

# HOCKEY IN EASTERN CANADA.



HE prominence given to rules and regulations in Athletic Games is one of the most marked characteristics of the last decade.

Scarcely ten years ago there were few games with a fixed code of rules, or played in the same way by clubs in different parts of the country. Inter-collegiate or club contests between different cities were rare and the interest in amateur sports was to those taking part, and their immediate friends who were, perhaps, much more interested in the players than in the game played.

All is now changed. Learned com-

its wonderfully rapid progress in favor both with player and spectator.

In Canada two causes have especially helped to insure its permanence and popularity.

The season of play extends over about four months, and the covered skating rinks, found in every city and town throughout the Dominion, render play possible in all kinds of weather, so that the hockey-player has no longer to hang up his skates and put away his stick after a deep fall of snow.

The rinks have done much to encourage the attendance of the spectator. From the vantage ground of the platform or



Starting a game.

mittees, composed of delegates from distant cities, have "sat upon" rules and constitutions and by-laws and amendments and foot-notes, till now, every game worthy of the name, has its code with definition of terms and its memoranda.

Match games are under the strict legal supervision of the referee, who, in his domain, is as absolute as the Czar of all the Russias; against his edict of banishment to the Siberian solitude of the dressing room the unfortunate sinner has no appeal.

There is no game that has shewn this development of law and order more clearly than Hockey; the result appearing in

gallery he can, in comparative comfort, watch every move in the game, without having, as of old, to encourage the circulation in his extremities by a frantic war dance to the accompaniment of the vigorous arm movement technically known as the "milkman's slap."

The introduction of electric lighting made rink play possible at night and all the great matches now take place in the evening.

All these advantages combine to lift hockey above all others in Canada as the National Winter Game.

Hockey, as at present played, has been evolved from an old Scottish game,