

Lacrosse.

Secretaries of Clubs will please forward short concise reports of their Meetings and Games, as soon as possible after the events happen. Write on one side of the paper only. Address all correspondence or questions on this subject to the Lacrosse Editor, TOWN AND COUNTRY, Toronto, Ont.

THE INDIAN QUESTION.

Before the late meeting of the National Association, lacrosse players, and friends of the game, often asked each other the question, "Has the association backbone enough to declare Indian Clubs professionals?" Whatever the general opinion may have been, the question has been settled in a very satisfactory and practical manner by the Association declaring that all Indian clubs shall hereafter rank as professionals. As we pointed out a few weeks ago, Indians are professionals in every sense of the word, and it is the veriest fiction to call them by any other name. We ventured to prophecy that the Indian clubs themselves would not seriously object to the change of title provided they did not lose any pecuniary advantage by it. The result has more than fulfilled our expectations, for they not only seemed to be satisfied, but are pleased to be placed in a position where they can receive a fair remuneration for their services without the fear of being hauled over the coals for it. In an interview with White Eagle of the Caughnawaga team, last week, he authorized us to say that as far as the Caughnawagas were concerned they much preferred the present arrangement to the old one by which they could only get their expenses. He said that he intended on his return home to get his team into good condition so as to be able to defeat any white team in Canada and would then be open to play all-comers, provided the consideration was sufficient. Capt. Gibson was also interviewed and stated that so far as the Six Nation Indian Clubs were concerned they would as soon be ranked professionals as not. He claimed that the Association did not do justice to the Indian Clubs in its membership, because they got no more chance of playing matches than other Indian clubs who did not belong to the Association. He thought as they paid their subscription to the Association every year they were entitled to be employed in preference to clubs that did not belong to it, and was satisfied that under the new law he would save his three dollars and make equally as much money by matches. From the above it will be seen that, so far as the Indians are concerned, the change is looked at simply from a monetary point of view, they think they can make more money now than formerly, and are better satisfied. The only dissenting voice we have heard so far has come from Joe Bero of St. Regis. In a letter addressed to the "The Lacrosse Captain, Toronto," he says: "I don't give my consent to the laws made by your club." We suppose he refers to the changes made at the late convention, but as Joseph and his brethren do not belong to the Association we do not think that the action of the convention will materially affect their standing. As we said before, we are of opinion that better Indian teams will be seen in the future than the past, because their remuneration will depend entirely on their ability to play. If they can defeat any team in Canada, their services will be worth as much, if not more, than ever they were, for the public have of late years been so thoroughly educated in lacrosse that they can gauge pretty accurately the playing abilities of competing clubs, and will not pay their money for any second class exhibition.

THE INDEPENDENTS OF MONTREAL.

The recent victory of the Independents over the Young Shamrocks not only gained them the hand-

some set of flags presented by the ladies of St. Ann's Parish, but also made them the owners of the Junior Championship flags put up by the Montreal Club for competition amongst the junior clubs of that city, which last they have held two years as required by the donors. Their recent victories over the Montreal second twelve and Young Shamrocks plainly prove that this club, although nominally the Junior Champions of Quebec, cannot be regarded in that light any longer, but as a first-class club in every sense of the word. It seems to us that if they want to be considered anything it is time they should be flying at higher game. The present Intermediate Champions of Canada complain that so great is the terror inspired by their victories that they cannot get any clubs to play them, and the Independents having conquered all local competitors should turn their attention to the Dominions, and endeavor to wrest from them the proud title of "Intermediate Champions of Canada" and the emblems pertaining thereto. We are certain that they will find them foemen worthy of their crosses, and that it will be a match well worth looking at. The reputation of each club is more than local, and we think that a match between them would draw an audience that would more than pay all expenses. We have heard a good deal of talk as to which Province has the best Junior Club, and now we think is a good time to settle the question.

TORONTOS v. DOMINIONS.

We find we were misinformed with regard to this match which we stated was to have been played on Saturday last. The fact was that the Dominions accepted the Torontos' challenge for that day, probably overlooking the fact that the Torontos stated their willingness to play on any day subsequent to the 1st July. It has now been definitely decided that the match will be played on the Cricket Ground on July —. The Torontos intend placing on the field a much stronger team than the one which received such a decisive defeat at the hands of the Dominions a few weeks ago, and will make a strong effort to retrieve their lost laurels. As the Dominion team will be strengthened by the addition of Patton, one of the best and most scientific players in Toronto, they expect to be able to hold the honors they have won. The incentives are strong for each side to do its "level best," and, as a consequence, we shall expect, if the day be fine, not only to see a hard fought but also a scientific game of lacrosse. The interest in the match is gaining ground, and we expect to see a large attendance of spectators.

ATHLETICS OF ST. CATHARINES.

The Athletics of St. Catharines, although they cannot at present rank amongst the "champion" or even "first-class" clubs, are in a fair way to do so. They seem to have discovered what it takes some clubs years to find out—that the only way to attain anything like perfection is to play plenty of matches and have them of the right kind. Practice games are good for a club, but matches are very much better, especially if they be against teams composed of stronger and more scientific players. It is true that in such matches the young club generally comes out "second best," a result that is not always soothing to their feelings, but the lessons thus learned are of incalculable value, and in the long run are bound to make the club that has philosophy enough to comprehend them, come to the front and occupy a prominent position. As a rule, clubs which in matches always look out for a "soft thing" never develop strength, for the simple reason that playing against inferior players they can easily defeat, they seem to imbibe the idea that there is no standard of excellence higher than their own, their incentive for work disappears and with it all hope of improvement. On the contrary, if a club has courage to tackle superior

players, even though sure of defeat, they are just as certain as that daylight follows darkness to succeed in improving in their play and raising themselves nearer to the level of the clubs with whom they enter into competition. As we said before, the Athletics seem to have discovered this, and although they have lately suffered defeat at the hands of the Ontario club of this city, we are satisfied that it will do them more good than a victory over some team they could easily have defeated.

On the 28th inst. they played two matches, one with the Ontarios, of Toronto, which was won by the latter, they taking the first game in 28 minutes, the third game in 5 minutes, and the fourth game in 1 minute. The second game was taken by the Athletics in 45 minutes. The match was well contested throughout, and the St. Catharines players deserve credit for the stand they made against such a crack team as the Ontarios seem to be able to put forward.

The second game, between their second twelve and the second twelve of the Cliftons, of Clifton, resulted in favor of the Athletics, the Cliftons taking the first game in 22 minutes, and the Athletics the three following in 37, 8, and 16 minutes, respectively.

THE TORONTO CLUB.

On Dominion Day, the Torontos play the Montrealers, and lovers of the game are beginning to speculate upon the probable result of the encounter. We were in hopes from the form exhibited at the opening of the season, that the Torontos were going to make a strong effort this year to redeem their good name, but we are afraid that we have been over sanguine in the matter. Their awakening has been short lived, and they seem again to have relapsed into that state of lethargy which is a sure precursor of defeat. With material good enough for anything, there are no honors in the lacrosse world which they might not aspire to, if they only act the part of men and honestly struggle to attain them, but if they continue in their present half-hearted condition, with their old players scarcely knowing whether they intend to play or not, and as a consequence rarely attending practice, they may as well make up their minds at once that their record this season will be as unfortunate as that of last year.

How any half-trained team can expect to compete successfully against first-class players like the Montrealers we cannot imagine, and we are satisfied that if the Torontos should succeed in winning the match it is more than their most sanguine supporters expect. Their old players should wake up before it is too late, and do all in their power to help the club to regain its lost honors, and when that is accomplished they can then gracefully give way for more youthful aspirants for lacrosse fame. In the meantime if the Torontos are to do anything worthy of themselves, they must look to their old and tried veterans to accomplish it for them.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

We are in receipt of the following in regard to the late Independent-Shamrock match. As it brings up a new point in the game it is well worth perusal.

A very exciting and well contested Lacrosse match was played on the Shamrock Grounds, Montreal, on Saturday, 19th inst., for a set of flags presented by the ladies of St. Ann's Parish, between the Independents (Junior Champions of Montreal), and the Young Shamrock Lacrosse Club. A more evenly contested match has rarely been seen. It was thought, previous to the match, that it would be a soft thing for the Independents. First game, in favor of the Independents; time, 33 minutes. Second game, in favor of the Shamrocks; time, 1 hour and 10 minutes. Third game, won by Independents; time, 11 minutes. Time having expired, the Referee, Mr. W. L. Maltby, called out the men to start, when Flynn, the Shamrock captain, claimed one of his men was disabled