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team east after the coveted mug, the trip being made in 1901, when the Pacific coast boys fell down before the mighty Shamrocks, then the Invincible Irishmen of the East. A year later Westminster essayed to capture the cup, but the boys returned empty handed.

For years past Vancouver has been the only opponent of Westminster on the lacrosse oval, and had it not been for the stubbornness with which the teams of the larger city have remained in the field, even when hopelessly outclassed by the representatives of the smaller city, Westminster must long since have been compelled to abandon the sport, for without competition no pastime can possibly be fostered.

Until 1908 Vancouver was merely keeping alive its lacrosse team in the hope that some day the Westminster boys would grow old and quit playing lacrosse. Then Con Jones hove in sight and took charge of the situation. He placed his team on a professional basis. The day of the secret divvy and occasional hold-up passed



MINTO CUP

Emblematic of Canadian Lacrosse Championship Recently won by Vancouver

away. Every player was openly paid. Westminster kept up the amateur pretense a year longer, they, too, fell in line.

And then commenced a Titanic struggle that could have but one ending. Con Jones toothcombed Canada and imported a galaxy of stars that, individually, excelled Westminster. But teamwork was lacking, and Westminster still hugged the mug and the championship.

Finally the imported players acquired the desired combination. Then it was only a question of whether the cup would move this year or next year. It was this year.

The pewter is only twelve miles from Westminster, but there are few ardent fans, supporters of the Salmon Bellies, who would not rather see the vice-regal silverware in Toronto or Montreal, or at the bottom of the Red Sea, than in Con Jones' billiard parlors. For the love that exists between the rabid supporters on either side could be weighed on a hair-spring scale.

I saw Westminster go crazy in 1908 when the boys returned from their victorious encounters with the Shamrocks in Montreal; I saw the gloom that descended like a fog over the little town of Souris, Manitoba, in 1906, when the team from that city failed to wrest the laurels from the then Invincible Irishmen of the East. I took part in the cyclone of hair-brained joy ebullitions that swept over Vancouver on Saturday, September 16; I heard a mighty sighing rising from the banks of the Fraser River.

The enthusiasm of Westminster in 1908, the sorrow of Souris in 1906: these were but cheap imitations of the sterling brands of emotion displayed when the Minto Cup moved this fall.



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