

Sports and Pastimes

The oft recurring annual difficulties which afflict lacrosse circles, are beginning to make their appearance this season, as the various clubs composing the different leagues hold their annual meetings.

It is apparent that a repetition of the wirepulling, and the circulation of manufactured statements, which was a disagreeable feature of the situation last spring, is likely to be carried on again this year, and no doubt much bad blood will be engendered thereby.

Already the Ottawa Lacrosse Club have been reported to have determined upon a line of action which their president has felt called upon to state has not been considered by them.

The members of the Union Lacrosse Club of St. John, N.B., claim to have a grievance against the N.A.L.A., for their treatment of the Maritime Province clubs, and propose to withdraw from the association, and form a Maritime Provinces Association.

Such action would undoubtedly benefit the game throughout the Maritime Provinces and it is to be hoped the proposition may be carried into effect.

It is to be regretted that the actions of the two strongest clubs in the Dominion—the Montreal and Toronto clubs—should be conducted so utterly regardless of the interests of the game, and so entirely subordinated to the one idea of gate money. That such is the case is apparent in all their methods of procedure, and again I say it is very greatly to be regretted in the true interests of the game.

The expenses attendant upon keeping up a first-class lacrosse field in a large city are undoubtedly very heavy, and must be met in some manner other than out of the pockets of the players; but the very liberal patronage always extended by the public to lacrosse in both Montreal and Toronto, makes a good gate at all matches a matter of moderate certainty, and neither of the principal clubs of the Dominion need have the least anxiety on this score.

The actions of these two clubs begin to have altogether too much the appearance of a business undertaking rather than a sporting organization, and the sooner a change in this respect is effected the better it will be in the true interests of the game.

I am glad to learn that it is the intention of the Junior Hockey Association to take energetic measures to prevent a repetition of the rough play which has disgraced some of the recent matches in their tie series.

The Juniors are worse offenders in this respect than the Seniors, and it is therefore very much in the interests of the

future of the game that an immediate check be put upon such objectionable conduct.

Very probably it is owing to the Juniors not being such accomplished skaters as the Seniors, that induces them to resort to rough practices when they are being outplayed by an opponent, but as they are presumably the coming seniors, it is absolutely necessary that they be made to understand before it is too late, and their style of play ruined, that the game is a gentlemanly one, and may be and must be played in a gentlemanly manner.

CURLING.

CENTRAL CANADA CURLING ASSOCIATION

The annual bonspiel of this association was held at Almonte on 9th February and following days.

Three of the clubs composing the association—Pembroke, Renfrew and Kingston—failed to put in an appearance, and the remaining five clubs proceeded to play off.

The first game was between Perth and the Rideaus of Ottawa, and resulted in favour of the latter. Carleton and Almonte then met and Almonte won by 2 shots. Arnprior had a bye. In the second draw the Rideaus played Arnprior, the former winning by 5 shots.

The Rideau Club and the Almonte (Mississippi Club of Almonte) then met for the final, and the result proved the truth of the saying that there is nothing more slippery than ice and curling.

At the conclusion of the 11th end the Rideau Club had a lead of 13 points on the two rinks and the game was looked upon by most of those present as a foregone conclusion in their favour, but luck changed and it was but a few ends more when the Almonte Club had obtained a lead which they maintained to the finish, eventually winning by 6 shots.

A banquet in honour of the visiting clubs was held at the Davis House on Wednesday evening, and proved a most enjoyable affair.

Altogether the bonspiel was an undoubted success, altho' it was rather disappointing that three of the strong clubs were not represented.

CYCLING.

The committee appointed to consider the question of military cycling in the French Army, in their report to the Minister of War, express the opinion that it is not practicable to employ cyclists as combatants, and their rôle in the army should be restricted to conveying orders and information between headquarters and the various bodies of troops. For this purpose the committee suggest the employment of two classes of cyclists, the first for service with the Staff and the second for service with the troops, both parties to be recruited exclusively from the Reserve and Territorial troops. If this proposal is

entertained men belonging to the Active Army would never be employed as cyclists except in a few instances when their period of service with the colours is about to expire. The Committee recommended that each Army Corps should include a total of ninety-six cyclists, distributed as follows:—Eight to the Army Corps Staff, four to each division, two to each brigade, four to each regiment and four to each battalion or other independent unit. These cyclists would be borne on special lists, and during peace time, and for service in towns where the corps commanders deem it necessary, they would be called up for service in succession. On July 1st in each year, however, all men who engage as cyclists would be called up; those intended for service with the General Staff would have to prove their ability to cover 90 kilometres (56 miles) on a good road with a shorter period than six hours, whilst the others must be capable of covering 50 kilometres (31 miles) in less than four hours. The men must use their own safety cycles, but by way of compensation they will be paid 50 centimes a day at ordinary times, or 75 centimes during the manoeuvres. In the event of mobilisation the cycles will be requisitioned and their value assured, their owners receiving on the termination of the war an indemnity for the wear and tear or loss of their machines. All repairs during war time will also be paid for by the State. The Committee make a further recommendation that the War Department should manufacture and keep a stock of 600 safety bicycles for ordinary use, and to serve as a reserve to replace cycles which require repair during the manoeuvres. This last recommendation is however strongly combatted by the French Service papers, which maintain that improvements are more likely to be introduced by leaving the manufacture of cycles entirely in the hands of the cycling trade than by the government entering into competition with private firms.

COURSING.

The fact that the abolition of rabbit coursing in England, on account of its cruelty, is being agitated, and that the Queen has written a letter condemning the sport, has drawn attention to the Royal Buckhounds, a pack which has been maintained for ages. The master of the Royal Buckhounds is a salaried officer of state, and the office is in the gift of the Prime Minister, the honour being always bestowed upon some peer of high standing. The Buckhounds hunt nothing but tame deer, reared in the Royal park at Windsor. When there is a stag hunt a deer is taken from the herd and conveyed to the place of the meet: there it is loosed in a strange locality and compelled by fear to run for its life—as the deer no doubt thinks—pursued by a pack of fifty staghounds and a large number of titled ladies and gentlemen on horseback. The object being to