

of *Harper's Weekly*, expresses the opinion that so far as the beneficial properties of lacrosse, as a general healthful and vigorous sport go, from an all round point of view, there is no game that excels, or even equals it, not even football. It calls for accurate judgment and prompt decision, quickens and brightens the mind, takes the timidity out of a boy and gives him instead confidence, pluck and control of his temper; in other words, it makes a man of him. As for the spectator, there is no game in the world so attractive. It is simplicity itself, and one may divine its purport from the very first game one sees. It abounds in open and beautiful plays, and the onlooker sees the pretty stops of goalkeepers, the long throw and checking of the defensive players, the fast running and dodging of the centres and the clever tipping and stick work of the attacks.

The history of lacrosse in Canada dates back a great many years, when the game was first played by the Indians and although it has changed slightly in minor details, it is still as exciting and exhilarating as when first played by the original owners of the soil. The first record of its existence as a whiteman's game was that in 1850 a club was formed in the city of Montreal, which played matches with the Indians, though they must have been inferior to the red man, for it is recorded they captured but one match. Of the Montreal club's history, but little is known, except that it did not thrive in its early days. "Lacrosse," says Mr. Whitney, "may be said to have first become popular in 1860, when the efforts of the Montreal club and the exhibitions of the Iriquois Indians gave the game its first impetus. This was increased the following year by a match between the whites and Indians for the pleasure of the Prince of Wales, who was visiting the Dominion. It was in this year also that Mr. Beers published his little pamphlet, and made the first attempt to reduce the game to a set of rules. Unfortunately, after this good start, the game seemed to lose some of its popularity about Montreal with the departure of the Prince of Wales. In the meantime, however, a club had been formed at Ottawa, which did the game a great service by defeating Montreal, for in the effort to retrieve their lost laurels, an increased interest was once more awakened in lacrosse. In 1867, the Montreal club framed the first laws of lacrosse, and the same year called a convention of Canadian clubs, which resulted in the organization of the National Lacrosse Association in Canada."

Coming nearer home, the history of lacrosse in British Columbia can be told in a few words. The first club was started in Victoria in 1886, among the members at that time being: E. V. Bodwell, the late D. W. Morrow, Dr. Quinlan, W. G. Mackenzie, R. P. McLennan, W. F. Wood, Skene Lowe, Dr. Blanchard, the late Harry Wootton, W. Losee, M. H. Cowan, C. G. Ballentyne, T. B. Macabe, and a number of others. Later in the same year, Vancouver got a team together under the captaincy of Alex. Perry, and the first match was played at Beacon Hill in September, 1886. The Vancouver club was regularly organized the following year

through the efforts of Mr. A. E. Suckling. The same year lacrosse received an impetus through the arrival of W. H. Cullin, the old reliable goalkeeper, W. H. Clarke and several others. That year, three matches were played—one at Vancouver and two in Victoria—the result being two winnings for Victoria. Westminster club was organized the following year. In 1889, the Provincial Association was organized. The history of the game since that time is an open book.

The record of the Victoria club has been an honorable one, and it is hoped that its future will reflect as much credit on the patriotic young Canadians who play it as it has in the past. In preserving an interest in the game, they may be, though perhaps unconsciously, developing a sentiment which may result in the founding of a nation, the substructure of which may possess all the sturdy elements that are characteristic of the great national game.

THE HOME JOURNAL is pleased to observe that at last the loyal and patriotic citizens of the Queen city have bestirred themselves, and that the celebration of the birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria will be on a scale equally as elaborate as in former years. This is as it should be. Britons—and whether we were born in the land of the maple leaf, thistle, shamrock or rose, we are still Britons, and proud of it—the world over, are reminded by the recurrence of the twenty-fourth of May that there is at least one subject upon which they can all agree. Grumbling is the proverbial privilege of Britain's sons. The right to maintain opposing opinions is the heritage of free men. But proverbial grumblers may rejoice and controversialists sink their differences as they celebrate the birthday of a Queen who from the highest pinnacle in the world has shed upon the troubled sea of modern life the clear and constant light of a stainless character, a boundless sympathy and an unflagging attention to duty. Canadians can join with their fellow subjects of India, Australia and the mother lands in singing with heart and voice, "God save the Queen."

If monarchs had always been of the Victoria stamp Republicanism would have made little progress. The democratic system, while it ministers to the craving of a people for absolute self government, has this inherent weakness, that it divides the country into factions, and places at the head of affairs a party nominee who necessarily repels, rather than attracts, the affections and sympathies of those opposed to him in opinion. Instead of the executive officer being a cohesive force he is often a source of weakness to the state, and unless the sense of attachment to country is strong there is nothing to counteract the tendency to division which government by party exerts.

A limited monarchy, on the other hand, while it allows the freest play to individual opinion and energy, provides in the person of the monarch a central object raised above the arena of party warfare around which all parties may rally. The

King in this system is the embodiment of the national sentiment. He stands a constant reminder to parties that party government is but the means to an end and that the country's good and not party aggrandisement, is the object for which parties exist. Where the monarch is himself capable of attracting the affection and influencing the sentiment of his people, the forces towards which he exerts is incalculable. The maintenance of the honor of the throne becomes the watchword of men of a stripe of opinion. His efforts for the public good provoke a thousand similar efforts. His patriotism is a trumpet call to duty and usefulness. The longer he lives the stronger becomes the chain which links the people to the monarch and through him which binds them to the realm he governs, and to their fellow subjects whom he rules.

The celebration of the day in Canada should be no mere formality. Let us give expression to our heartfelt admiration for and devotion to the Queen. We no less than Englishmen, have reason to keep this day fittingly. The entire freedom we enjoy in the management of our own affairs is the outcome of the wise spirit of the Victoria era. While our responsibility is limited to the proper administration of those affairs, and while we prefer not to share in the burden of responsibility of the Empire's control, we should not forget that though the duties of our fellow-subjects in the Mother Land are more onerous, their privileges are no greater. The imperial inheritance is ours as well as theirs. The imperial protection is our right and our possession. The imperial prestige enshrouds us. Over and above all—"for Britons are Britons wherever they be"—the greatest Queen in the world, the wisest ruler in the world, the noblest woman in the world is our also. Victoria, our Queen, God bless her!

The Rugby football season of 1893-4, which has just terminated with the international contests at San Francisco, has augured well for the future of the game, not only in this Province, but on the Pacific Coast generally. The revival of the Provincial Union early in the season has already proved itself to have been a step in the right direction, and the local club deserves credit for taking the initiative in the matter. Perhaps the most prominent feature of the season which has just closed is the fact that on two occasions British Columbia teams have visited the neighboring republic, and although in both cases they carried off the honors the teams they met were strong enough to give a hard game. Those residents in the States who have played under English rules in England, Eastern Canada and elsewhere have never taken kindly to the American game and there is evidently a growing feeling that a change in the American rules would be beneficial. Next season, it would not be surprising to find several clubs playing under English Rugby rules in the adjoining states. The English game has always been kept free from professionalism, which commends it to those who love sport for sport's sake.