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MANAGEMENT OF UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS.

At the suggestion of the Editor of THE VARSITY, I will attempt to give, briefly, an account of the evolution of the management of athletics in the University of Toronto, dwelling more particularly on the constitution of the present Athletic Association and its directorate. It would doubtless be not too much to say that as soon as athletics became a prominent feature in University life, there followed a desire on the part of the undergraduate body for the efficient executive management of them. The outcome of this was the Athletic Association, instituted about ten or twelve years ago, and which was the governing body until the close of the past academic year.

The original idea of those who drew up its constitution was, that it would bind all forms of athletics in a common union for the common good, and in addition, that the management of them should, to a fair degree, come from the athletic directorate. The latter was intended to be the executive for the Athletic Association, of which every undergraduate student was a member. It was composed of a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and representatives from each of the four years in Arts, the various Faculties, and the majority of affiliated institutions, numbering in all some twenty-two members. As one would expect, this large executive was soon found to be an extremely unwieldy body, if for no other reason than that it was always difficult to get a representative meeting.

The outcome of this was the institution of the "Athletic Board" some two years ago. This was composed of the president of the University, two other members of the Faculty, and the president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer of the Athletic Association. The scope of their jurisdiction was wide, and theoretically gave the Athletic Board sole control over all athletics, and all those who participated in them throughout the whole of the University. The preamble of the circular, issued shortly after the institution of the board, reads as follows: "The Athletic Board has entire supervision and control of all athletic exercises within and without the precincts of the University, subject to such conditions as the Councils, or the joint committee thereof, may impose from time to time."

This was an undoubted improvement over the old unwieldy athletic directorate, and under the able guidance of Mr. T. A. Russell was exceedingly successful. But there was felt to be something still wanting in the con-

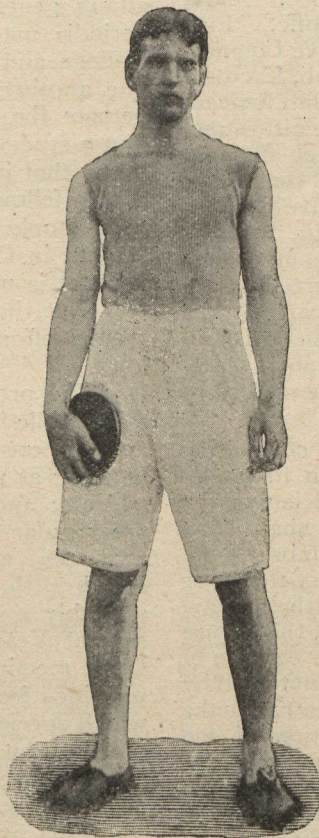
stitution of the Athletic Board. Well, it had the desired faculty and student representation, and also very comprehensive supervisory powers assigned to it; but the question was, Could it exercise its theoretical control? It certainly could and did, in many matters; but when the question arose of financial management of, or even suggestion of such to any athletic organization whatsoever, the Board was at a loss. For example, they might not wish a team composed of University men to take a tour, but how could they prevent such a team from doing exactly as they pleased? The Board had no control whatever over their finances, and so it became *ultra vires* for them, the Board, to even attempt to enforce their theoretical control over such a team. It thus became evident that unless the governing body had complete control over the receiving and disbursing of all the funds of every athletic organization, that it could not direct their actions. This is the key-note to the situation as it exists in the present state of affairs, and has existed in all former athletic organizations. The Athletic Executive must control, absolutely, the finances of each individual club. This brings us to our own time, and an outline of the movement which brought with it this welcome change may be interesting.

The writer can easily recall the general dissatisfaction that was felt by the members of the class of '99 over the constitution of the Executive which governed, or rather was supposed to govern, athletics at the University. It was thought, and rightly so, that the control was not sufficiently centralized, that the main-spring of the athletic machine did not govern the actions of its many wheels, so to speak. The writer remembers that the subject was very thoroughly threshed out in the columns of THE VARSITY with undoubted beneficial results, serving as this did to prepare the way for what was destined to follow.

It remained, however, for someone to earnestly take up the matter and bring it to a satisfactory issue. The man upon

whom the labor devolved, and to whom most credit is due, is Mr. T. A. Russell, of '99. As secretary-treasurer of the Athletic Association for 1899-1900, he reported favorably for a reorganization, and outlined the direction he thought it should take. A committee was appointed at the annual meeting of the association last spring to draw up a constitution and have it ready to present at a meeting to be called later. This was done, and with a few minor changes it remains the constitution of the present Athletic Association.

Article 3 of the constitution shows the comprehensive



J. W. GRAY,
Champion Varsity Annual Games