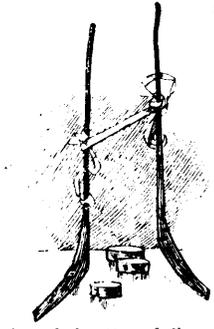


SPORTS AND PASTIMES



How much is known of hockey will probably never be appreciated by those who have simply seen it played in the championship form. Then there is a small rink and only seven to the side. But when the game is played on a big sheet of ice and there are fifteen men on each end, you see hockey in its original shape. This is just what happened on Christmas morning, when thirty good men and strong chased the "puck" over what seemed to be to them a ten-acre lot. And it was a great deal more appetizing for the active participants on the steels than for the passive ones on the M.A.A.A. stand, who smothered themselves in furs and shivered, while making a big effort to look comfortable. The players all know how to skate—more or less—and most of them fell down just at the moment they didn't want to, but it was a rattling game for all that. It was a good old-time game, where skating and endurance told, and where there was enough space to make the former particularly visible. The score—well, out of good nature, the score may be forgotten or put down as a close one.

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The annual meeting of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen will be held in New York on January 17th, and already the business to be transacted is being thoroughly discussed in rowing circles, the most important perhaps being the distance and style of championship races. Hitherto the amateur championship races have been over a mile and a half course straightaway. The objections raised to this were principally the difficulty at times of finding a suitable course as well as of accommodating spectators. Then prominent oarsmen and officials began to discuss the feasibility of changing the distance to a mile, either straightaway or with turn. As far as can be learned there is a strong feeling in favour of shortening the course, and it is probable that the mile straightaway will be adopted. The most sensational part of the meeting, however, will be the trial of the charges made against the amateurism of James P. Corbett, of the Iroquois Boat Club of Chicago. It will be remembered that this oarsman was in the same trouble in 1887, but for lack of evidence the charges were dismissed, and although, outside of Chicago, it was considered more a verdict of "not proven" than "not guilty," the matter has lain quietly on the shelf up to last year, when the regatta committee rejected Corbett's entry on the strength of fresh evidence placed in their hands. The charges, as formulated by President Garfield, are to the effect that, at the National regatta held in Chicago in 1889, Corbett had conspired with several Canadian scullers and betting men to row in their interest and that his present membership in the Iroquois club was brought about by an understanding contrary to the constitution of the association. There are other charges also made in connection with races under the auspices of the Chicago Navy, the Schuylkill Navy and the Canadian A. A. O. at Toronto. This is quite a list for the Chicago man to get over. At the Toronto meeting, three years ago, I remember the suspicious rumours that were tossed about in rowing circles, and some of the well-known sporting men of the Queen City seemed thoroughly satisfied with their day's earnings. Mr. Corbett has been notified to appear before the Executive committee to show cause why he should not be disqualified as an amateur oarsman. Mr. Jennison, secretary of his club, has taken up the cudgels in his behalf, but for all that the sculler will not have a particularly pleasant time of it.

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During the past summer in this column was advocated a scheme for a district rowing association for the St. Lawrence river, modelled somewhat on the lines of the Schuylkill Navy. Over a year ago the same scheme was put forth in the *Gazette*, and for some little time local oarsmen gave it some attention, and it got as far as being discussed at some of the club meetings, but with the usual want of enthusiasm that has characterized pretty much everything

aquatic, the matter was dropped and has not since been revived. These remarks are called forth by the recent action of the Detroit rowing clubs. They have recognized the fact that mere club affairs, while very interesting to the friends of the club itself, will never give any very general impetus to aquatic sport. Then again, the championship regattas of Canada and the United States only get round once a year, and are frequently held at such distances away that it is inconvenient, if not impossible, for many to attend them, and only those oarsmen with wealthy rowing clubs behind them can afford the outlay. To overcome these difficulties the rowing clubs in the vicinity of Detroit intend to have an annual regatta of their own, for which purpose an association will be formed. All boat clubs on either the Michigan or Canadian side of the Detroit river will be eligible. Sailing as well as rowing clubs will be included. Speaking of this matter, the *Empire*, which is always foremost in anything relating to the advancement of amateur sport of all kinds, suggests that the same course be followed by the numerous rowing clubs on Toronto bay, and says: "Toronto yacht clubs would not be expected to join a Toronto Bay Navy, but the Toronto, Argonaut, Bayside, Don, Parkdale and Sunnyside rowing clubs would doubtless all fall into line. Now, who will take the initiative?" The suggestion is again equally appropriate to the St. Lawrence clubs. The Grand Trunk club, which is making strenuous efforts to revivify rowing, might possibly take the lead in this matter, and if they pushed it with anything like their usual energy it is probable that Lachine, Pointe Claire, Valois, St. Annes, St. Lambert and Longueuil would join hands.

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The suspended wheelmen are making a great struggle under the leadership of Mr. Curtis, and the outcome is not yet. But they had a very lively time at the meeting of the managers of the A. A. U. At the joint meeting of the I. A. W. and A. A. U. last spring an A. A. U. rule was adopted, under a strict interpretation of which every athlete who has accepted travelling or training expenses since the passage of the rule, becomes a professional, unless when actually travelling to or from or competing at a championship meeting. The result was the suspension of several of the crack wheelmen of the country, a large number of whom belonged to the N. Y. A. C. This is the secret of the extraordinary interest taken in the matter by Mr. W. B. Curtis, whose interest in his club seems to have partially blinded him in his personal course as well as in his paper. At a meeting of the managers Mr. Curtis made an effort to have the objectionable rule declared null and void, but the meeting decided otherwise. Then a motion was made to have it repealed, and at last it was left in the hands of a joint committee of the League and the Union, who will report on January 3rd. Another resolution was put, which will be a source of sorrow to the pot-hunting athletes who like to compete for valuable prizes; but while the idea is a good one in its way, it is easy to see the animus which prompted it. It refers without doubt to the Bailey, Banks and Biddle plaque, which was won last season by the Manhattan club, with a very comfortable majority of points. This, of course, was gall and wormwood to the New York Athletic club, and hence the following resolution, which was also referred to a committee:—"Resolved, That after May 1st, 1891, no club in this union shall give and no athlete shall receive any prize for excellence in competition except medals or like emblems, appropriately inscribed, and no such medal or emblem shall be of greater intrinsic value than \$30. And that any club violating this rule shall be liable to suspension or expulsion, and any athlete so violating shall thereby cease to be an amateur."

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There is no longer any doubt of the success of the All-America eleven in England, and a schedule of matches has been arranged with all the prominent county teams and Oxford and Cambridge universities. The only prominent county team with which a date has not been arranged is Kent, but even this will likely be fixed later on. The dates thus far settled on begin in Birmingham, playing against Warwickshire, on May 11th, and ending on August 24th vs. Yorkshire at Scarborough. The trip will be prolonged by several matches in Ireland.

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As all of us who take any interest worth mentioning in horse racing are guided more or less by the doings of the Jockey Club that rules the roast in the right little tight little island, and as everybody knows that the annual dinner of

the Gimcrack club is a sort of safety valve and prophetic forewarner of the powers that be, a paragraph regarding the last social gathering of this club may not be uninteresting just now, especially as a well-known writer, who is thoroughly *au fait* with British sporting matters, gives us to understand that Mr. Lowther's speech is simply a foreshadowing of the action meditated by the Jockey Club, which seems nothing less than the professional decapitation of some of the most celebrated English jockeys, when the question of issuing licenses comes to be considered. Mr. Lowther's speech was the *pièce de résistance*, when it comes to the feast-of-reason part of the dinner, and it was flavoured with curry, pepper, cloves and other pungent productions that made it hot in the mouth and hot in the ear. He wanted the professional backer, with a turn for prophecy, suppressed, especially as with the aid of jockeys and trainers these prophets frequently hit it right; and then "Jemmy" metaphorically jumped on the horns of some unimpeachable owners, by declaring that there was a well-known turf firm by the name of "Backers, Jockeys & Co.," the silent partners in which firm were owners of stables and entries, and then in his nice pleasant sarcastic vein he proceeded to sprinkle in a little more of the salt of wisdom as follows:—"The jockey of the present day is a very different individual to his predecessor of days gone by. Jockeys nowadays are earning salaries in excess of what the most prominent professional men could look to as their year's earnings. In fact, cases have existed where a jockey received—and in the particular case I mention I allude to one of the most honourable men who ever followed that calling—a salary equal to that of a secretary of state—and jockeys even of a second rank received payments which placed them in a position, from a financial point of view, considerably ahead of the bulk of their employers. You could not expect a man who was in receipt of incomes like these to stand in the same relative position to his employer, especially if his employer were a person of no very fixed income at all—as the jockey of old did to the person who liked to be his benefactor and enable him to earn £3 or £5 for riding his horse. And, therefore, you must not be prepared to lay down the old-fashioned standard as to the mutual relations between jockeys and those for whom they rode." Now this was pleasant enough in all conscience, but the best of it was to come yet, and this was touched up with just a drop or two of vitriol or corrosive sublimate or some other equally blawdy material. His neat turn of speech as to Buenos Ayres being a perfect Alsatia of aggravated scoundrelism is worthy of a place in the classic records of epithet makers. Then he pointed out that "never was a time when jockeys were more completely under control of the authorities of the turf than at present, when they had annually to obtain a license to ply their calling. The authorities of the turf would be required, by the general feeling of owners of horses and the community at large, to satisfy themselves before they placed any person in a position to ply the avocation of a jockey if the applicant for that license was in any shape or form associated with bad practices. Stewards of the Jockey Club would be supported by the general feeling of the racing world if they required very decided guarantees that the holders of licenses were above reproach. As to the position which the English turf occupied, all the continental turf authorities and the authorities of the United States were associated with us in an endeavour to put down roguery throughout the world. There was one exception only that came to his mind. The people of the Argentine Republic were about the only racing nation with whom we had no reciprocity in putting down frauds. Buenos Ayres was a perfect Alsatia of aggravated scoundrelism."

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That the fish and game laws in both Quebec and Ontario need revision in the form of making the regulation more stringent few genuine sportsmen will deny, but still there are plausible arguments on both sides, and even the advocate of deer hunting with dogs finds something to say in favour of his own peculiar method of sport, and gives figures perhaps to prove his idea. The agitation in Ontario at the present time is a good one; all these agitations are bound to do good when got up by men who are sportsmen for sport's sake and not merely hide and antler hunters for auctioneers and furniture dealers. In this connection a word in favour of the amalgamation of the Toronto gun clubs may not be out of order, as the principal paragraph in their constitution looks to the enforcement of the game laws. In Quebec the Fish and Game Protection Club has