

# Canadian Oarsmen in 1914

*Invincible at Home; Successful Abroad*

By J. T. STIRRETT

CANADIAN rowing for the season which is just closing falls into three divisions: our accomplishments in England, in the United States, and in Canada.

### At the British Henley.

Following the precedent which has been tacitly recognized for many years, Canada was represented at the world's greatest regatta, the British Henley on the Thames, by only one club. Four years in succession we have striven to win those two premier prizes of the rowing world, the Grand Challenge Cup for eight-oared crews, and the Diamond Sculls for singles. Four years in succession we have been beaten in both contests. In 1911, Ottawas; in 1912 and 1913, Argonauts; and in 1914, Winnipegs went down after gallant struggles in the eights. In 1911, Cosgrave; in 1912 and 1913, Butler, both of the Argonaut Rowing Club, and in 1914, Dibble, of the Don Rowing Club, all tasted the bitter cup. This year continued the story of unsuccessful but gallant attempts. Our chief consolation is that Canadian rowing is benefited by this adversity which has been desperately fought and cheerfully borne. The British like good losers. At any rate, the victory of the Harvard crew refutes the argument that a winning style and stroke can not be developed on this side of the Atlantic.

### In the United States.

Canadians won only two championships of the United States at the N. A. A. O. regatta last year, which is much below the average. In 1911, the Argonauts won six out of twelve. This year they won none at all, but they were close seconds in large fields in every race which they entered. This has been the most successful year in the history of United States rowing, which has heretofore been below the Canadian standard. American oarsmen not only won the World's eight-oared championship, but also retained all their national championships save two. These came to Toronto. The senior single was won by Robert Dibble, of the Don Rowing Club, and the senior quarter mile dash by E. B. Butler, of the Toronto Rowing Club. On the whole, Canadian scullers were slightly superior to the American scullers. Dibble is supreme on long distances both in strength and speed, while Butler is the fastest man on the continent in a sprint. On the other hand, Canadian sweep crews were slightly inferior to the American crews this season, how slightly is shown by the fact that the University of Pennsylvania beat the Argonauts at the People's Regatta by six feet, and the Duluth crew won from the same Argonaut crew at the National Regatta

by only two feet, a narrow squeak. In Canada.

Canadian oarsmen proved themselves to be almost invincible at home this season. Out of fifteen Canadian championships awarded at the Canadian Henley Regatta, only one went to the United States, and this was only an intermediate title. All five senior titles remain in Canada; the senior eight, light senior eight and senior four were won by the Argonaut Rowing Club; and the senior single and double sculls by the Don Rowing Club. This proves that in both crew (sweep) races and sculling races, Canadians were superior to Americans at the home regatta. This superiority cannot be attributed to lack of competition, because some of the strongest American rowing clubs were represented. For example, the Detroit Rowing Club, one of the best on the continent, coached for years by Vivian Nickalls, who is now with the University of Pennsylvania, had four eight-oared crews entered; while the New York Athletic Club, the Montreal Rowing Club and the Detroit Rowing Club tried their best scullers against the Canadians.

### Toronto Led This Year.

Toronto won several times as many rowing championships this season as any other city in North America. It is doubtful if any city in the world has half as many victories to its credit. Ten out of fifteen Canadian championships were won by Toronto crews, in addition to the two United States championships won by Toronto scullers. The Argonauts won the senior, light senior and junior eights, the junior four and the light-weight four, while the senior, intermediate and junior double sculls, the senior single sculls and the preliminary eights went to the Don Rowing Club. The Argonauts maintained their supremacy in sweep rowing, three out of four eight-oared races and two out of five four-oared races. The crew rowing of the Argonauts set a very high standard, although it was a shade below that of 1911, which was probably the most successful in the history of the club.

In sculling, the Don Rowing Club won four out of six championships, the senior, intermediate and junior doubles and the senior singles. The Dons seem to have a special aptitude for sculling and have specialized successfully in it.

Owing to the cancellation of the Interprovincial Regatta, which was to have been held in Ottawa on September 7th, because many crew members have gone to the war, rowing men will not have an opportunity to see the annual season-end contests that console those who were unfortunate in earlier regattas.



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## Meanderings in Vanity Fair

*A Woman's Racy Humoresque*

EVERY now and then some one sends us a copy of a ladies' newspaper with some blue-penciled paragraph indicating an editorial opinion of something said in this column. The opinion is frequently of the admonitory kind and intended to do us good. Sometimes there is a suggestion of militancy. Sometimes it is merely explanatory of woman's great work in the world, as for example of Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's ideal of the home of the future, which will be supplied with comestibles through a sort of subterranean sewer and where the children's little noses will be wiped at stated intervals by machinery. But we have just received a copy of the "Ladies World" and with no blue pencil markings. Perhaps we are intended to read the whole of it, or at least those parts that can be read by a pure male mind without embarrassment. We skip hurriedly the opening article, which asks us to "leave false modesty behind" and announces its intention to "deal frankly with a sacred subject." We are sure

mother would not like us to read that. When a woman announces that she will "leave false modesty behind" or "deal frankly with a sacred subject" we begin instinctively to blush. We know what is coming. We know that she is about to say something that would make an alligator blush. Why a woman came to us the other day to enlist our sympathy for the great cause of eugenics and she said at once that she would leave false modesty behind, or words to that effect, and the things she told us were a perfect revelation. Certainly she left false modesty behind, all kinds of modesty, and a long way behind. We blushed for our sex and began to wonder if we were really doing the maidenly thing in going to an office at all and exposing ourselves to that sort of information. Like Sam Weller's knowledge of London, it was "extensive and peculiar." We understand now why we are so cussed and why we ought not to have been born at all. So we skip that first article.

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