

LACROSSE.

UNIONS VS. WANDERERS.

The Wanderers' Lacrosse team journeyed on Saturday to St. John in order to again try conclusions with New Brunswick's representative team, their opponents on the 25th of May here, the Unions of St. John. A hot afternoon in the train was followed by a hot evening. Some whiled away the time with books, others slept and still others adopted the amusement so cleverly illustrated by Mountjoy Walker in his whistling solo "Gone, gone, gone!" At 11 p.m. the train rolled in to St. John station, and there, despite the lateness of the hour, numbers of the Unions were found to bid their opponents welcome, greetings were exchanged, cabs obtained and soon the party was within the hospitable doors of the "Dufferin," where, during the two following days, the proprietor, Mr. F. A. Jones, and his genial assistant (McCaffrey of the Unions, a keen Lacrosse player,) did all in their power for the welfare of the team. Sunday was passed in various ways. One stalwart athlete walked out to Rothsay in the early morning and, despite the heat, returned on foot in the evening. Another spent the day on a yacht belonging to Arthur Thompson and Jack McDonald of Halifax, both of whom are attached to the St. John agency of the Bank of Montreal. Others visited friends in the city, and the balance were taken by the Unions for a drive in the country.

The weather, which, up to Monday morning had been superb, then commenced to look threatening, but with the exception of one or two trifling showers in the morning, no rain fell during the day. About eleven o'clock the team visited the Shamrock's ground, where the match was later to be played, and required some valuable experience of a decidedly peculiar ground, without which they would have been sadly handicapped in the afternoon. Soft spongy turf from which the ball would hardly rebound, a loose cinder track with clinkers as big as a walnut, a rough board fence with supports inside, and long grass growing between the track and the fence, all of them inimical to good play and conducive to danger, combine to make the Shamrocks grounds unsatisfactory from the standpoint of Lacrosse at least, and it is to be hoped that some of these defects may be remedied before the Wanderers have to play there again.

The morning was stiflingly warm, so after some desultory practice, the team returned to the hotel and, having done justice to the Dufferin menu, retired to their rooms where a gentle siesta occupied the time until three o'clock. Half an hour later both teams were at the grounds ready for play. While the attendance at the game could hardly be said to have been enormous, the Wanderers were glad to learn that no such audience had previously assembled to witness Lacrosse in St. John. It was not only exceptional in point of numbers, but also from the presence of so many ladies, of whom a number were recognized as being well known in Halifax society.

Play commenced shortly after half past three, the Umpires being, for the Unions, Mr. McPherson, and for the Wanderers, Mr. A. G. Cunningham, while Mr. Alljo of Montreal officiated as Referee. It may be remarked in passing, that the decisions of all three gave absolute satisfaction.

Within a few minutes after the commencement of play, the Unions scored, the Wanderers defence not having settled down to their work. McFarlane was the lucky man, and the friends of the Unions were jubilant. After a few moments rest play was resumed and the Wanderers' at once showed that they meant business. A few passes up and down the field, a smart run and an unsuccessful throw for goal from Henry which sent the ball back of the goal into the corner of the fence, a clever throw in front of goal from Stewart, a quick motion of the stick from Middleton, and the game was placed once more on even terms.

For the next hour and three quarters the play on both sides was one of the most determined character, and the fate of the game was for some time in the balance, but before long the superior run-

ning and staying powers of the Wanderers won the second victory as they had won their first. The Wanderers second goal was also scored by Middleton, who caught a rapid, but not accurate, shot at goal from Fuller, and put it through the posts like lightning. In the few remaining minutes of play no further score was made, and the Wanderers were left victors by two goals to one.

Too high praise cannot be given to the Wanderers defence team. Cassels at goal, Simpson at point and Oxley at corner point distinguished themselves over and over again. McIntosh and Metzler at outside defence did useful and timely work, while at centre, Wallace, Grierson, Tracey and Middleton seemed absolutely tireless, covering in their excursions the whole length of the field, and rendering it almost an impossibility to keep them covered. No matter where the ball was, there you were almost certain to find one or more of this indefatigable quartette. Of the play of the attack field, Fuller, Stewart and Henry, too much cannot be said. All three were more or less under the weather, otherwise the score might easily have been more largely in favor of the Wanderers. They were moreover rather handicapped in having nearly always to contend with more than the usual complement of opponents.

For the Unions McGee at goal played a remarkably fine game, as did also McLeod at point, the throwing of the latter being especially brilliant. Bartsch at cover-point worked hard and successfully, and J. S. Esson and Armstrong at outside defence often proved more than a match for their nearest opponents. The Unions attack was also weak. McCaffrey, McFarlane and Dr. Esson showed up well at times, but they were practically powerless, after their first goal, in the hands of the Wanderers defence.

Many hard knocks were given, and received, for the most part good humouredly, but the criticism must in all fairness be made that the home team on the whole was guilty on occasions of unnecessary roughness. This is not said with any intention of disparaging the Unions, they were fairly beaten, and frankly admitted it, and it would ill-become a Wanderer under the circumstances to exhibit any spirit of bitterness or spitefulness, but the criticism is made with a view of preventing a repetition of the subject of offense, which, if allowed to pass unnoticed, and not protested against would inevitably tend to render the game unpopular with spectators, and undesirable for players. People will not watch, and athletes will soon avoid a game which is likely to result in comparatively serious injury to those engaged in it, and while these remarks are called forth by the game of last Monday, they are not intended for the then competing teams alone, but for all exponents of the game whose eyes may chance to rest upon these lines. The game is rough enough even if properly played, and cuts and bruises are almost inevitable. Let it be the aim of every Lacrosse player and lover in the Maritime Provinces to render the game as free from danger as possible, and let every player sink petty revenge and mere personal feeling in the nobler endeavour to elevate our national game, and make it such a pastime that every true Canadian may point to it with pride.

The history of the final acts in the Wanderers' excursion to celebrate their city's Natal day in the neighboring provinces may be given in a few words. A drive to the hotel, baths, dinner, an evening largely given to celebration of the hard won victory in such various manners as suited the dispositions of the various excursionists, the train at eleven o'clock, the battle refought, bed, well-earned repose, Windsor junction, rain, North street, and the resumption of "the common round, the daily task," are incidents which will long remain in the memories of those who experienced them, but as to which others can feel but little interest. O. G.

JOHN NAYLOR,

93 HOLLIS STREET, - - - HALIFAX, N. S.

House and Estate Agent, Appraiser and Conveyancer, Farms, Building Lots, and Houses for Sale or to Rent. Furnished Houses and Apartments.