

REPORT ON ATHLETICS.

THE ONTARIO RUGBY UNION.

To the President and Members of the Society:

Your Committee begs leave to submit the following report of progress:—

1. Your Committee regrets that, owing to the lack of general financial support by the student body, and to the fact that there are no grounds at their disposal to which an admission fee may be charged, the various athletic clubs are put to such great expense in maintaining the honor of the University on the Campus. In view of these circumstances, your Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees, the Senate and the College Council be memorialized to level, fence and otherwise prepare the ground behind the University so as to accommodate the public.

2. Your Committee desires further to recommend that the Society assumes forthwith the control and management of the Annual Games, by appointing a Committee for that purpose, to collect subscriptions and to perform all other duties in that connection, the Society assuming final financial responsibility.

3. The Society is aware that the dollar of the fees annually collected from each student, which formerly went to the support of the gymnasium in Moss Hall, has been collected by the Registrar ever since its demolition three years ago. Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the Society takes immediate steps to have this sum placed to the credit of the student body, who formerly controlled it, for athletic purposes.

4. Until some definite arrangement has been arrived at in regard to grounds and gymnasium, or both, your Committee deems it inadvisable to go further in the formation of an athletic association.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. C. POPE,

Convener, Athletic Association Committee.

DI-VARSITIES.

ON PUBLICATION.

I love the honest editors
Who, on acceptance, pay;
But when they print my jokes, I wish
They paid the other way.

A CHEMICAL ROMANCE.

Said Atom unto Molly Cule :
" Will you unite with me ?"
And Molly Cule did quick retort :
" There's no affinity."

Beneath electric light plant's shade,
Poor Atom hoped he'd metre ;
But she eloped with a rascal, base,
And her name is now Saltpetre.

Mrs. Newley : My daughter is to be taught only the most aristocratic branches. Teacher : Yes ma'am. Mrs. Newley : You will teach her higher mathematics immediately—no vulgar fractions or anything of that sort.

Editor : How's this, I thought you said you were an old newspaper man ? Reporter : So I am. Editor : Consider yourself discharged. You say the man lost \$1,000 in the deal. An old reporter would have said \$100,000.

Skiffmore : Young Smith was rather mournful toward the end of supper last night ; did you notice it ? Bighead : Yes ; but he usually does get more-'n-full at every supper he attends, as far as I can see.—*Yale Record*.

Twenty men are now training for the Yale University crew, and no candidate has yet been dropped.

The spirit of reform has been abroad in the Rugby football world during the past season, and exerted considerable influence at the annual meeting of the Union held at the Rossin House on Saturday. The gathering represented all the principal clubs in Ontario, delegates being present from Trinity, Hamilton, Toronto, Osgoode Hall, London, Sarnia, Stratford, Queen's, Ottawa, Ontario and Varsity, who, with the present executive, formed a very *recherche* gathering. The reports of the secretary and treasurer showed that the Union is in good condition both financially and otherwise. After their submission the meeting devoted about five hours to the discussion and alteration of the present rules, and thereby effected many very important changes.

In making these changes the object was to prevent the continuance of those very objectionable modes of play which have characterized the game during the past season, and which have tended to make it very uninteresting to the spectator. Very stringent rules were therefore made against offside play, lying on or handling the ball in a scrummage, and against the present manner of playing on the wings. The penalties imposed for the infraction of these rules are very severe, consisting in a free kick, or advance of five yards, for the opposite side, or, in case of frequent recurrence, in the suspension of the offending player, and of any club which plays with or against him during such suspension. If a player continually disputes the referee's decisions he shall be also subject to the same penalty. These rules give the referee much more power than he formerly possessed, but should result in a very close observance of the rules on the part of the players.

Other changes in the laws of the game are of minor importance, and will not materially affect the mode of play. They are briefly to the effect that the goal posts are twenty feet high, instead of thirteen, that a majority of points shall decide a match, that a drop on goal shall count five instead of four points, and a safety touch two, that the trick of punting the ball into touch at the kick off is illegal, that after a try the ball may be brought out from between the goal posts, and finally that field captains are abolished. By this last change and the appointment of touch-line judges and goal judges the task of the referee will probably be easier than formerly.

Many other important changes were suggested but not adopted. The proposal to reduce the number of men composing a team created very considerable discussion but did not meet with much approval. The scheme to allow the members of the executive to vote by proxy, and thereby not necessitate their attendance at meetings, was thrown out. It was proposed to revert to the old challenge system, the Hamilton delegation strongly supporting the proposal, but the meeting did not consider the change advisable, and next year the ties will be again in vogue.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows : T. H. Stinson, Hamilton, President ; Edward Bayly, Toronto, 1st Vice-President ; P. Taylor, Ottawa, 2nd Vice-President ; J. F. Smellie, Osgoode Hall, Hon. Sec.-Treas. ; W. Logie, Hamilton, J. A. McKeown, Stratford, W. H. Bunting, Varsity, A. J. Boyd, Toronto, H. B. Cronyn, London, T. G. Marquis, Queen's, E. C. Senkler, Osgoode Hall, Committee.

The newly elected executive will remain in office for the purpose of revising the rules, until the 25th of April, when the meeting, which was adjourned until then, will again meet and receive the committee's report and make any other changes that be deemed advisable.

Uncle Josh : How's your father ? Miss Belle : Very well, thank you. Uncle J. : How's your mother ? Miss B. : She's well, too. Uncle J. (after a three minutes' pause) : How're your parents ?—*Yale Record*.