

It is conceded on every hand that the personnel of our team is as strong as ever; that the championship was a possibility which might be made an actuality were the same rules adhered to as were carried out in '93 and '94, the years in which we held the trophy. There are two main reasons why we are in our present position in football to-day: firstly, want of proper organization; secondly, want of proper discipline and practice.

In regard to organization, it is a fact that of the officers only one was back at the beginning of the season, and but a very few members of last year's team. With a lot of new men to run things the fact is things ran themselves, and the organization and discipline which are necessary to success were wanting. It would be a good thing to remember this when selecting next year's officers, and to elect those men only who will be back early in the season, that the work may go on from the start. Then there was but little practice. The week before our final match four of the team were not out at all, and never more than half a dozen men appeared at once. Besides most of the men had not been playing all told more than two weeks. It is the same old tale, "want of practice," and it may be laid down as certain that until we realize that the championship is not to be attained by one spasmodic effort, but by steady work and discipline in daily practice, our efforts must end as they did this year, no matter how good our material may be.

But perhaps the most melancholy aspect of the whole situation is that we have no second team coming on to take the place of our present first team. No efforts were made to bring out new men, so that next year our chances are but doubtful. With this year our present team breaks up, and when looking at our prospects one is inclined to cry "Oh, for the good old days!" The default of our second team was a mistake in policy that will be felt for a year at least and perhaps longer. It would be well to go back to the old system of appointing a coach for the second team; one who understands football and who could teach new men the rudiments of the game. Thus we would provide material to fill the places of those who graduate from year to year.

We cannot conclude this article without congratulating 'Varsity on her present position. Her success so far has been due to indefatigable effort, and in the hour of our defeat we can truly say we were beaten by a better team. As a sister college we wish for her in her final matches the same success as has heretofore attended her. And should it be hers to battle for the honor of our province, the men of Queen's will be glad to see the boys in blue enrolled once more as "Champions of Canada."

In the sphere of Canadian politics the past summer has been one of unusual interest. Seldom is there an election in which so many influences are at work as were felt during the general election of this year. Consequently, unbiassed men felt absolutely uncertain as to what the result would be. Many were looking for a change of government, but no one expected it to be brought about in the way it was, with Quebec solidly supporting Laurier and the West offering so much opposition. However, the change came, and prominent business men say at an opportune time for the new government. The tide of commercial affairs was then at its lowest and is now rising again. For this the Liberals will naturally take all the credit, just as in times past a good old Conservative lady laid all the blame upon Mackenzie, because under his regime she had to buy potatoes by the quart. It is not the part of the JOURNAL to award the honors in these disputed matters, though we may safely say that all the blame for business depression and all the praise for commercial prosperity should not be given to government. There are many other forces at work in the economic and social world besides those generated at Ottawa.

The JOURNAL represents all shades of political opinions—Queen's students are not all Conservatives as some people in the west imagine; neither are they all Liberals as some Kingstonians fancy. We, therefore, refrain from any criticisms of the general policy of either party. But some remarks on the subject of purity in politics may not be out of order.

During past years much was heard from the opposition benches of the corruption of the party then in power, and every one knows there was good ground for many of the accusations. But we also heard many promises of clean government if there was a change of power. Has the new government taken the right steps for the fulfilment of these promises? We are afraid that the thin edge of the wedge has been allowed to enter when Conservative office-holders who took an active part in elections are dismissed and their places filled by Reformers who were equally partisan. The principle enunciated and acted upon by the present government is that the servant of parliament who champions the cause of his party in a political campaign does so at the risk of dismissal, *if his party is defeated*. Implicit in this is the principle that he does so with a good chance of advancement, if his party is successful. This is the root of nine-tenths of the corruption which characterizes political life. And if this policy is pursued by the present government we question if at the end of eighteen years, should it live that long, its record will be any cleaner than that of its predecessor.