



VERY ACCOMMODATING

Passenger—"What in thunder are you waiting for? Why don't you move on?"
 Conductor—"See that man standing away down there?"
 Passenger—"Yes."
 Conductor—"Well, maybe he wants to go on this car."
 Passenger—"Oh!"

TALES OF MONTREAL STREET CAR LIFE.

which were least troubled with the wire-pulling element played the better lacrosse, achieved the better results and stood a rung or two higher on the ladder of athletic fame than their brethren at the end of the season.

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The lesson seems obvious, and the recent action of the executive committee of the Shamrock club seems a sufficiently reasonable one to point a moral. Time and again it has been rumoured, talked about on the streets, asserted by some of the club's best friends, and printed in the press, that the real reason of the non-success of the team in green was the eternal meddling and bickering of rival factions. Of course, these statements were assiduously denied; but the denials did not stop Dame Rumour to any great extent—or remedy the evil, for that matter. The personality of the man elected to captain a lacrosse team may seem of the veriest unimportance to the general public, and in most cases such nominations are passed over with but very little comment; for the majority rules, and generally the men composing the majority are credited with voting conscientiously for the best interests of the club which has confidence enough in them to delegate to them the management of the club's affairs. Therefore, it would seem that the election of Mr. M. J. Polan should not be looked at in any different light than any other event of like nature. But in this case there is a distinction with a difference. Mr. Polan has the respect and admiration of all who know him, either personally or on the lacrosse field; he can handle a team about as well as anybody, and he has done wonders with the Shamrocks in the past when the difficulties to be faced seemed insurmountable. When victory favoured the Shamrocks he was spoken of as a marvellous captain; when she simply flattered over them and eventually perched on some one else's banners a good deal of gratuitous blame was the captain's share; but praise and blame he took alike in his amiable way, and in his difficulties he received the moral support of those who had the true interests of lacrosse at heart. Under these circumstances it cannot be imagined that any fault with the selection of Mr. Polan could be found. The fault is to be found in the animus that caused his election, a thing of which, I believe, he was in no way cognizant, and of which, naturally, he is perfectly guiltless. Back numbers of a magazine may be interesting for their age, or

may supply very excellent reading, but no one would think of using them in the telegraphic page of a newspaper. Back numbers on a lacrosse field are not quite so useful. Still, back numbers in either sphere are apt to be ambitious. Ambition, with the assistance of Brutus and a knife, killed Caesar; and ambition, with the aid of back numbers and a pliable committee, is likely to make a very envious rent in the Shamrocks' chances for the championship the coming season. It may be a little hard on a player who has struggled on the field for his club to be obliged to resign his place and give way to younger blood. Custom may not have staled him, but in these days age withers rapidly, and if he really has the interests of his club at heart he should step down and out gracefully, and feel thankful that better material had been secured, by whom the colours he loves may be carried to the front. Now, it is an open secret that had Mr. McAnulty been elected to the captaincy several of the best players of the Crescents would have sought membership in the Shamrock club and aspired to a place under their old leader. In fact, it was with a thorough understanding to this effect that several prominent members of the club importuned him to accept the nomination, guaranteeing an election by acclamation. He eventually accepted under the distinct understanding that if there was any opposition his name would be withdrawn. But the back-number interest had not been calculated on. The idea gradually worked its way through the convolutions of their brains that if Mr. McAnulty was made captain some sprightly young players might find places on the team; whereas, if they defeated him, these dreaded youths would not become members of the club at all. In point of fact, this was openly stated as the reason for the opposition to the gentleman who has done really the best work as field captain during the last three seasons. When remonstrated with and told if they were afraid they could not hold their own with newcomers, that they might expect to be replaced, they smiled in their might and said nothing. One by one the strings were gathered in, and at the word "pull" they just voted. That was all. Under the circumstances it is not at all likely that players of any merit will care about joining a club whose destinies are placed in the hands of men with whom the general good is secondary to personal and selfish ambition and influence in high places. It was a

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

In the last few issues of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED reference has been made at some length to the prospects of the national game, and it was hoped that at least so early in the season there would be some general effort made to harmonize those difficulties that might be expected to arise. But the initial move is a bad forecast to calculate the rest of the season upon, and let us hope that in this case it will be the last. That there is strength in union is so true an aphorism that it can scarcely ever become hackneyed. Lacrosse players, after all, are merely human, and if clubs are split up in their internal management they are just as liable to get into trouble as less famous people. To have any pretensions to strength they must be united. In the past, unfortunately for the game, there has always been more or less trouble in this respect; and, in fact, it would be hard to find an exception in any club, where there was a sufficient number of playing members, whose ambition looked to senior honours, but whose abilities were only junior. The word "clique" is a prophet of evil to lacrosse clubs as well as to other organizations, and there have been as many cliques to the square inch among lacrosse men as ever there were in a preliminary caucus with half a dozen candidates in the field. And when it comes to count the ends of the strings to be pulled—well, the ward politicians would not be in it with the average lacrosse legislator, unless he had cards and spades to start with. We have had cliques and disruptions in what was considered the governing body. We have had superb cliques in the conventions and in the sessions of the executive. We have had cliques in the senior and junior leagues. We have had cliques in the senior and junior clubs. We have had cliques everywhere. How very near they came to ruining public interest in the game is a matter of recent history. They did very little less damage than the professional amateur, a barnacle that these same cliques were largely responsible for. An analysis of the past few seasons' work will easily teach the observer that the clubs