed the word "scratch" and he was endeavouring to catch up a small boy mounted on a large machine, whilst Policeman A1 was trying to run the pair in for having no lamp or bell.”

“The illumination, effected by thousands of Venetian and other oil lamps, clustering thick as bees about a hive, over the orchestra, rink, summer-house, grottoes, &c., was a really beautiful sight, and worth journeying a long distance to see. But in addition to this the gay dresses, graceful and grotesque skating, and clever bicycling, combined to produce a picture seldom seen; and Mr. Monkman is to be congratulated on his tasteful work of display. The masquerade itself was divided into six parts, commencing with a grand cavalcade of all masqueraders, including bicyclists, also ladies and gentlemen representing English and Foreign nations; characters from various operas and plays; and many fancy, national, historical, and comic characters. 2nd - Grand bicycle entertainment in three different parts of the rink at the same time, by members of the Harrogate bicycle club, in grotesque costumes. Messrs. Maude and Slee's performances were wonderfully good, and were loudly cheered. Third - Imposing procession of all masqueraders. Fourth - Grand ornamental skating exhibition by amateurs who have learnt upon the Prince Arthur Rink. Fifth - Burlesque entertainment, the persistent Member for Northampton forcing his way into the House of Parliament. Sixth - Grand Masquerade Skating Carnival, concluding with Sir Roger de Coverley, in which the whole of the masqueraders took part. The whole entertainment, under the direction of Mr. Monkman, passed off remarkably well. The majority of the dresses were supplied by Mr. Simmons, costumier, of London.”



Skaters, c. 1880

Another masquerade carnival took place on Saturday 8 October 1881:

“The main feature of the evening's entertainment was the trick-riding of Messrs. Maude and C. Slee, of the Harrogate Bicycle Club (who, by the way, are able to best any professional troupe I have seen), and they were well seconded by C. Maude, jun., J. Slee, jun., and F. Preston, jun., who bid fair to equal the performances of their elder brothers. As much as twenty stone in weight was piled on to a machine at times, so it says a lot for the strength of the bicycles.”

The first masquerade of 1882 took place on Saturday 26 August 1882, with over 100 active participants:

“The costumes, supplied by Mr. B. J. Simmons, 8, King Street, Covent Garden, London, were exceedingly varied and brilliant; the most noticeable perhaps, being some ladies of Elizabeth, with their courtiers ; Joan of Arc, Clairette, Cetewayo, Arabi, &c. Some clever performances on bicycles were gone through by Messrs. J.W. Maude and R.W. Slee whose wonderful exploits and dexterity drew forth much applause. Comical characters were not wanting and furnished endless amusement; the policeman's movements being ludicrous in the extreme, whilst he was ably supported by the clowns, pantaloons, harlequin, acrobats, &c. Mr. and Mrs. Hodge with their prodigious growing powers were also duly appreciated. The skating of "Mephistopheles" was magnificent, and left no doubt upon the minds of the spectators as to his identity. The whole passed off in capital style, and showed able management; but we must mention that the newer portion of the rink was entirely deserted at times, which of course detracted from the pleasure of those who were unable to find standing room round the wider rink. The Harrogate Volunteer Band was in attendance, and furnished lively selections during the evening.”

This was followed by a second, similar, event, held on 16 September 1882.



Advertisement for the Norwich skating rink in the 1880's

Some changes to the rink and grounds were made during spring 1883:

“The grass plot in the centre of the extensive skating rink has been tastefully laid out into beds of various forms and planted with a choice selection of flowering and foliage plants. Interesting collections of statuary are neatly arranged here and there, and the new coat of paint which they have lately received increases their effectiveness. The grass in this plot is in most parts very fresh and green. The rink adjoining has been formed into two tennis courts, and the games are watched with much interest by the visitors seated in the colonnade. The other portion of the rink forming a complete semi-circle is utilised for the purpose of skating with the Plimpton roller skates. The terrace leading from the steps of the colonnade has been altered and improved with good effect. Forming as it does the principal promenade in the gardens, the directors have decided to place an ornamental orchestral stand in the centre in order that the band of the company may play therein during the morning promenade concerts. This will doubtless be much appreciated, and render the terrace as a promenade more popular than ever. Numerous arrays of seats have been placed under the shade of the overhanging beech trees on the terrace, and immediately in front of the orchestra the footpath has been considerably widened so as to admit of two or three rows of seats. The orchestra is now in course of construction, and will be completed at an early date. The lawn at the foot of the terrace, generally used for the display of fireworks has been entirely re-laid, as

in former years the level has been anything but true. This improvement has already met with commendation, for by it the lawn can now be used as a bowling green or for the games of badminton and croquet. At the north-east end of the lawn a neat serpentine walk has been constructed, winding between two yew trees of prodigious dimensions, and close by preparations are made for the formation of a small rockery, which will be surmounted by a piece of statuary. The chestnut trees on the lawn are developing splendidly, their wide-spreading branches being literally loaded with blossom, which, in a few days, will add a pretty effect. The bowling green, notwithstanding the recent excavations, is assuming its accustomed evenness of surface. The grass in some parts is in excellent condition, and exceptionally thick and soft, whilst in others it has become somewhat thin. To the right of the bowling green the bank has been planted with acubas and evergreens, the former of which are in a very forward and healthy state, but the latter have had their growth and development somewhat retarded by winds and occasional night frosts. Proceeding to the tennis courts at the extreme end we noticed that one was partially covered with unsightly stones. This defect, we trust, will be removed ere long. The construction of the culvert caused the entire destruction of one of the tennis courts, and its re-formation was decided upon, and at the present time it presents a neat and clean appearance, in its perfected state. One or two mounds closely adjoining have been raised and planted, and they will tend to screen the tennis courts from chilling winds. Many of the walks have been re-covered with sand, and the borders beautified here and there with flowering plants. The seats throughout the entire length of the grounds have been re-painted, and the grottoes similarly treated. The trees, with which the grounds are well stocked, are in full leaf, and their appearance is remarkably fine. The retreats have been arranged with an eye to beauty as well as comfort, and present an inviting aspect, as they find favourable situations in the most picturesque portions of the walks. Great credit is due to Mr. Dobson, the manager, for the energy and skill displayed in the re-arrangement of the statuary and walks, and the manner in which the lawns and terraces have been improved. The interior of the concert room has been arranged for the usual "season" concerts. The proscenium and stage fittings have been taken down, and the orchestral platform fixed in their place. In the colonnade no change is noticeable, but in a week or two ferns and other plants will be suspended from the roof in wire baskets, and plants artistically placed both in here and on the front of the stage of the adjoining concert room."



Advertisement for roller-skating "fashion"

These changes were much appreciated by the thousands of visitors to the Spa during the 1883 season, and the first of the masquerades took place at the rink on Saturday 18 August 1883:

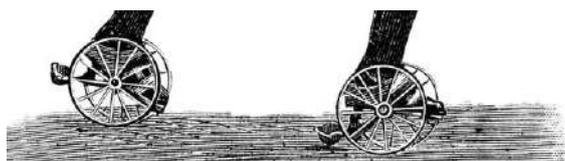
“The gardens were illuminated by Messrs. Mori, Robinson, and Son's high current electric light of 50,000 candle power, and a number of coloured lamps were fixed in the grottoes around the grounds. By eight o'clock, the colonnade, terraces, and circuit of the rink were crowded with spectators. Prior to the commencement of the masquerade, Messrs. Napier and Alexandre, the celebrated gymnasts, performed an interesting series of acrobatic "tricks" on the treble horizontal bars, which were fixed on the grass plot within the inner circle of the rink. The whole of their performance was characterised by gracefulness and accuracy, and the plaudits of the spectators were frequent and loud. The masqueraders, about 90 in number, afterwards proceeded round the rink in double file, and separated into single file upon arriving at the point of starting, then joined into double again after traversing the length of the rink. Many of the costumes were elaborate, and seen to advantage by the aid of the powerful electric light. An ornamental skating ballet followed, when some capital figuring was noticeable. A waltz was also introduced, and the efforts of the skaters were much applauded. The next event was a procession of kings and queens. This part of the programme was decidedly an interesting one, and the cavalcade was very imposing. The whole of the maskers then joined in, and skated at pleasure around the rink. The burlesque, by the "comic element," was at times laughable, though a little boisterous. The last distinctive procession was the military representative congress of officers of all nations, in honour of General Lord Wolseley and Admiral Lord Alcester. During the evening, the Band of the Rifle Volunteers under Mr. Bowling, played an interesting selection of music. The costumes of the masqueraders were supplied by Mr. B. J. Simmons, 8, King Street, Covent Garden, London. The carnival passed off with every satisfaction, and the electric light was a decided acquisition.”



Once again, the 1884 season saw the rink being regularly used for roller-skating, culminating with a series of carnival events at the end of the summer:

“After the usual concert there was a masquerade skating carnival upon the rink. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated with coloured lamps, presenting a Vauxhall-like appearance. The splendid band of the Spa occupied the orchestra in the centre of the rink and under the masterly direction of Mr R.S. Burton discoursed an excellent selection of music during the proceedings. The weather, which was all that could be desired, a beautifully cool breeze succeeding the almost tropical heat of the day, lured hundreds of persons, into the gardens. The chief attraction of the evening concert was Miss Margaret Hoare, a medalist of the Royal Academy of Music, whose splendid voice was much admired. Among the specialities introduced among the masqueraders were the following: Grand parade and magnificent display of court, historical, fancy, comic, and grotesque costumes; grand congress of nations comprising representatives of all countries in national costumes; the capture of the Mahdi, flight of the Egyptians; General Gordon released at last; the Franchise Bill - representatives of its chief supporters and opponents; imposing procession of masquers - historical, court, comic, and miscellaneous.”

Similar carnivals took place in September 1886, but these seems to have been the last such events at Harrogate during Victorian times, as the roller-skating craze faded away. It is assumed that the rink surface was repurposed as paths and flower beds once the skating ceased.



It would be another twenty years or so before roller-skating once again became fashionable. The new craze began in November 1908 with new rinks rapidly being established across the country over the next six months.

At the monthly meeting of Harrogate Town Council, on Monday 11 January 1909, there was a lengthy discussion on the topic of a proposal to erect a skating rink building in the grounds of the Kursaal, using the former bowling green site (50 yards long, by 28 yards wide), with leases of 3 to 10 years, and rental of £100 per annum free from rates, with any electricity being paid by the Corporation. Despite there being some support for the venture, the proposal was rejected, mainly on the ground of the effect it would have on the Kursaal and its amenities.

Notwithstanding the Kursaal site being rejected, the original applicant, Charles Bedworth, of Hanley, Staffordshire, went into partnership with Arthur Ernest Wynn, of Harrogate, and secured an agreement with the North-Eastern Railway Ltd, for a site adjacent to their premises on Dragon Road. The plans were accepted by the Council and contracts for the building work were agreed by the end of January 1909. Coincidentally, a proposal from a local syndicate, for a second skating rink, in Otley Road, Harrogate, with an area of $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, was mooted at the same time. The prospectus for the Dragon Road rink was published on 6 February:

“This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring a properly equipped, up-to-date Roller Skating Rink, situated on the Dragon Estate, near the Swimming Baths, in Harrogate, about eight minutes' walk from the Station. The revival of the Roller Skating Rink in England has been phenomenal. Rinks are being established in the principal centres in the country for this fashionable and healthy form of amusement, while companies owning rinks are reaping large profits, in some cases, it is understood, over 100%. The revival is

due to several causes, but chiefly to the addition of the ball bearing to the skate wheel. Harrogate is a town affording exceptional promise for the success of a Skating Rink. In addition to the number of its inhabitants, many thousands of well-to-do visitors come to the town annually, and, seeking amusement, many are likely to patronize the Skating Rink. The amusement is now recognized by the medical profession as being not only healthy, but also for certain complaints exceptionally beneficial; and there are many towns in which rinks are established to which doctors send their patients especially for the exercise. For these reasons a rink is likely to prove eminently successful in a health resort such as Harrogate. “If you would be graceful, learn to skate” is an expression often used, and proved by many to be absolutely correct. It has been said that the “craze” for Roller Skating will soon cease, but it should be remembered that when this pastime was previously in vogue years ago it continued for at least ten years. Skating was then done upon a concrete or asphalt floor, with crude plain bearing skates, but now, with the especially prepared secret-nailed maple flooring, which is laid upon an already prepared wooden floor, and the up-to-date ball bearing skates,

The Subscription List opens on Saturday, the 6th day of February, 1909,
and closes after the first morning post on Wednesday, the 10th day
of February, 1909.

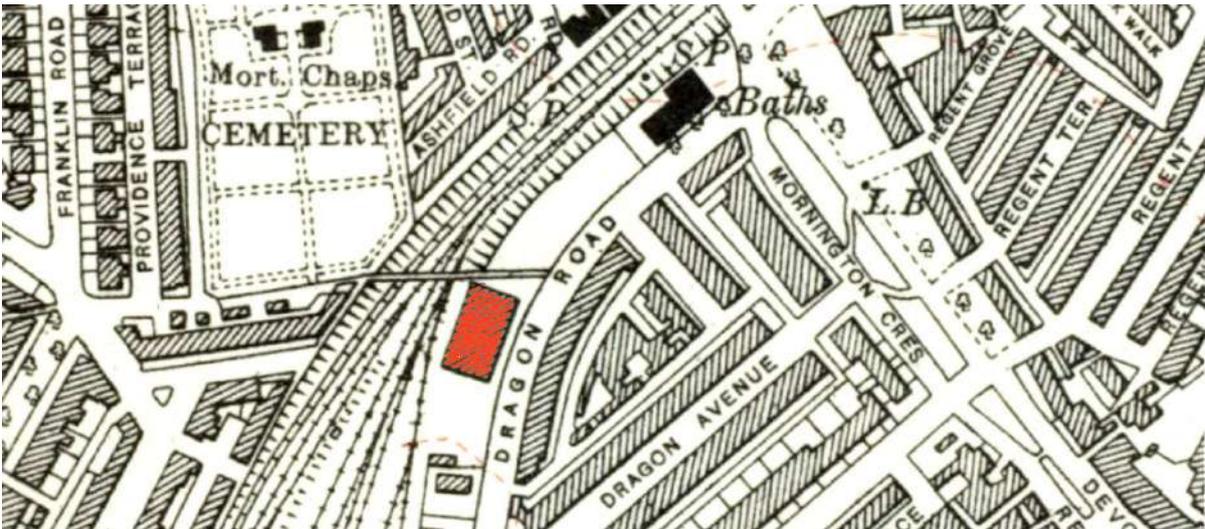
THE
Harrogate Skating Rink Company,

Capital - £5,500,
Divided into 5,500 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

ISSUE of 2,500 Ordinary Shares, payable as follows :

2/6 per share on Application;
7/6 per Share on Allotment;
and the balance one month after allotment.

the result is totally different, now making Roller Skating the easiest and most fascinating of sports. In well informed circles it is believed that Rinking has come to stay as a permanent amusement.



Location of the new Dragon Road skating rink

“Mr. Bedworth, who is a skating rink expert, believes that the shareholders will receive dividends in excess of their capital invested within the first year, as shown below. The promoters, Mr. Charles Bedworth and Mr. A. E. Wynn, have arranged to take from the North-Eastern Railway Company a Lease for a period of ten years (determinable at or after three years) of the valuable site near the Swimming Baths, on the Dragon Estate, within eight minutes' walk of the station, at a rental of £80 per annum. The Railway Company have stipulated, in accordance with the usual practice in their Leases, for power to determine the tenancy if the land should be required for the purposes of the Railway, giving compensation therefore; but it is not probable or expected that such power will ever be exercised. Rinks in other towns have been built on land leased from the Railway Company, and are subject to this condition. On determination of the Lease the buildings to be erected will belong to the Company, but the Railway Company reserve the right to purchase them at a price to be agreed. The promoters have agreed with the Company to erect on the site and hand over to the Company, together with the benefit of the Lease, a thoroughly equipped up-to-date Skating Rink, lighted by electricity, built as to the shell of iron, steel and brick, and therefore being a permanent building having a floor space of about 14,000 square feet, fitted with a double floor, the top floor being of maple; also to provide 600 pairs of the most modern Roller Skates, fitted with ball bearings, also to procure the necessary attendants, a Band of five performers, and provide uniform for both, and to provide all Offices, Café, Waiting Rooms, Skate Room, Lavatories, and other appliances, fittings, &c., necessary to carry on the business in the most efficient manner, according to a Schedule contained in the Agreement with the Company; for the sum of £5,000, payable as to £2,000 in cash, and as to £3,000 in 3,000 fully paid-up Shares, or at the option of the Directors, part in cash and part in Shares, but not less than £2,000 in Shares.

Plans of the building have been passed by the Building Committee of the Harrogate Corporation. It will be found on examination that other Companies have paid in some cases above double for rinks practically the same size and equipped similarly to the one above mentioned.

It is proposed to open the Rink for three periods daily, viz., 10.30 to 12.30; 2.30 to 5.30; 7.00 to 10.30. It is estimated by Mr. Bedworth that the Rink will accommodate 700 skaters besides ample provision for spectators, and he estimates the probable profits as follows, assuming that only 100 visitors patronize the Rink during the morning, 150 in the afternoon, and 250 in the evening, and that three-quarters of these numbers are skaters:

Admission Morning, free	£	s.	d.
“ Afternoon, 150 @ 6d.	3	15	0
“ Evening, 250 @ 1/-	12	10	0
Skates – Morning, ¾ of 100 @ 1/-	3	15	0

“ Afternoon, $\frac{3}{4}$ of 150 @ 1/-	5	12	6
“ Evening, $\frac{3}{4}$ of 250 @ 1/-	9	7	6
	<hr/>		
	35	0	0
Thus			
Allowing 6 days per week for only 39 weeks	8,190	0	0
The expenses of conducting the Rink in high-class style is estimated will not exceed £45 per week	1,755	0	0
Estimate profits from café, fees, etc., for tuition at the low estimate of £5 per week	195	0	0
	<hr/>		
Leaving a profit per annum of	6,630	0	0

In the above estimate no account is taken of revenue from the Carnivals, and the letting of the building for special purposes, when not used for skating. From comparison with other rinks, this estimate of profits is under rather than over the mark. If the rink is only kept open for three quarters of the year, namely, 39 weeks, on the above basis, the profits work out at £6,630 os. od. Harrogate, being a health resort, it is obvious that not only would the winter time be profitable, but the whole of the year. The building, skates, &c., are ready for delivery, and the promoters anticipate no difficulty in being able to have the rink ready for opening within five weeks of the flotation of the Company. The opportunity is now offered to the inhabitants of Harrogate and neighbourhood not only to have the pleasure of the use of an up-to-date Skating Rink, but in addition, it is expected, by becoming Shareholders, to benefit themselves by the enormous profits which are known to be made by this class of enterprise. The minimum subscription upon which the Directors will proceed to allotment is £1,500. The following Contracts have been entered into: (1) A draft Lease finally approved the third day of February, 1909, executed by the lessees and intended to be sealed by the Railway Company on the 12th day of February, 1909, and made between the North Eastern Railway Company of the one part and Arthur Ernest Wynn and Charles Bedworth of the other part. (2) A Contract dated the third day of February, 1909, and made between the said Arthur Ernest Wynn and Charles Bedworth of the one part and William Henry McEllroy, of 16, Norfolk Terrace, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, on behalf of the Company of the other part. Applications for shares should be made on the accompanying form, and sent to the Company's Bankers, at Harrogate, Leeds, and branches, together with remittance for the amount of deposit payable on application.

Dated 6th February, 1909.”



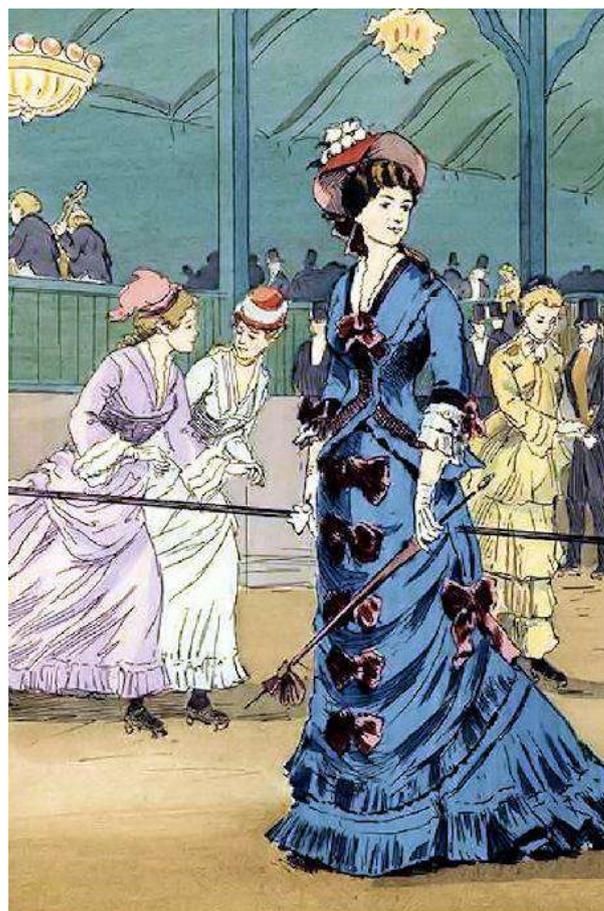
Inside a typical roller-skating rink – this is at Scarborough, c. 1909

The new Dragon Road skating rink opened on 13 March, with Arthur Sharp, a local entertainer, as the manager, and was thronged at every session. It was only thirty days after the first brick had been laid, and twenty-six after the ironwork had arrived. Arthur Wynn, having successfully delivered the Harrogate rink, issued another prospectus for a new roller skating rink in York, in May 1909, to be situated at the Sycamore Estate at the bottom of Bootham Terrace, near the Scarborough Railway Bridge. Another rink prospectus was issued in June 1909 for a 9,216 square foot rink in Ripon, in Low Skellgate.

Meanwhile, the Harrogate skating experience grew, and the new Edwardian culture allowed for fashion changes that would not have been possible in the earlier Victorian times. A report on Harrogate Fashions in June 1909, explained:

“Harrogate has been gay with visitors this week, some taking the cure and others taking the holiday. Summer dresses were rather at a discount on account of the cool, uncertain weather, and the early morning crowd of water drinkers at the Pump Room looked less summery than usual. Every sixth gown one met was navy blue in colour, with trimmings of black braid. There was a decided fancy, too, for fine black satin-faced cloths, the sombreness relieved with satin dollar and buttons, a big splash of vivid embroidery, and a gaily flowered hat. A warm tan colour, brilliant blues, mauve in every shade, and many greys, with greeny-grey mixtures, faintly striped, shared the usual run of popularity.

The Rink Gown. A new force to be reckoned with is the rink costume, which may be of any form provided it is short enough. Little frocks of gingham, jumper dresses, coats and skirts, and princess gowns were all used for this. Of course, nothing looks quite so suitable as a well-cut skirt with expanding pleats, completed by a jaunty coat, much cut up and braided. But the one-piece gown, in lighter fabric, is more generally popular, as it fits the figure more elegantly, and is less heavy to carry. Quite a feature are the rink coats, of a white cellular thin cloth, made very long, with a multiplicity of pockets.”



As well as all the amateur skaters at the rink, the professional artists were engaged to instruct and entertain the audiences. Some of the first were Hess and Chivers, well-known as graceful skaters, who performed a popular “Policeman and the Dude” comedy act during the Whitsuntide period at the Spa.

During this period, the ‘rinking’ craze bandwagon was joined by many products and advertisers, using the popularity of roller-skating to help promote their goods and services. One such was the “Antipon Remedy for Obesity” – a fat-reducing liquid that was sold in bottles costing 2s 6d. and 4s 6d. Allegedly only containing harmless vegetable substances, it claimed to effect a decrease within 24 hours of the first dose of between 8 oz. and 3 lb., according to the amount of overweight to be got rid of. In an advertising article, in the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of Saturday 9 March 1910, Antipon was introduced as:

Rinking & Obesity

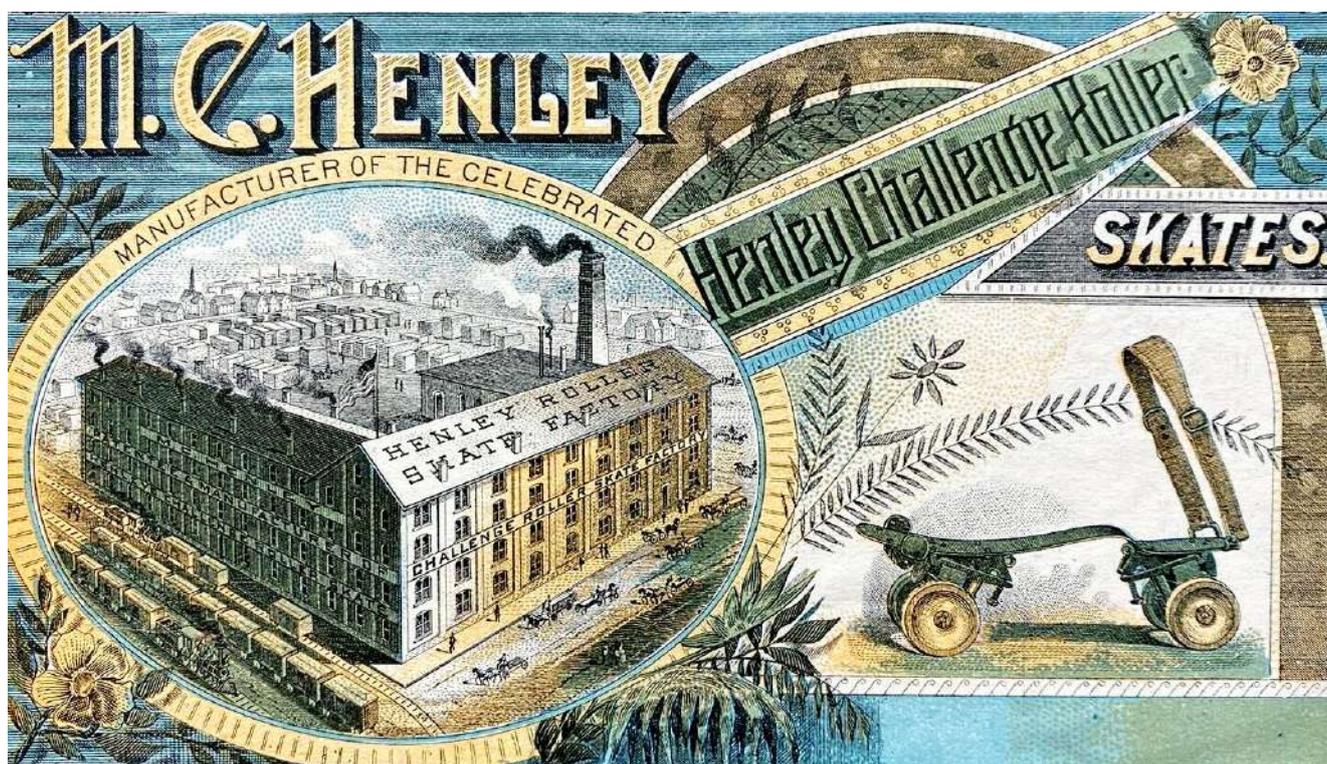
Should over-stout people indulge in the popular pastime of roller-skating? is a question that has recently cropped up. When it is not a case of very pronounced obesity, no objection can be raised. In ordinary cases, where there is just a little too much 'embonpoint', an exhilarating exercise like rinking can but be highly beneficial if not over-done. ... No violent exertion of any sort is good for persons who may be called really fat. The most sensible thing they can do is to undergo a course of Antipon, and so reduce their weight by many pounds.



AT THE SKATING RINK

He: "Oh, yes, she skates well enough; but why—oh why—doesn't she take Antipon?"

The sporting side of the skating activity had also resumed, with races being organized at the Dragon Road rink. On Friday 25 June 1909, a mile skating race (26 laps), took place between S. Gilbert, of Coventry, and H.D Anslow, of Harrogate, for a ten-guinea cup. Anslow conceded a half a lap start, but he won easily. The following Friday, 2 July, a "pig hunt" was announced. A live pig was let loose on the floor of the rink, and the competitor who succeeded in catching it received the porker as his reward. In September 1909 a "valuable cup" was offered for the one-mile roller-skating amateur championship of Harrogate. The rink granted ten minutes of fast skating facilities for intending competitors, each evening at nine o'clock.



Micajah Henley, the "King of Roller Skates" was an American inventor and manufacturer of skates – one of several that supplied the UK market.

Following the example of the earlier rink in Harrogate, the new Dragon Road rink also organized various special events, with the carnivals being the most popular with skaters and audiences. One of the first ones was held on Tuesday 12 October 1909 and included a ladies' band and singers in a "3½ hour programme - a galaxy of music and grace".

Brilliant Attraction

AT

THE RINK,

DRAGON RD., HARROGATE.

Musical Carnival on Skates,

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1909,

7-30 to 11,

CONSISTING OF

Male Quartette Singers, Mixed
Quartette Singers, Ladies' Band,
Songs, Solos, Humorous Songs,
and Chorus Songs.

3½ Hours' Continuous Programme.

A Galaxy of Music and Grace.

RINK FEES ON THIS OCCASION:

ADMISSION 1/- SKATES 1/-

Reserved Chairs 6d. extra, Seats 3d. extra,
may now be booked at the Rink.

Augmented Band. Special Decorations.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR.....MR. J. PULLEN
FLOOR MANAGER.....MR. F. SCOTT
GENERAL MANAGER.....MR. ARTHUR SHARP

Popular Night Every Wednesday.

1/- includes Admission and Skates.

GRACEFUL SKATING.

Anyone wishing to acquire this Art before entering Competitions should
consult the Professional Instructors, Dragon Road, late of the
American Rinks.

LUPTON, PRINTED, HARROGATE.

TURN OVER.

MUSICAL CARNIVAL,

OCTOBER 12th.

Programme.

1. Two Step.....'The Raw Recruit'.....All Skate
2. Quartette.....'Shamrock'.....The Wellington Party
3. Waltz.....'Ciribiribin'.....All Skate
4. Cornet Solo.....'The Flight of Ages'.....Mr. C. Sharman
5. Two Step.....'Lilac Blossom'.....All Skate
6. Song.....'Absent'.....Miss Watmough
7. Waltz.....'Casino Tanze'.....Partners Only
8. Harp Solo.....'Men of Harlech'.....Mr. W. H. Dearlove
9. Two Step.....'Starland'.....All Skate
10. Quartette.....'Eileen Alannah'.....The Wellington Party
11. Waltz.....'Lyrique'.....All Skate
12. Piccolo Solo.....'L'Oiseau du Bois'.....Mr. M. Dearlove
13. Two Step.....'War Whoop'.....All Skate
14. Chorus Song.....'Rinking'.....Mr. Arthur Sharp
15. Waltz.....'Rinking'.....Partners Only
16. Duet.....'Excelsior'.....Messrs. Anthony and Wood
17. Two Step.....'Boston Tea Party'.....Ladies Only
18. Cello Solo.....'Mr. W. H. Dearlove'
19. Waltz.....'Sizilietta'.....All Skate
20. Quartette.....'Soldiers' Song'.....Court Glee Singers
21. Two Step.....'Spangles'.....All Skate
22. Humorous Song.....'Selected'.....Mr. Paul Freeman
23. Waltz.....'Vision of Salome'.....Partners Only
24. Mandoline Solo.....'Lydia'.....Miss Ivy Wray
25. Two Step.....'Teddy Bear's Picnic'.....Ladies Only
26. Song.....'Selected'.....Mr. F. Godley
27. Waltz.....'Autumn Voices'.....All Skate
28. Duet.....'Flow gentle Deva'.....Messrs. Luty and Glasby
29. Two Step.....'I'm afraid to come home'.....All Skate
30. Mandoline Quartette.....'Rialto'.....The Misses Wray
31. Waltz.....'Mondaine'.....Partners Only
32. Humorous Song.....'Selected'.....Mr. Paul Freeman
33. Two Step.....'Rainbow'.....All Skate
34. Mandoline Quartette.....'Adelaide'.....The Misses Wray
35. Waltz.....'Kiss of Spring'.....All Skate
36. Quartette.....'Life and Health'.....Court Glee Party

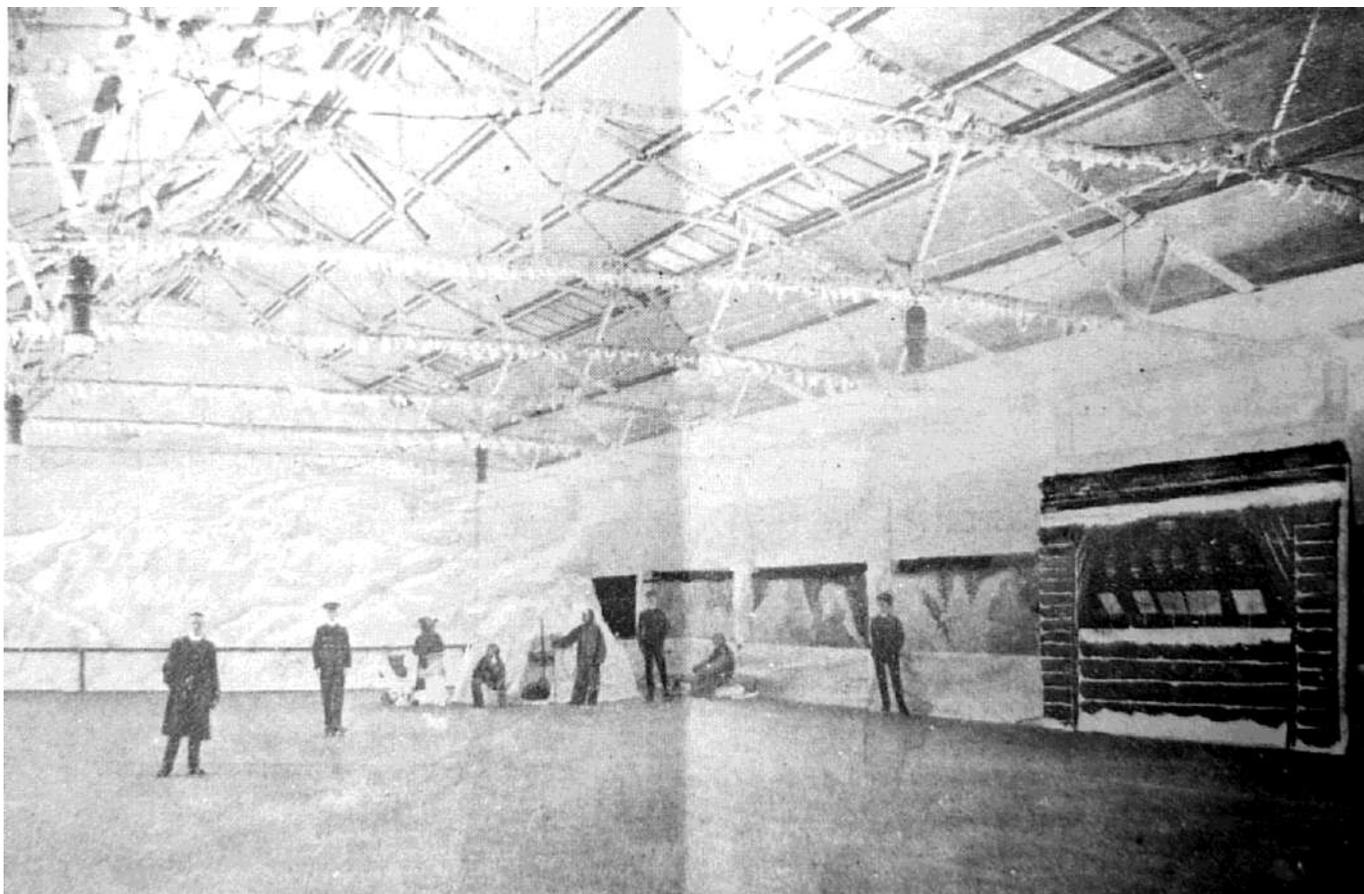
Words of the Chorus "RINKING," of which
all are invited to sing.

**Roll your little Rosie round,
Roll me round and round,
Don't let me fall, or bump against
the wall,
Hold me tight, hold me tight,
Do oblige me and hold me tight,
And roll your little Rosie round,
Roll me round and round.**

Accompanist . . Mr. C. METCALFE.

Christmas 1909 saw the rink put on a programme of events over the festive period. Three skating sessions on Christmas Day; two sessions on Boxing Day, followed by a "Holly Carnival" in the evening, with optional evening dress; three sessions on the 28th December; morning and

evening sessions on the 29th, with a *“Teddy Bear Carnival”* in the afternoon for the children; two sessions on the 30th, with a grand *“Skate to the Arctic Region Carnival”* in the evening, which showed the haunts of the Eskimo, Bear Hunt, Sun Rise, Sun Set, the discovery of the Pole, and Torchlight Parade – the dress required was ‘heavy winter clothing’ with hats required for gentlemen; Friday 31st saw a repeat of the Arctic Carnival; and Saturday 1st January 1910 the rink held a special grand complimentary benefit to the manager, Arthur Sharp.



*Harrogate Rink prepared for its “Arctic Carnival”
with 1,500 yards of special scenery, eskimos and polar bears.*



Eskimos and polar bears!



Brilliant Programme

. . . of the . . .

Xmas Festivities.



"Skate and make merry."

R ACKRILL, HARROGATE.

In February 1910, Mr E. Fletcher, on behalf of the Harrogate Skating Rink Company, applied for a renewal of the musical licence for their rink in Dragon Road. Mr F.W. Hardy, a solicitor representing property owners and occupiers in the locality of the rink, objected to the renewal because of the nuisance of the band. It was argued that there were children, aged folk and, occasionally, invalids, in the homes. Despite the railway tracks also being next to the homes, the noise from them was not deemed relevant to the argument. It was eventually agreed that the licence could be renewed on condition that no drum or brass instruments were used, only reed and string.

Despite the musical restrictions, the rink flourished through 1910, and a special programme was put on to mark the departure of the rink's original manager, Arthur Sharp, on Saturday 11 June 1910. Participants in the "12 hour continuous programme" included the White Crysanthemums Concert Party and Tom Coleman's Pierrots, with tickets costing one shilling.

DON'T MISS THIS!
Saturday Next, June 11.
DRAGON ROAD RINK.

ARTHUR SHARP'S
FAREWELL.

12 hours Continuous Programme.

INCLUDING
**SKATING, VARIETY,
 & ENTERTAINMENT.**

NOTE.— ONE SHILLING FOR 12 HOURS
 From 10-30 a.m. to 10-30 p.m. And includes Skates.

ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:—
**White Chrysanthemums Concert Party,
 Tom Coleman's Pierrots, And the CREAM OF LOCAL TALENT.
 Also 8 Hours Skating.**

Absolutely the strongest programme ever produced in Harrogate
 at the popular price of

ONE SHILLING FOR 12 HOURS.
 Tickets now on Sale at the Rink.

HARROGATE SKATING RINK,
 Dragon Road.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION.

Friday Evening Next,
 JUNE 25th.
 At 9 o'clock prompt.

**ONE MILE
 CHALLENGE RACE**

FOR SILVER CUP,
 Value 10 Guineas,
 WILL BE RUN ON THE RINK BY

H. D. ANSLOW, & SAM GILBERT,
(The Harrogate Instructor) (Of Coventry)

Under the usual rules and conditions governing
 Roller Skating Races.

**Challenge Cup now on view in Mr. W. G.
 Allen's Window, Prospect Crescent.
 Supplied by Mr. J. R. OGDEN.**

SKATERS will be pleased to hear this Match will NOT interfere
 with the usual Session, and the prices will remain as usual

Ladies, 6d. Gent's 1/-.
Reserved Seats, 3d. each extra.

Angus, Printer, Mount Parade, Harrogate.

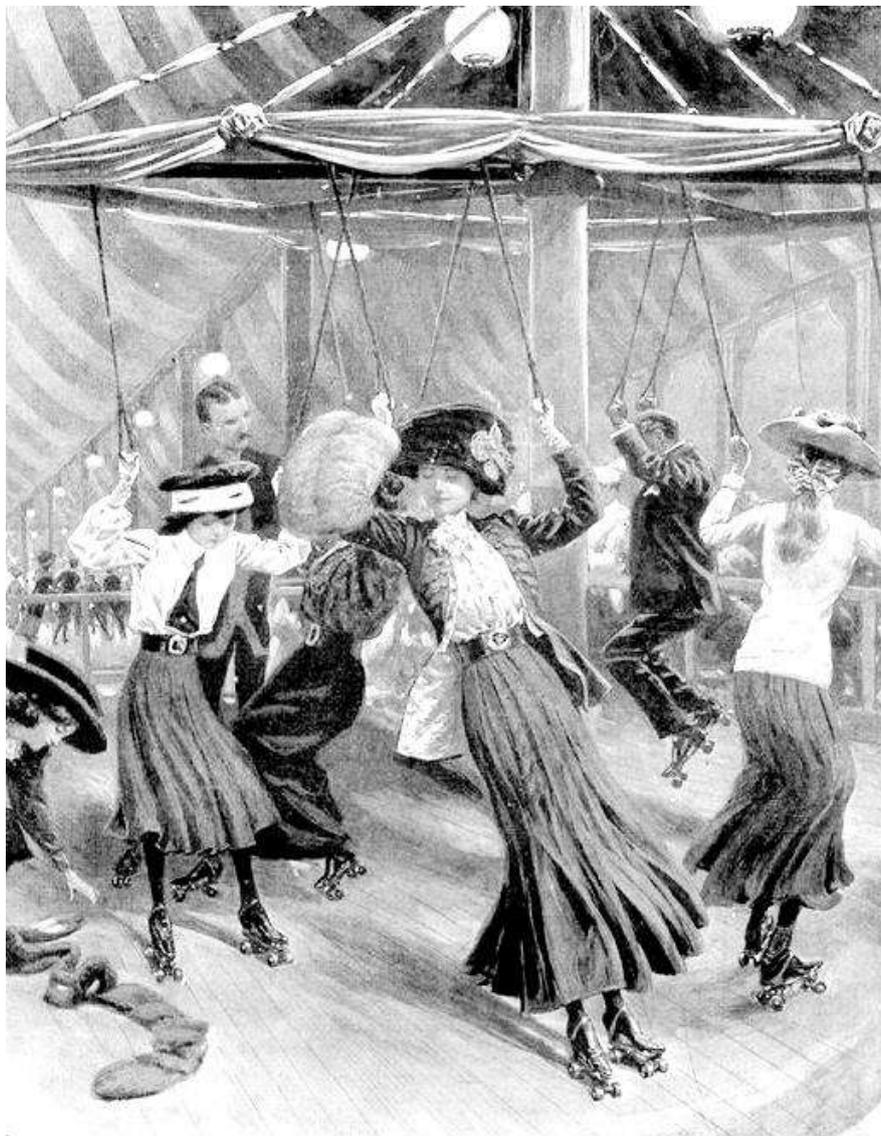
Later that month, another race was held for a challenge cup worth 10 guineas, over a one mile course between H.D. Anslow, the Dragon rink instructor and floor manager, and Sam Gilbert from Coventry.

Another roller-skating rink was established in Harrogate, the Empire Rink, and H.D. Anslow was persuaded away from the Dragon rink to become the Empire Rink's manager, as reported on 25 June 1910:

Mr H.D. Anslow has been appointed to the post of general-manager at the Empire Rink, Harrogate. Until quite recently he officiated as floor-manager at the Dragon Rink, in which capacity he earned golden opinions from all. He has been on the rollers ever since the craze caught on, and may be justly said to be as much at home on eight wheels as on terra firma. Anslow formerly held similar berths at the Sunderland, Dublin, and Leeds American Roller Rinks, and his wide experience of the various modes of rinking should prove highly acceptable to Empire patrons. He proudly displays trophies carried off within the last two years, numbering, amongst his doubtless fine achievements, first place in this following races: One mile championship of skate - motorcycle (Mackay); relay race, with three opponents; mile race with Sam Gilbert (Coventry), and half mile race at Dublin.

The rink continued its business through the remainder of 1910, but by the beginning of 1911 it was apparent that the roller-skating craze was starting to run out of steam and lose popularity. At some point during the spring of 1911 the Harrogate Skating Rink Company found itself in financial difficulties, and it went into voluntary liquidation in May 1911. The rink building on Dragon Road was put up for sale, consisting of

"... a substantial brick building, 150 feet by 90 feet, steel principals, wood-lined galvanized iron roof, maple floor, gas, water, and electric light laid on."



Rinking in its newest form - roller-skaters turning a roundabout

The building was bought and a new company formed, sufficient at least to continue the rinking business for the remainder of 1911. By November 1911, H.D. Anslow was the owner and manager of the rink and had re-established the social events to bring back the customers. One such, on Monday 20 November 1911, was reported as:

Hilarity at the Rink – Roller Skater's Social Evening

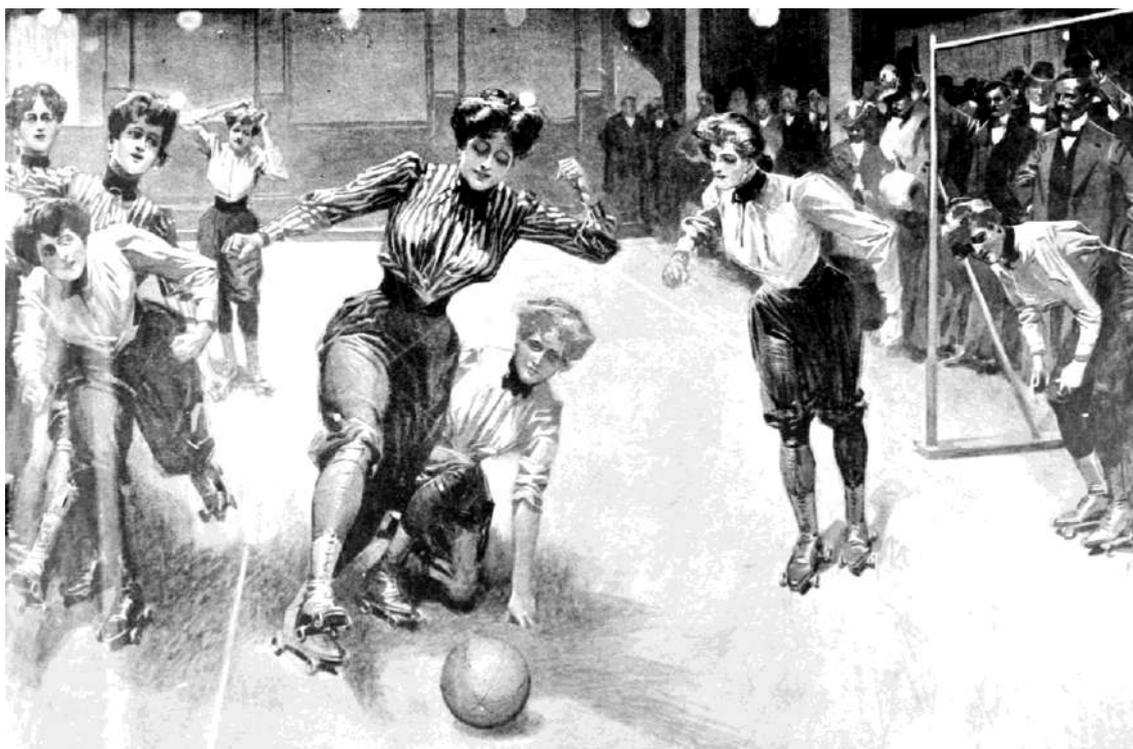
Interest in roller skating fluctuates considerably - in fact in the sight of recent happenings in the world of roller skating, those fluctuations might almost be compared to the fluctuations on the 'Change. Whilst in many parts of the provinces the pastime has held the public favour for a spell of two years, since that time it has lapsed and re-owed again in Harrogate. That the pastime is one from which much pleasure may be derived. It simply abounds with pleasure. The uninitiated quite fail to adequately conceive the delights of a spin on the rollers. Plain skating is enjoyable, and fancy skating is doubly so. "Two-step" is immense. However, they must needs keep abreast of the times and public taste. Hence novelties must be introduced. The manager of the Dragon Road Skating Rink introduced one on Monday evening.

The Novelty

Skating, whist and refreshments! I had heard of skating and refreshments, but the whist portion of the evening's amusement was to me at least a new experience and I imagine that a number of others of those present also. The event led itself with skating and after a few two-steps, waltzes, etc.. an interval was called for refreshments. That interval I will pass by, though it cannot be said that the company did the same. The whist drive succeeded, and a pleasant time was spent. Miss M. Stott was awarded the ladies' prize, and Mr. Wilfrid

Jefferson, the gentlemen's. Meanwhile, the non-players indulged in skating. The whist drive terminated, the entire company - which by the way numbered 50 - skated. A ladies and gentlemen's musical chairs competition was organized, both events which were contested separately, attracting large entries. Mr A. Gibson was the winner of the gentlemen's competition, but it fell to the lot of the ladies to provide the most fun. Miss Belle Ellis proved the winner after an exciting not to say laughable duel with her opponent. When the company dispersed, laudatory comments on the enterprise of Mr. H. D. Anslow, the popular manager and proprietor, in arranging such an enjoyable function, were numerous.

Sadly, this revived enterprise does not seem to have lasted much longer, as the rinking activities in Harrogate faded once more into obscurity after this point. Across the country the popularity of rinks gradually declined, as other entertainments and pastimes arose to compete with the time and money of the people, and most had largely been dismantled or repurposed into cinemas before 1914.

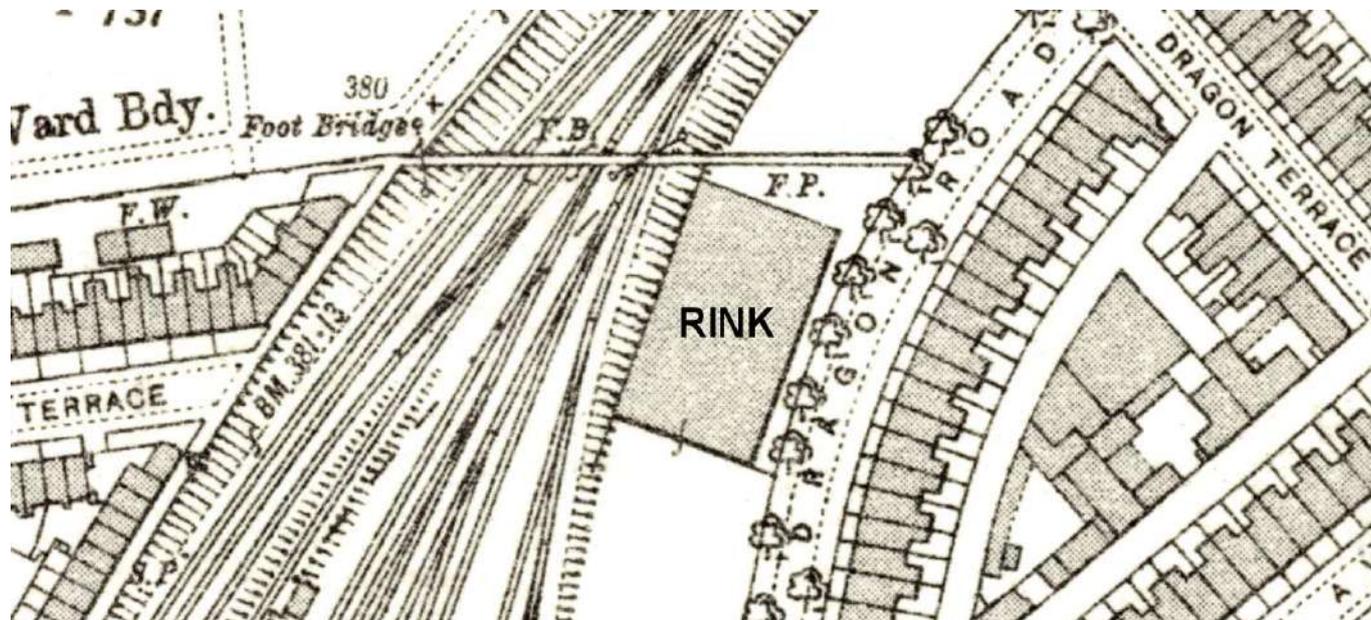


Another roller-skating innovation – women's football, which was popular in Brighton in the 1890's. There is no record of such an event in Harrogate.



Another twenty-year gap in the Harrogate roller-skating story brings us to 1929, when the rink at Dragon Road is brought back to life, following another national resurgence of interest in the 'sport'.

On Saturday 4 May 1929, the Dragon Road Skating Rink was formally opened by the Mayoress of Harrogate, Mrs C.W. Whitworth. What the building had been used for during the interim years is not known. The rink boasted a new maple floor, with accommodation for 600 skaters, a separate floor for learners, and private lessons by expert instructors. The sessions were daily at 10.30 to 12.30, 2.00 to 5.00, and 6.30 to 10.00. There was also carpark accommodation for over 100 cars.



Location of the rink in 1929, in the same building as the 1909 rink

A newspaper report, a couple of weeks later, looked at the sport in Harrogate from the woman's perspective:

New Sport – New Clothes

Women have exercised so much more freedom of recent years in the choice of clothes, and the cultivation of good taste. Suitability and comfort has so developed that to-day almost each occasion and each sport has definitely its own kit. Now that a new sport, or rather the revival of an old sport, has come along, women will have to give some consideration to the clothes they will wear when roller skating. I noticed when at the new rink in Harrogate yesterday, they seemed to be a bit hazy about the most suitable thing to wear. A few "don'ts" should be noted:

- Don't wear any jewellery especially wrist watches
- Don't wear silk stockings
- Don't go to skate in high-heeled shoes, for it is impossible to get the skates on. Boots are the most suitable footwear, as they support the ankle. If you must wear shoes, a laced one is preferable to one with a strap, and unless the soles are thick, a toe strap has to be worn, which is rather painful.
- Don't wear any scarves or loose trimmings.
- Don't forget to wear thin gloves.

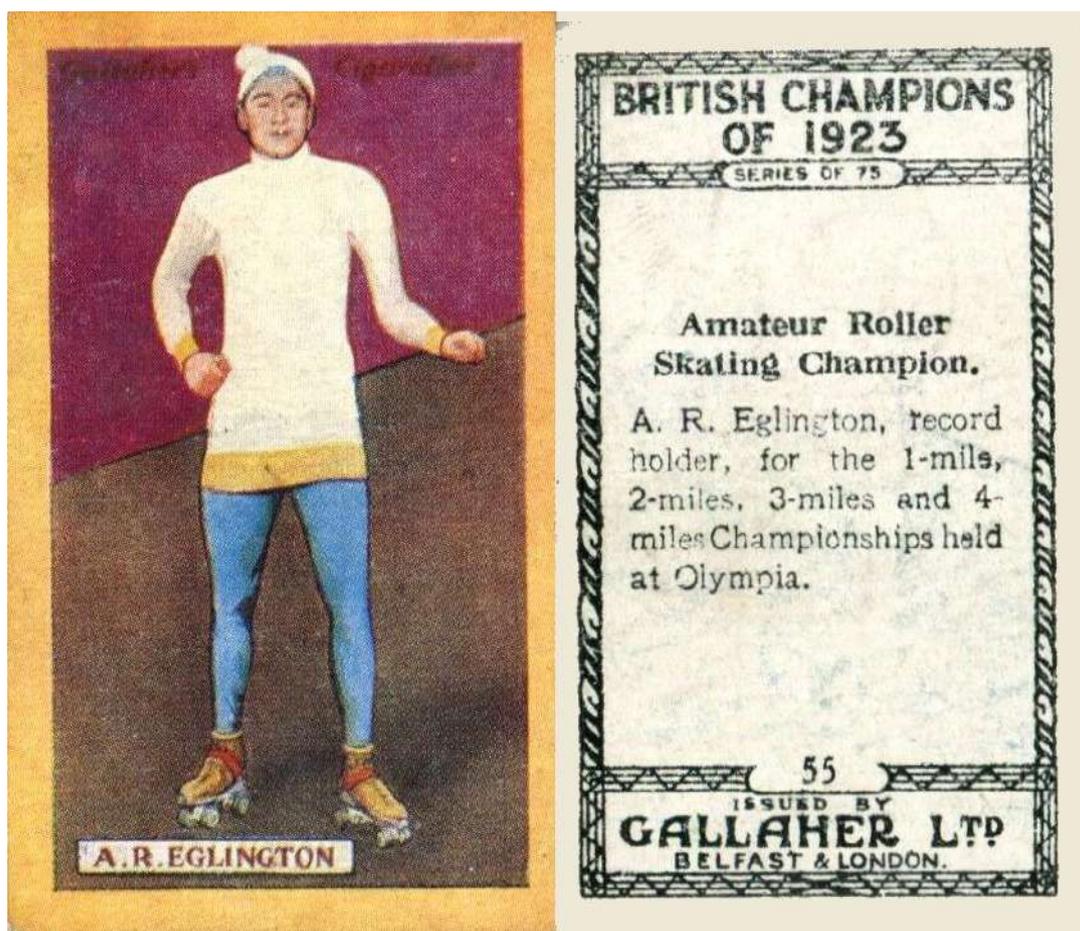
The other evening, I was told, two hapless girls turned up in fluttery new frocks. When they got the skates on, however, they look merely ludicrous. One girl last night struck me as being very suitably clad. She had on a fawn crepe de chine knife-pleated skirt, a Shetland wool cardigan with a fawn suede belt to match, a thin, white wool low-necked jumper, and a "vagabond" fawn felt hat. She also wore short boots and fawn lisle stockings, and looked the coolest and one of the nicest women on the floor. One woman arrived in a woolly sports costume, very smart, but reminding me of illustrations of winter sports in Switzerland, and actually, I imagine, more suitable for the ice than for an enclosed rink, where skating, in spite of the



excellent ventilation at Harrogate, can become rather warm work. Perhaps the best type of costume is the thin jumper and skirt, which show no dust in case of spills – though there is little to be afraid of in that way once a degree of proficiency has been attained.

The Rage of the Rink

Twenty years ago, when the previous skating boom was at its height, public entertainment was scarcely the studied art it is to-day. Little has been missed here to make an enjoyable evening - or morning or afternoon as you will. There is a comfortable retiring room for the women skaters, which has gained by the touch of a feminine hand in some useful accessories – needles, pins, and all coloured silks to repair any damages, and the usual first-aid equipment. An electric stove and bowls of flowers put the finishing touches to the room. Instead of the usual "skate" boys, girls have been introduced to fit on skates for the women. People are coming from all over, and there is no doubt that the new sport has definitely caught on again. One night there were on the rink at the same time a man of 75 and a child of 8. A carnival and push ball match are to be held shortly, when prizes will be given for fancy dress, and the winners of the women's races and the men's races, and a number of other things. Mr. Bright, the floor manager at Harrogate, told me that he thought the women's clothes to-day were most suitable for the sport. Before the war the women were badly handicapped by their clothes when skating. The dances that could be done on skates then were chiefly the plain waltz and the Boston Two-Step. Now we have one or two variations of the waltz step and the foxtrot, and several other special steps. The nearest thing to the Tango, however, is the Morris Bright Step. As a greater variety of dances can be done on the rollers than on ice, it is hoped to form a dance club at Harrogate in the near future. I was much struck by the non-appearance of the powder puff in the rink. At dances it is always on hand to rub the shine off a heated face, but it is evident that women are too keen on the sport to bother.



One of the skating "stars" of the 1920's, who may have appeared at Harrogate

ROLLER SKATING.

SKATE AT HARROGATE
AT THE
DRAGON ROAD RINK
The Coolest and most Comfortable in Yorkshire
3 SESSIONS DAILY.
Special To-morrow Night—6.30 to 10.30
GRAND FANCY DRESS SKATING CARNIVAL
Prizes for Fancy Dress and Skating Competition

Advertisement for the rink in May 1929

The above carnival was well attended and enjoyed by many participants and spectators:

Prize Winners at Harrogate Skating Revels

There was a large attendance of spectators and skaters at a carnival held at the Harrogate Dragon Road Skating Rink last night when the prize-winners were: Two-step: Miss Firth (Harrogate) and Mr. L. Imeson (Harrogate). Waltz: Miss Hall (Leeds) and Mr. A. Dixon (Liverpool). Musical Chairs: Mr. A. Dixon. Graceful Skating: Mrs. Wragg (Skipton) and Mrs. Mathers (Leeds), equal first. Fancy Dress: Miss B. Thomas, Mrs. A. Hirst, Messrs. E. Grant and K. Nelson, and special Mr. J. Robinson. An amusing exhibition was given by Mr. George Nelson, jun. and one of the instructors as Charlie Chaplin and Pola Negri.

Skate at Harrogate
Where at Dragon Road (five minutes from trains and 'buses) you will find England's coolest and most comfortable Rink.
THREE SESSIONS DAILY at 11.0, 2.30, and 7.0 p.m.
TO-MORROW at 9 p.m.
NET BALL ON SKATES.
LEEDS v. HARROGATE
SKATING 1/6. SPECTATORS 6d.



Advertisement from September 1929

This latest resumption of the skating craze did not seem to last as long as the previous two times. By early 1930 the Ideal Rink was promoting weekly boxing matches between various contenders from across Yorkshire and beyond. Used by local boxing clubs, e.g. Starbeck, and also hired by sports societies for their boxing matches, e.g. the Claro Police Sports Club in December 1930. These boxing matches continued on a weekly basis until at least March 1932.

Regular skating was still available, but the carnivals and similar social events seem to have lapsed. Two skating endurance world records were established at the Ideal Rink in June 1930.

The first attempt was by Brian Auty, aged 17, who started his skating at 10.15 am on Wednesday 11 June 1930, and was still skating at 9.15 pm the following day, having completed 35 hours continuous skating, and he was intending to continue through that night also! The existing world record had been 33½ hours, which was set by W. Lee and R.G. Lee at Wakefield the previous Saturday.

The second record was achieved by Mary Henderson, aged 17, one of three Harrogate girls who set out to break the roller-skating endurance record for women, which had been around 20 hours. She began at 11.50 am on Wednesday 25 June 1930 and finished at 7.55 pm on Thursday 26 June, having skated continuously for 32 hours and 5 minutes, smashing the previous record. Her diet was meat extract and milk, with a little fish, and she smoked a cigarette every four hours. She did not appear to be physically distressed at the end of her effort. One of the other two girls, Miss C. Priestley, began at midnight on the Wednesday, but retired at 7.40 in the morning after falling at a turn when she was taking food. The third girl's name is not known.

As the demand for roller-skating fell, the Ideal Rink became used for various ad hoc purposes and events. A large exhibition of furniture was held there for the first two weeks in December 1930. The Harrogate Agricultural Society's Canine Show was held there in May 1932, and the Yorkshire County Cat Club Championship Show was held in the Rink in October 1932.

It is not known when the skating finally stopped, but the building was eventually sold in 1935 to the Smiths Furniture business. Frederick Smith had opened a small second hand furniture shop in Harrogate in 1906, and the business thrived and continued to expand and took the opportunity of establishing a permanent showroom in Dragon Road, Harrogate in what had been the Ideal Skating Rink. This business still flourishes there today.



The Ideal Rink, Dragon Road, Harrogate – as “Smith’s The Rink”, c. 1960

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Appendix 1 – The Real Roller Skaters

Here are a number of photographs and illustrations of skaters enjoying the experience of roller-skating in the Victorian and Edwardian periods, together with some of rinks themselves. These are mainly of skaters and rinks in the UK, with some from overseas. Many, however, are of unknown location, but will be similar to the rink(s) and skaters in Harrogate.



Leon H. Wilson – Hinckley skating champion



Exhibition skaters & band



Skaters at the Southampton Shirley Road rink



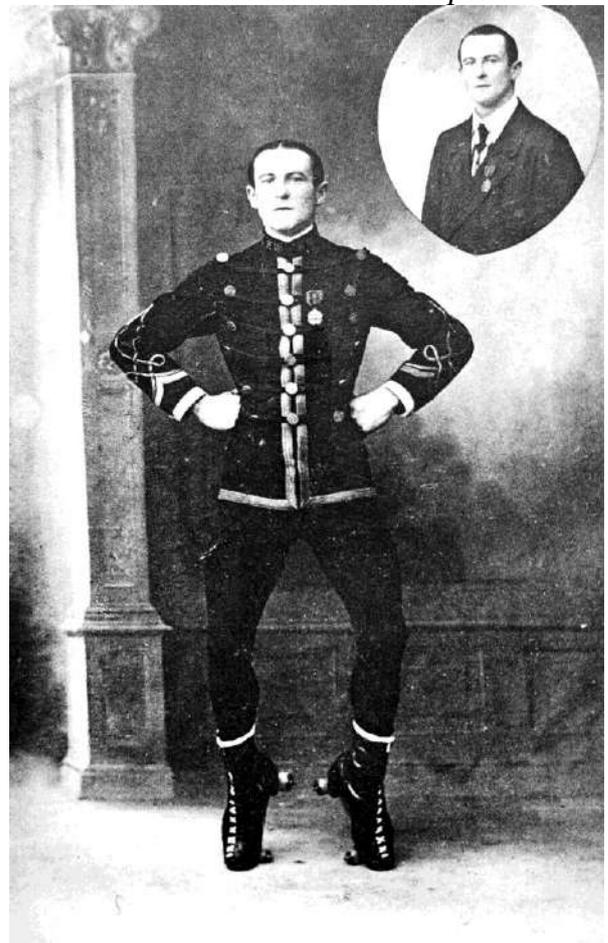
Speed skaters



Instructor and doorman at Sipton rink



Skater's costume made of playing cards



Professor Willy – exhibition skater



Cowgirl costume



Instructor with young girl





Zena & Phyllis Dare – two vaudeville artists



American lady skater demonstration in Ohio



Al fresco skating at Blackpool Pier



York skating rink



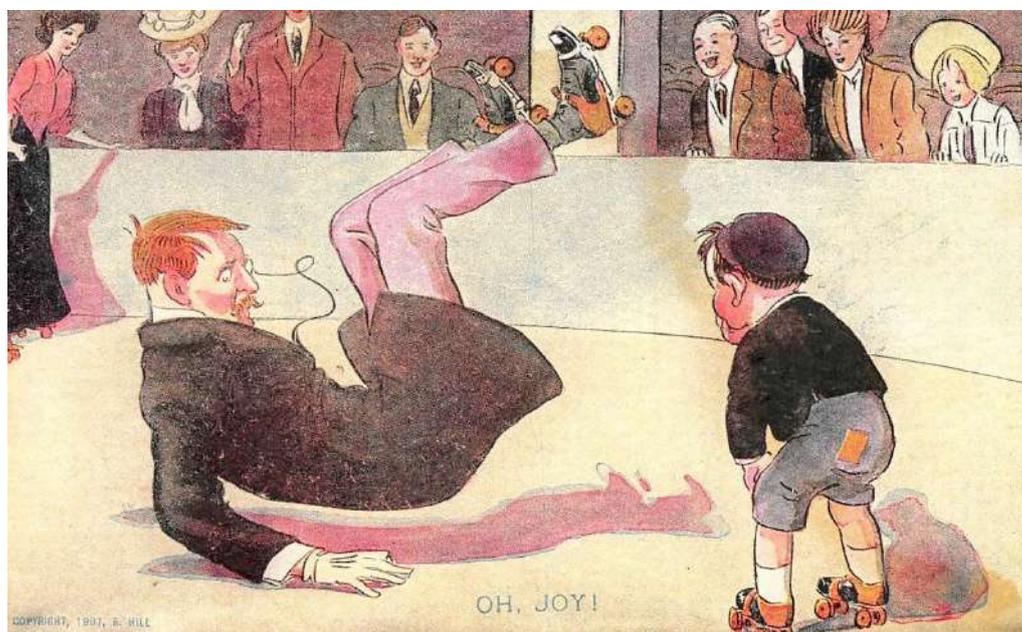
Empress rink, Leicester

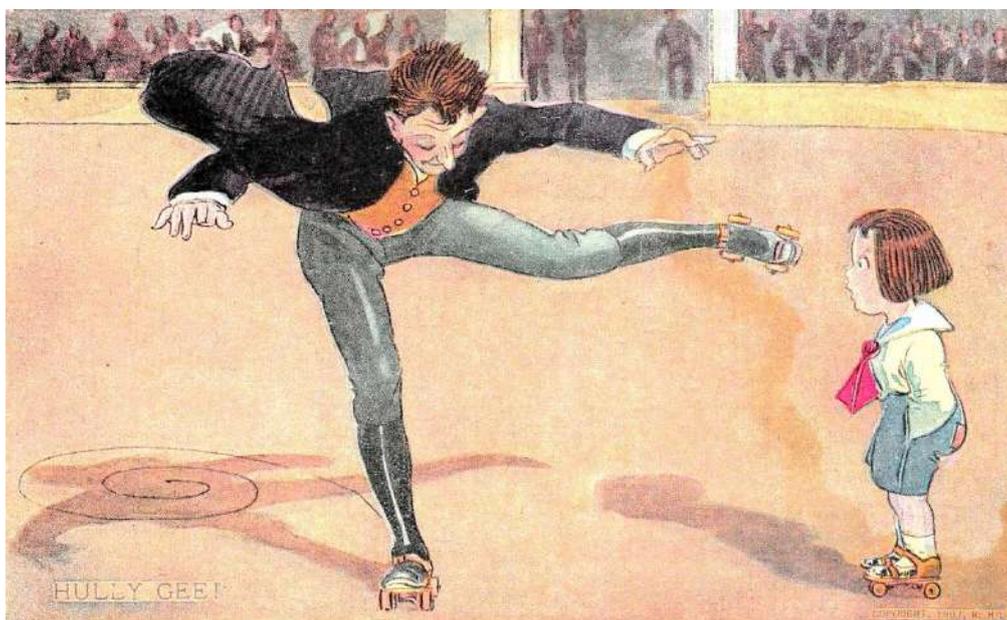
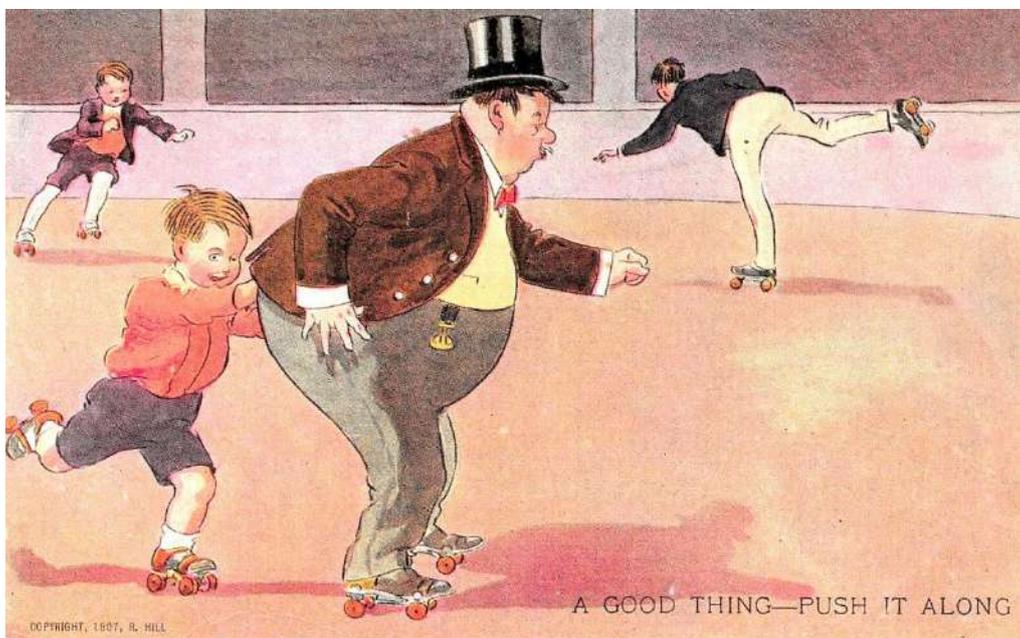
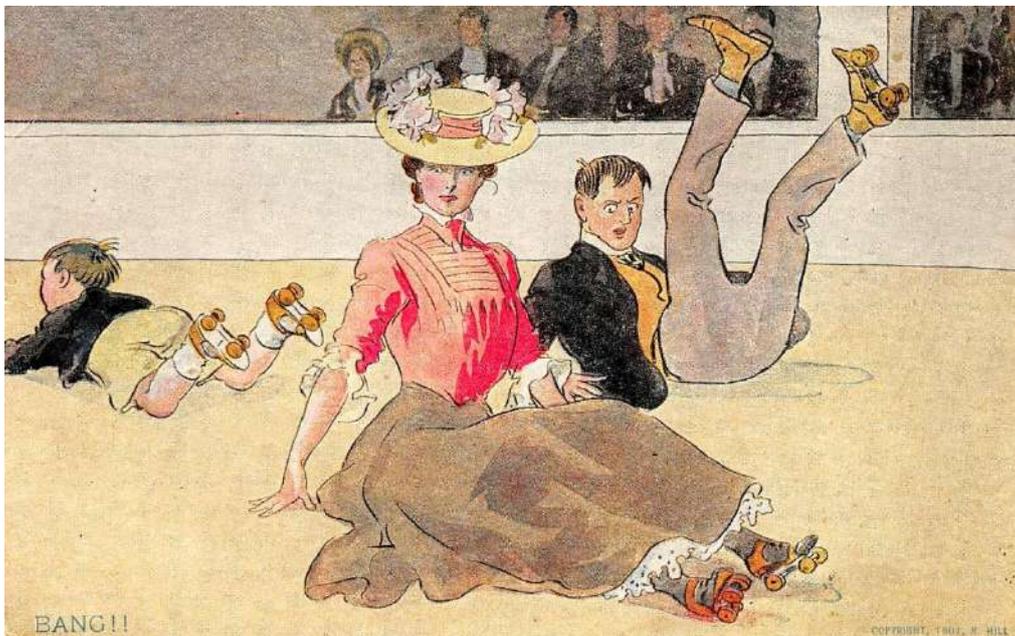


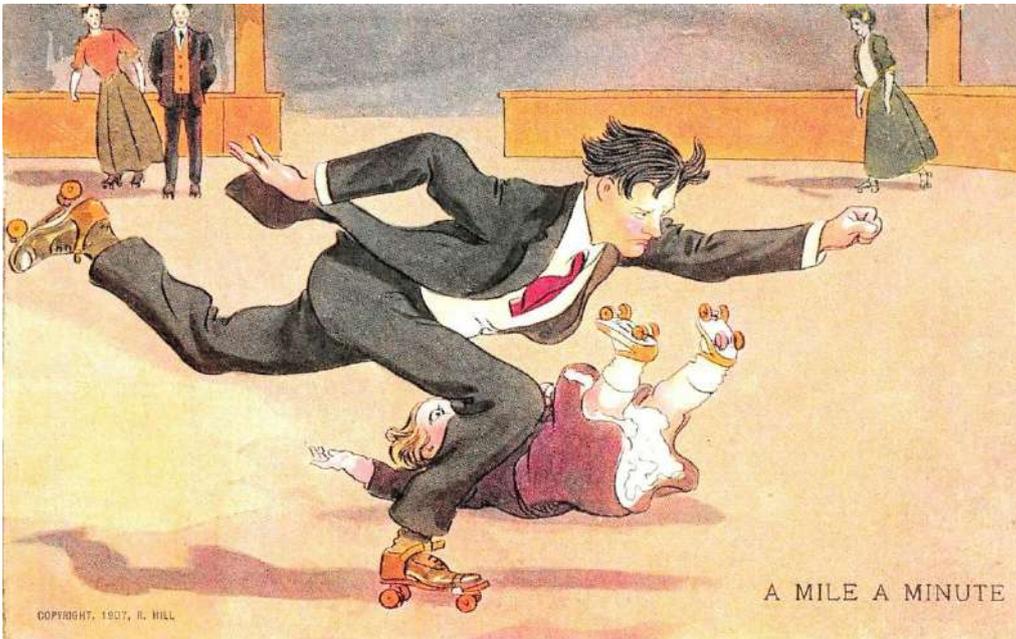
Cambridge rink

Appendix 2 – Roller Skating is Fun!

Here are number of postcards issued in the late 1800's and early 1900's which show how much fun can be had on the skating rinks – at least their largely humorous approach to depicting the skating experience would have you believe that, despite the perils of falling over, a good time would be had by all.







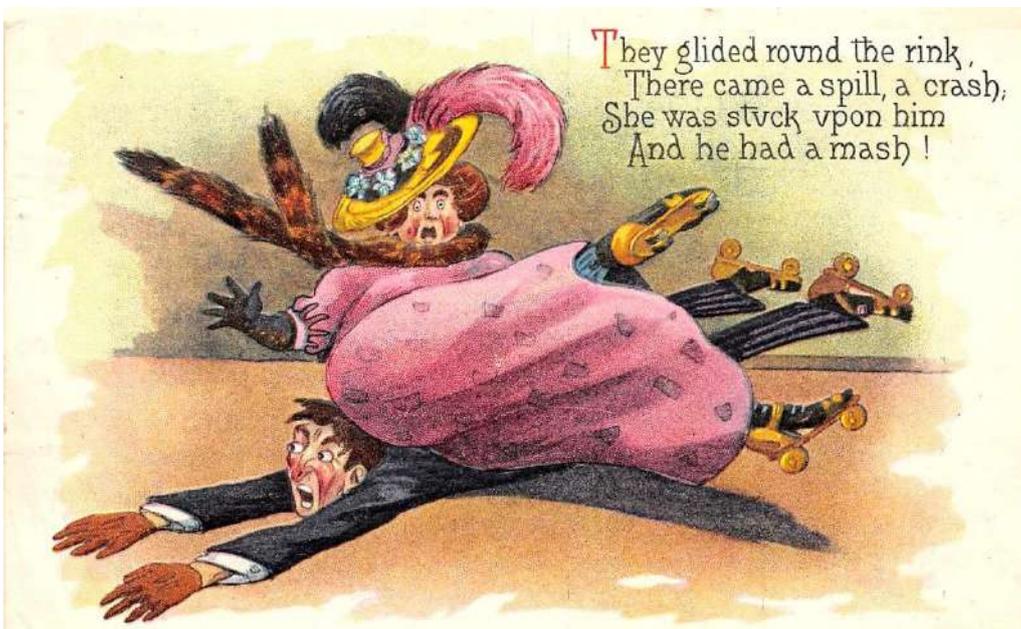
COPYRIGHT, 1907, H. HILL

A MILE A MINUTE

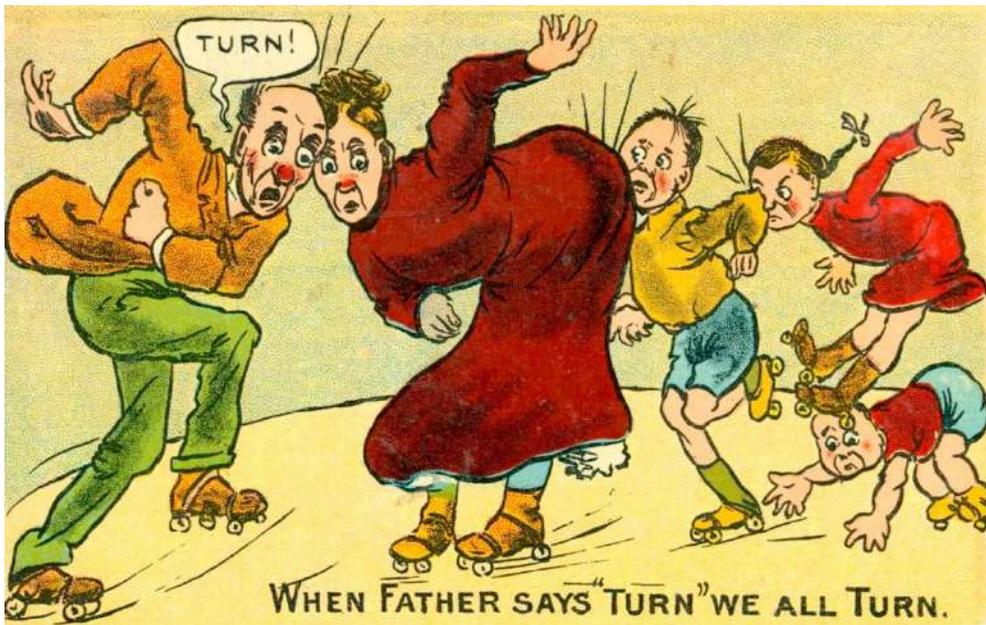
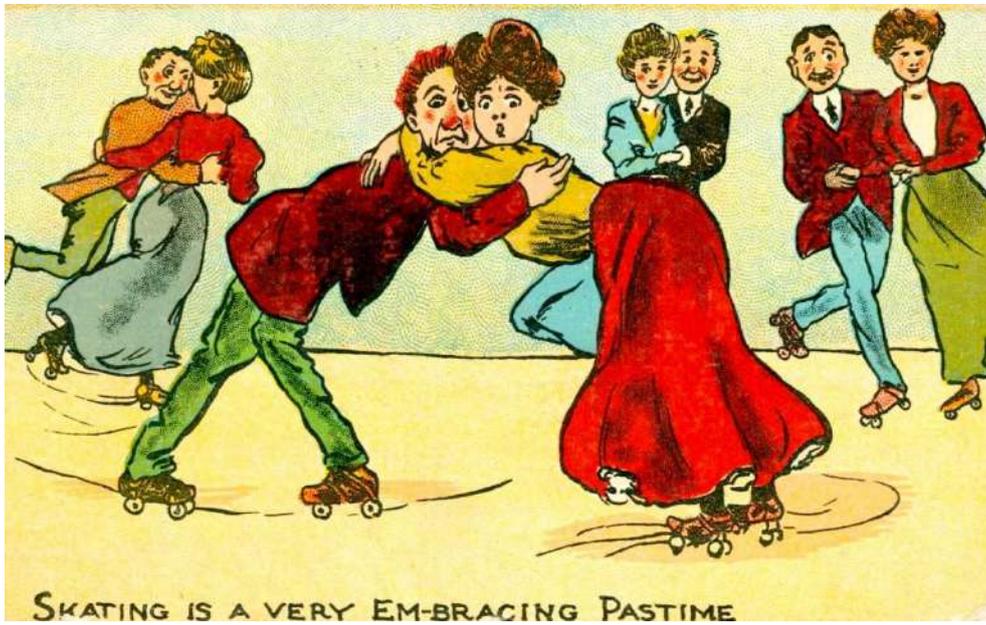


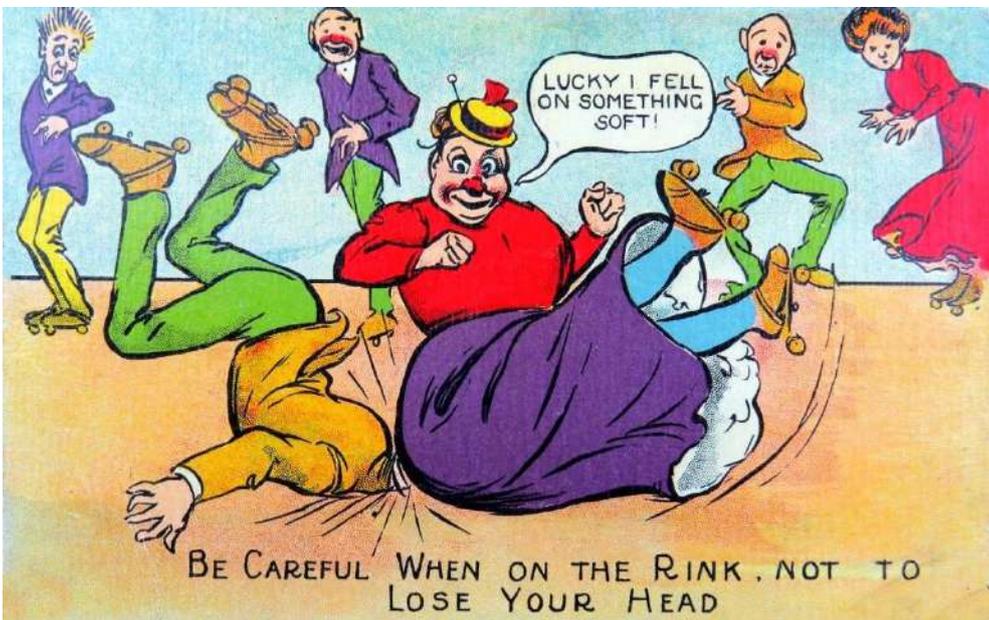
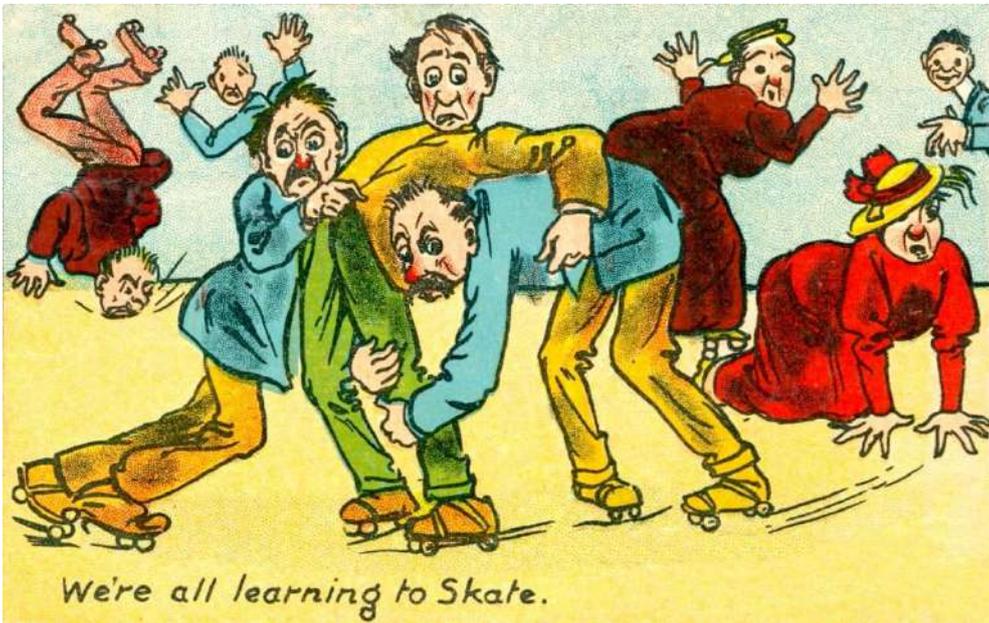
COPYRIGHT, 1907, H. HILL

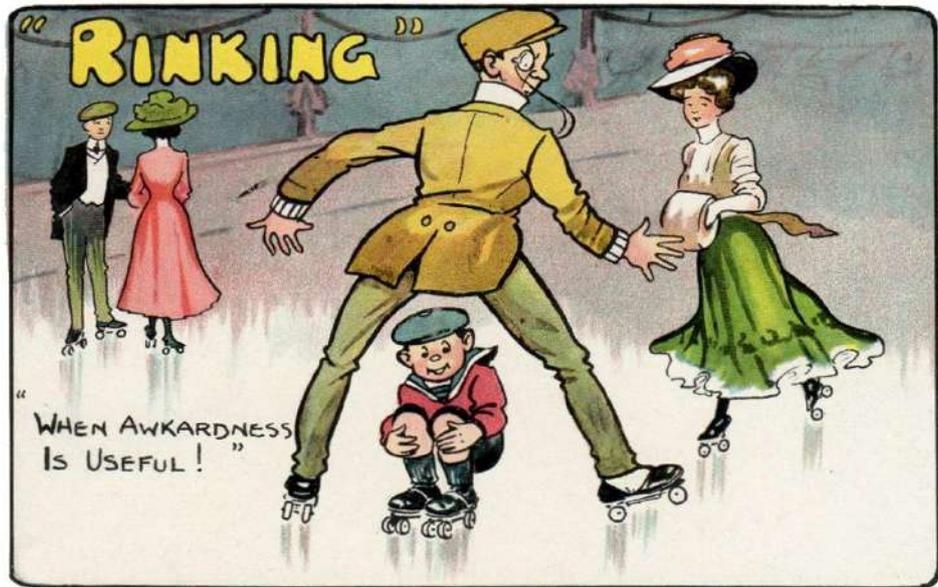
WILLING TO LEARN

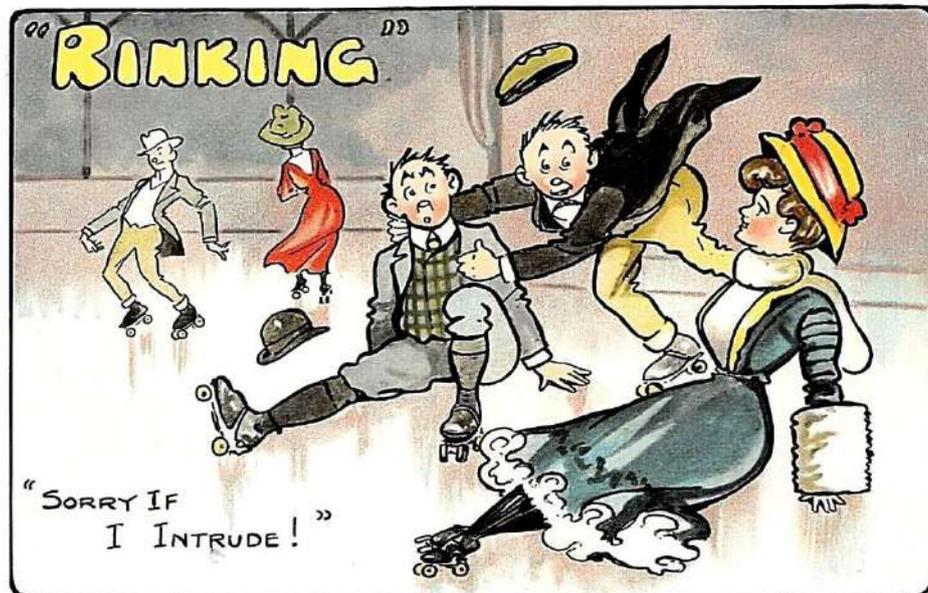


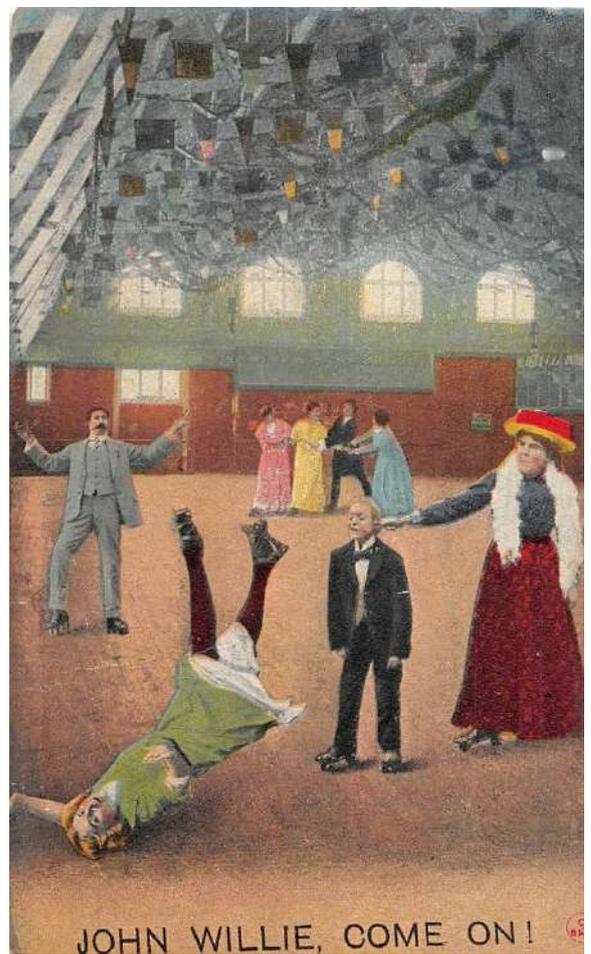
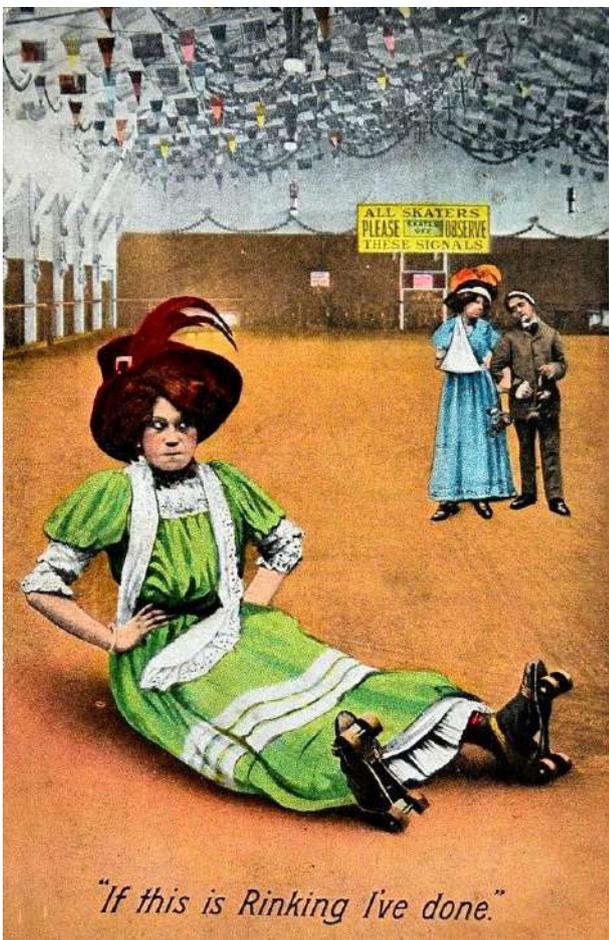
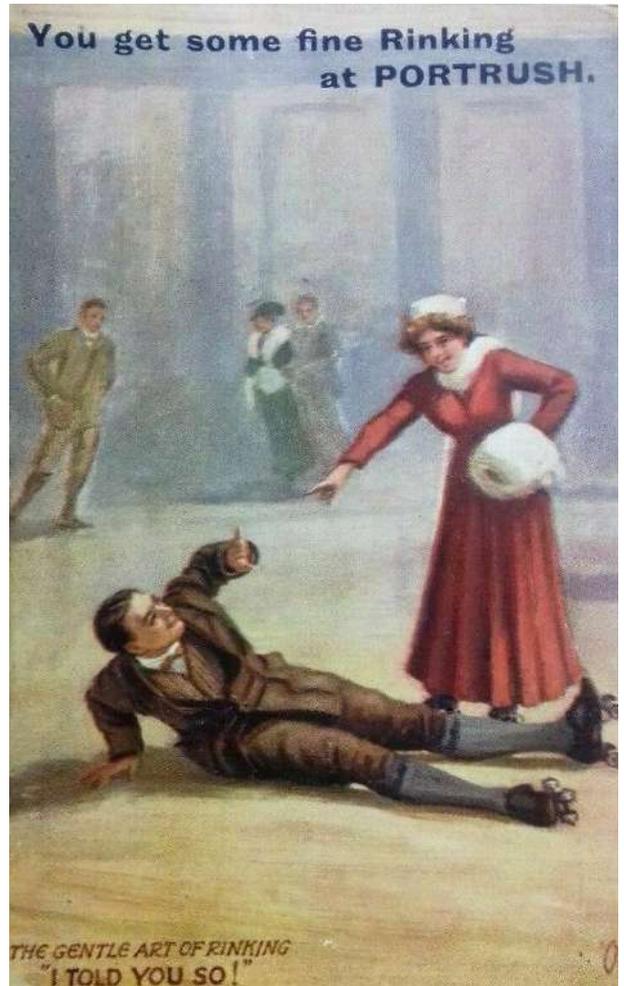
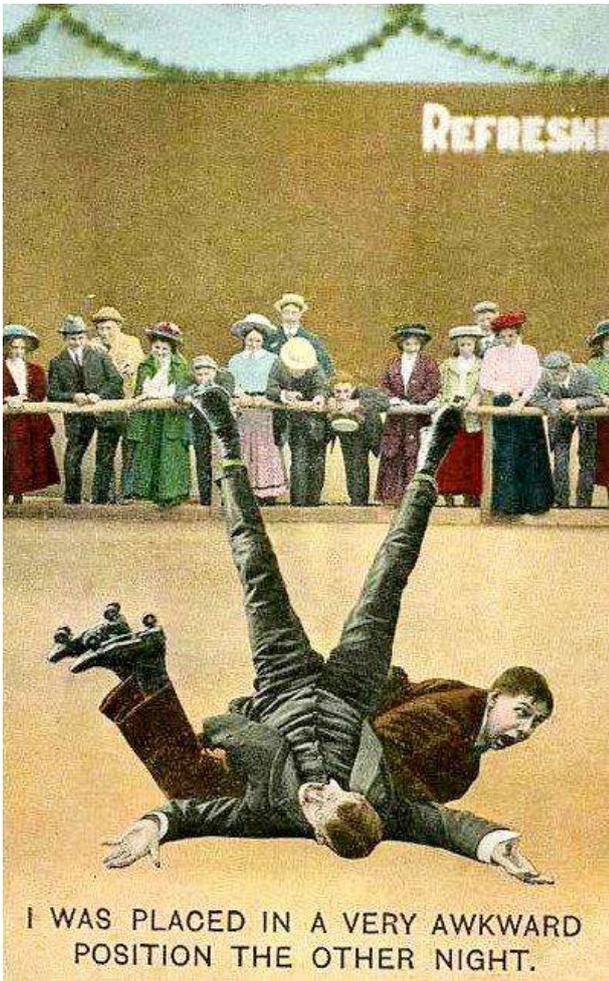
They glided round the rink,
There came a spill, a crash,
She was stuck upon him
And he had a mash!

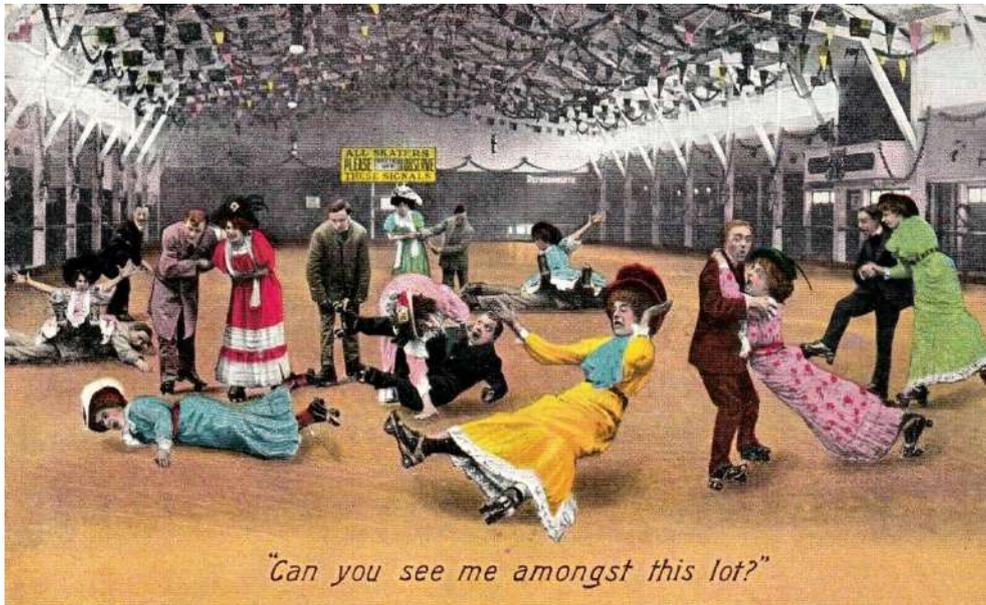












"Can you see me amongst this lot?"



Every body skates but Mother
 She gets mad all right,
 Pa gets a skate on Sunday
 Which lasts till Saturday night.

Sister skates on rollers,
 Sometimes brother Dan,
 Most of the time he's on one
 Like our old Man

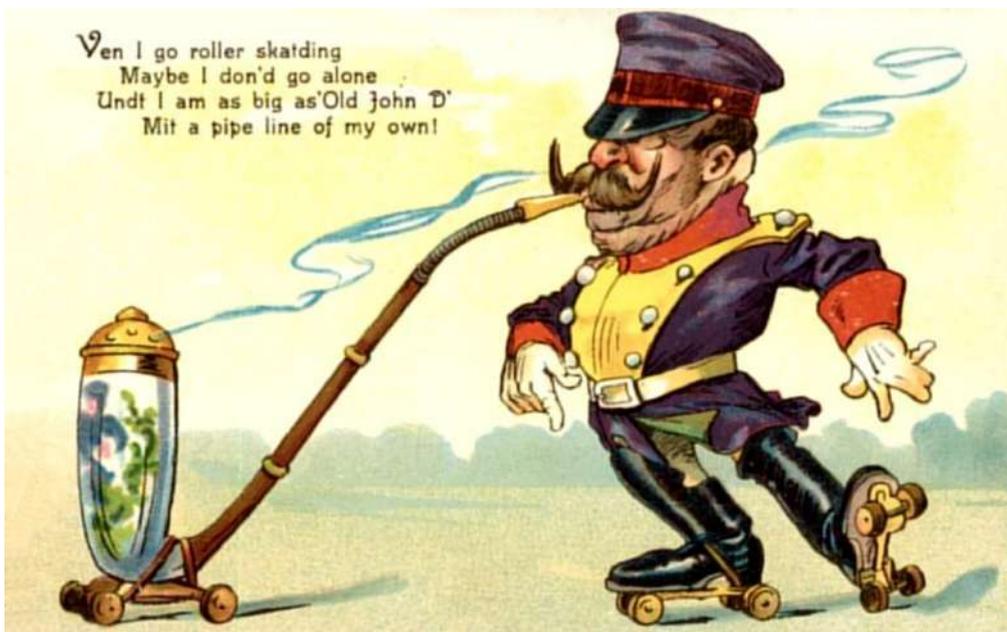


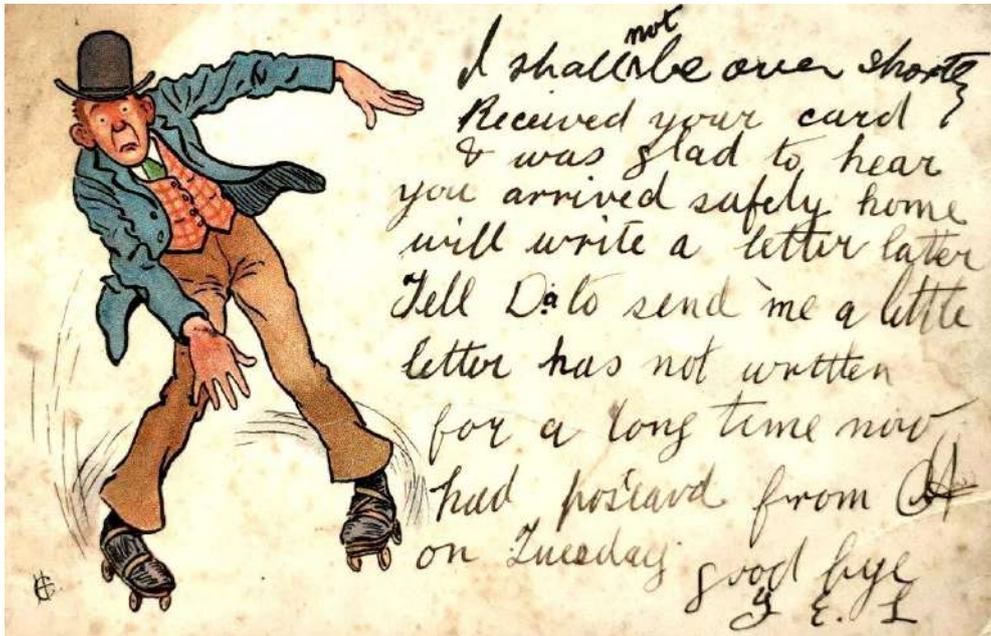
Every body skates but Mother
 She mends every day
 Pants for Pa and Brother
 Maud and sister May.

The rest are all out skating
 Or falling on the floor
 Making more work for Mother
 To mend some more.



When I go roller skating
Maybe I don'd go alone
Undt I am as big as 'Old John D'
Mit a pipe line of my own!







4872

AT THE SKATING RINK.

*Bending is quite the
thing here!*



4868

AT THE SKATING RINK.

I thought it was easier.



4877

AT THE SKATING RINK.

*Everybody is so nice
or jolly here!*



4867

AT THE SKATING RINK.

I love Rinking the Rink.



4376

AT THE SKATING RINK.

*It's great —
watching the learners.*



4380

AUNT MATILDA RINKS THE RINK.

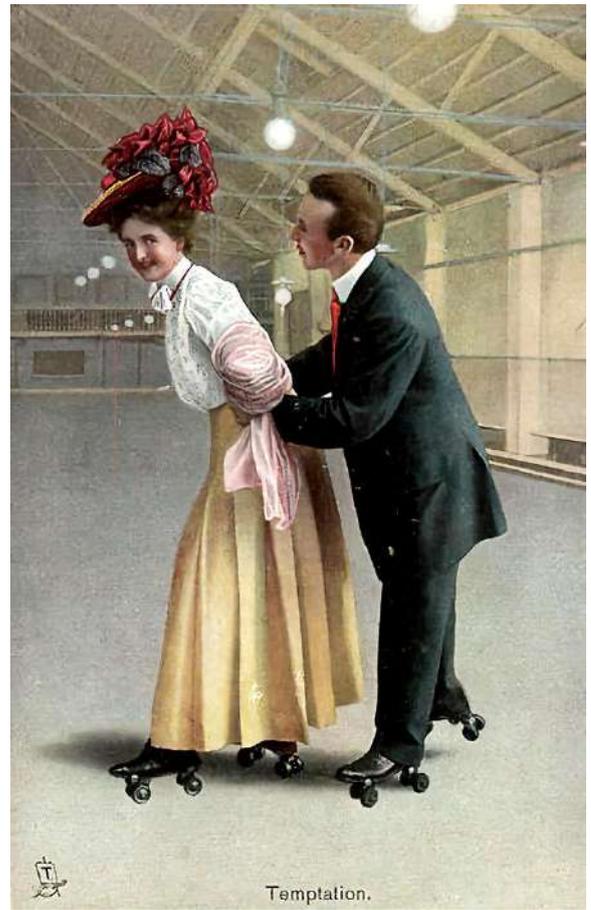
Mein Rollmädchen.

**Reizendes Rollmädchel
rollt auf den Rollrädeln.**

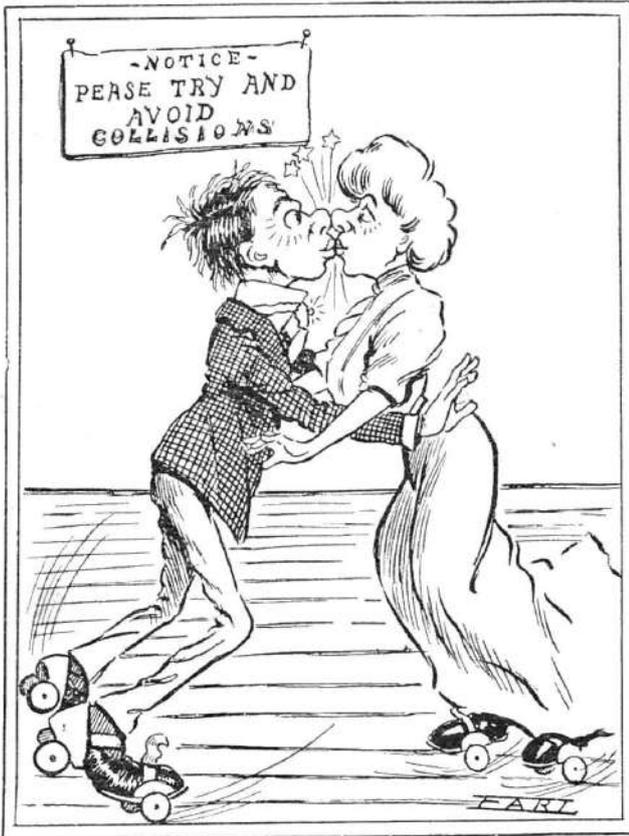




LUCY MOORE, The American Fat Girl.
Weight 46st.
THE RECORD FAT GIRL—STILL GROWING.

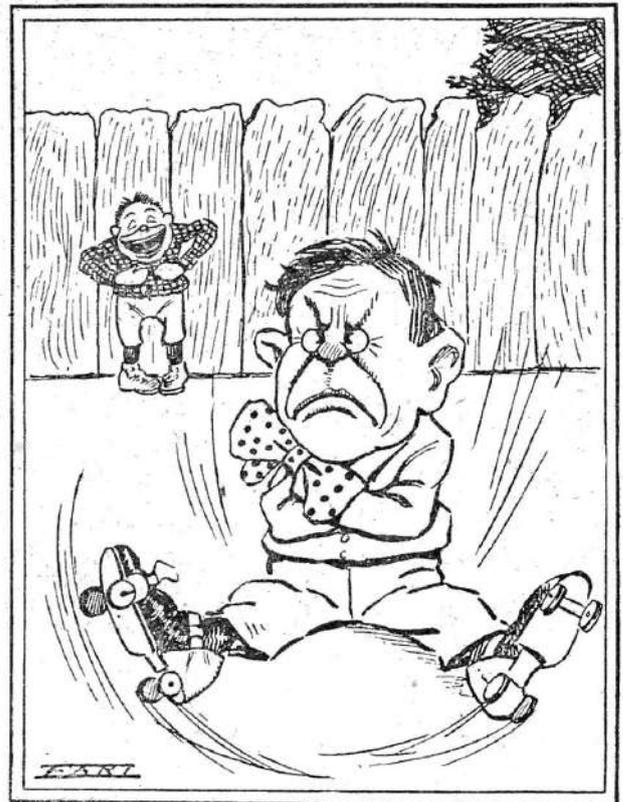


ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN, EVEN WITH EXPERTS,

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



EXCEEDINGLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH MY DISPOSITION.

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



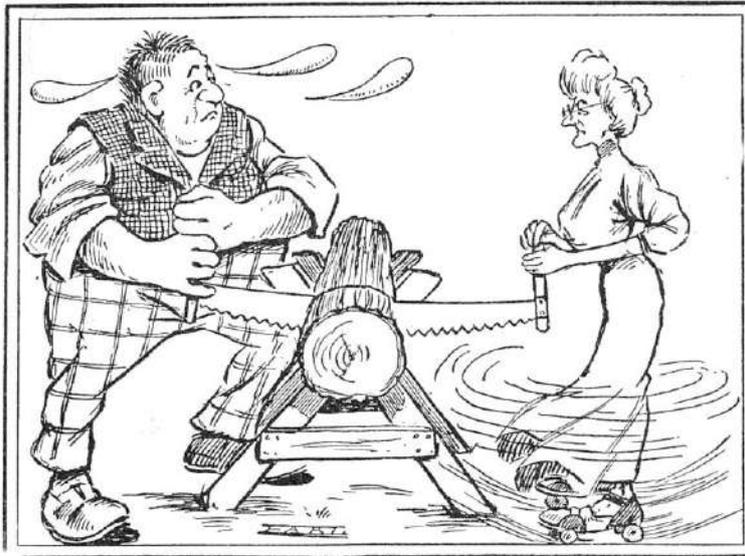
HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK FOR A PLACE TO LOCATE.

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



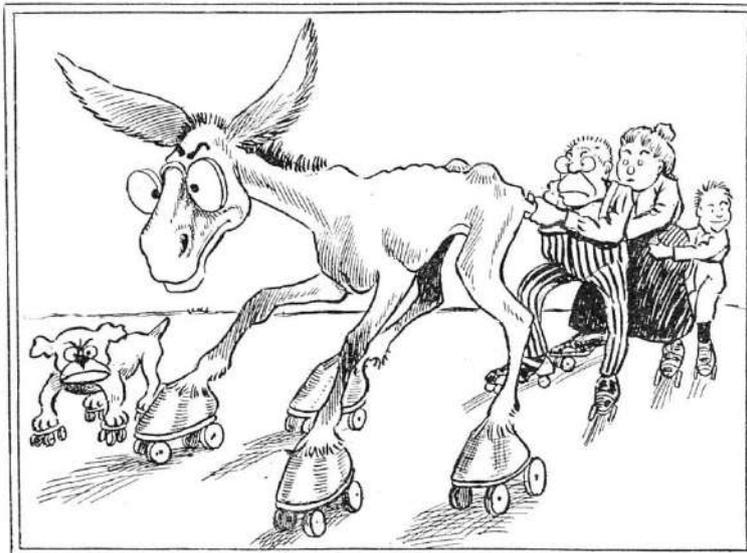
I'LL BE UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



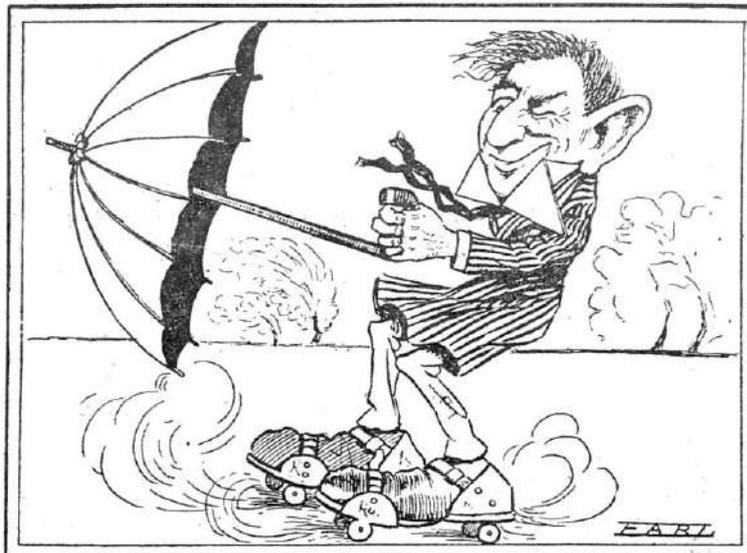
A SUGGESTION TO THE WOMAN WHOSE HUSBAND MAKES HER SAW WOOD.

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



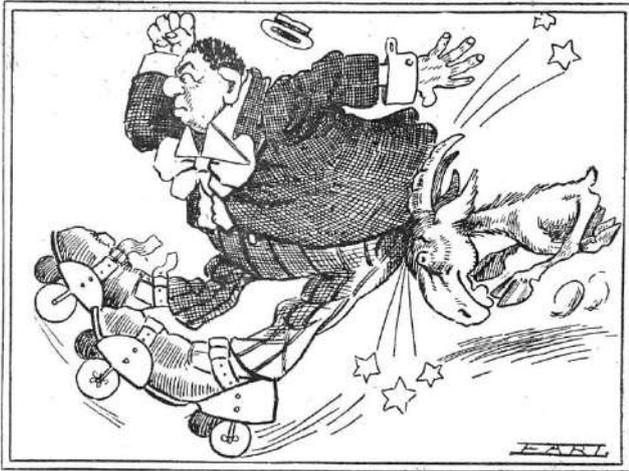
THE WHOLE DAMM FAMILY ON ROLLER SKATES

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



IF NOTHING HAPPENS I'LL BLOW IN SOON

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE

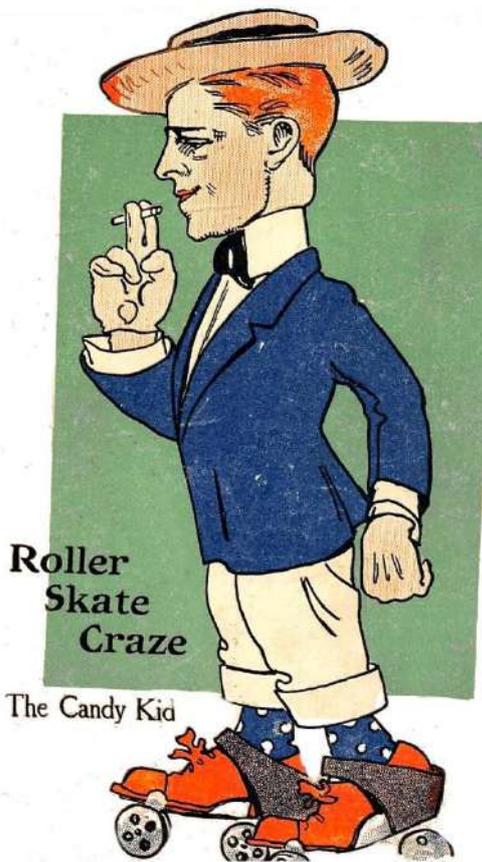


I'VE CERTAINLY GOT A GOOD START.

ROLLER SKATING CRAZE



THE ONLY KIND I CAN USE.



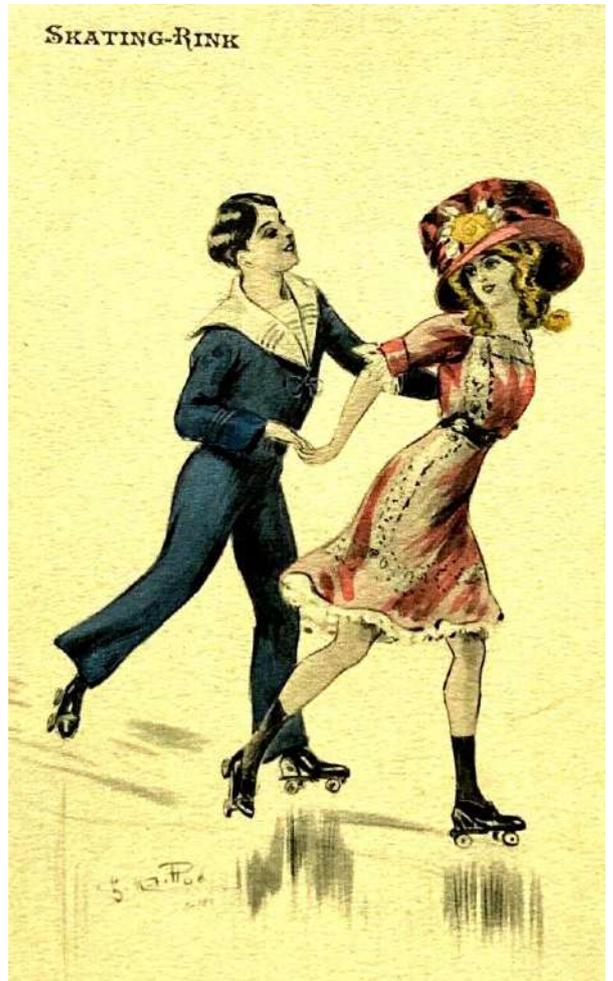
Roller Skate Craze

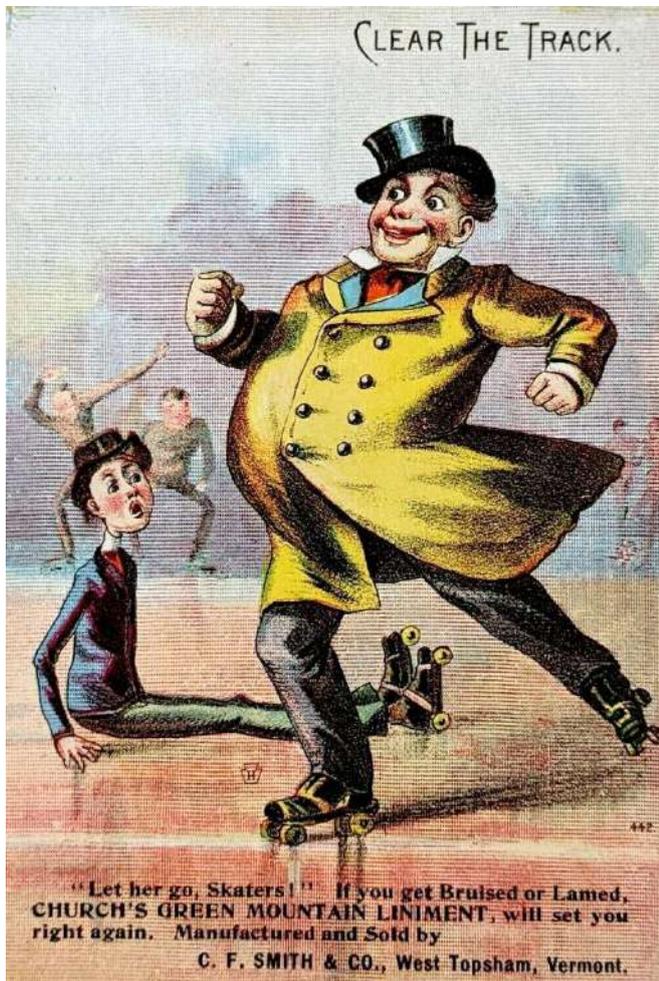
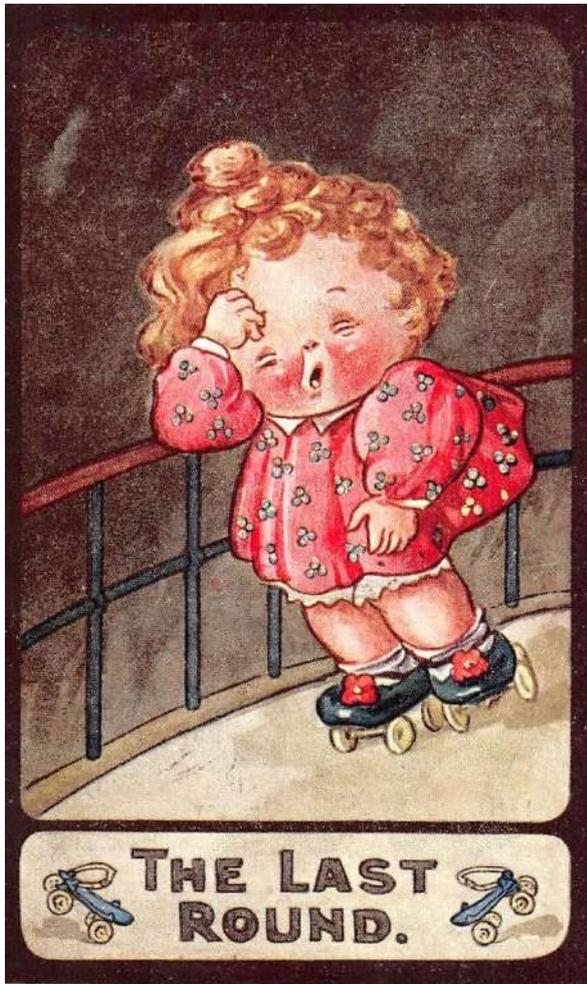
The Candy Kid



Roller Skate Craze

The Candy Girl

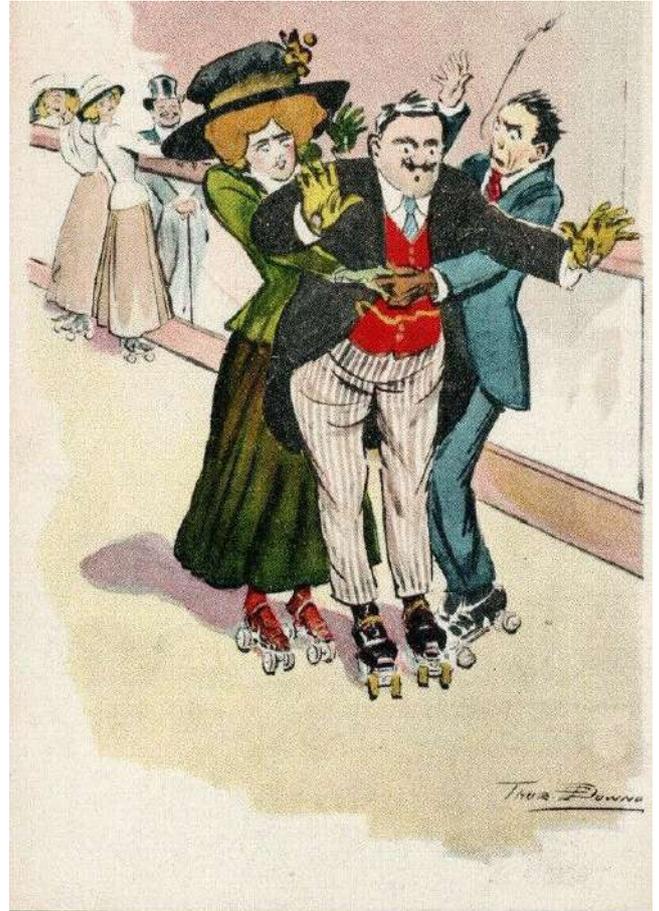




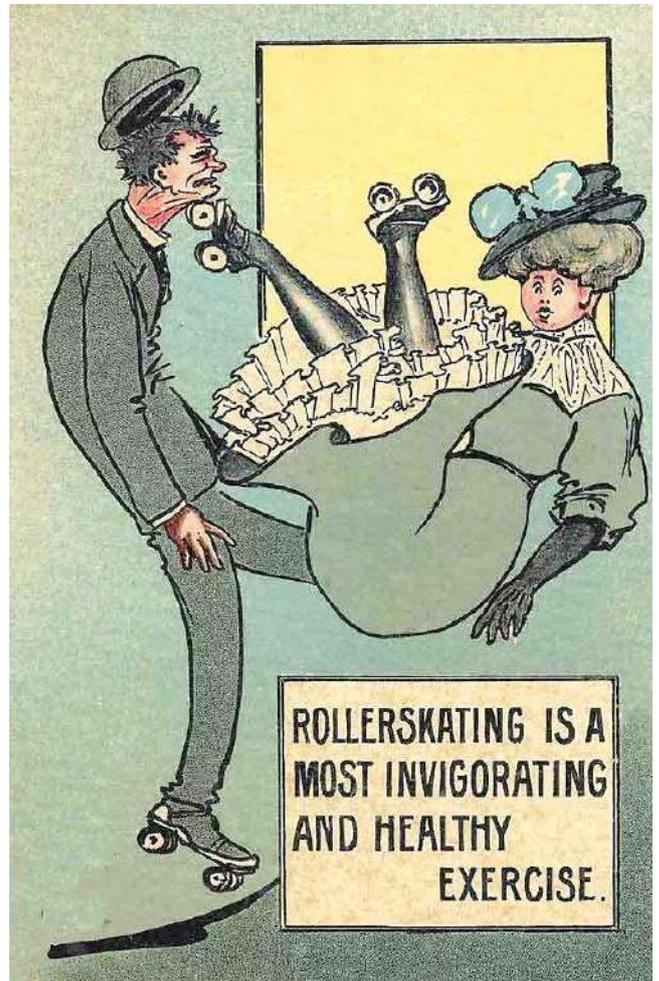
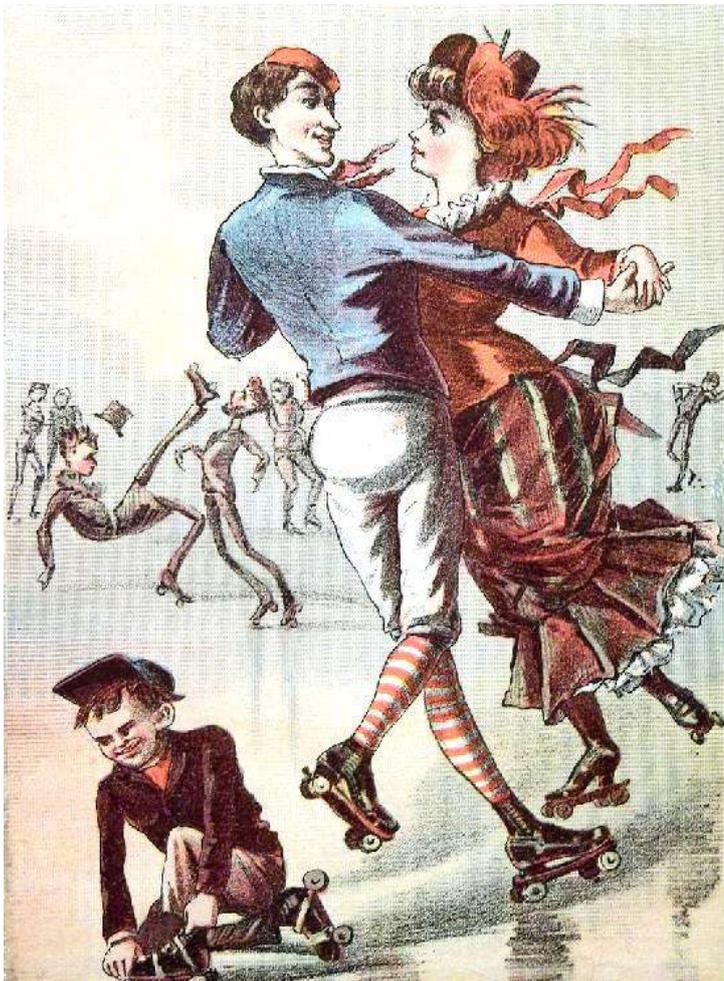
Picking up a Girl at the Penarth Skating Rink



THE GENTLE ART OF RINKING.
If you cannot keep up sit down, but not alone.



Your arrival was most unexpected.



ROLLERSKATING IS A
MOST INVIGORATING
AND HEALTHY
EXERCISE.



I'VE DECIDED TO SETTLE DOWN
Have you also?

