REVIEW OF SPORT FOR 1902

For many years Victoria has been famed for the athletic prowess of her youth. Springing from the Celt and Saxon, the boys and young men take to athletic sports as ducklings take to water—by instinct inherited from long lines of hardy, husky ancestors—and no day passes, winter or summer, that is not marked by a match at some outdoor game. Cricket, lacrosse, baseball, rowing, basketball, hockey, boxing, wrestling—nothing comes amiss to the youthful Victorian, whose chief pride is to excel in one or more athletic exercises. The past year has been no exception to those which preceded, in the uniform success with which the honor of Victoria has been upheld in the field of sport, as will be seen from the following records of the various clubs:

James Bay A. A.

Among the chief attractions of the city of Victoria, from an athletic point of view, is the James Bay Athletic Association, which, has, during the twelve years of its existence, risen from a small and humble origin to become one of the most prominent institutions of its kind on the Pacific Coast, and as regards aquatic sports, which is the association's stronghold, it can be said without fear of contradiction that it holds the premier position.

Although the club has been constantly before the public notice on account of its achievements and the glory it has brought to this city in athletic sports, a short history of its life should prove of interest to the citizens, and also tend further to increase its popularity and usefulness.

As far back as the year 1888, it will be remembered by many of the readers of the Colonist, that the James Bay Baseball Club used to hold meetings for athletic purposes, such as a bout with gloves and other indoor sports, in the old Kingston street firehall, and finding the accommodation unsuitable for their wants, a meeting of citizens was called for the purpose of discussing ways and means of providing and maintaining a club house which would meet the requirements of the youth of the city who were interested in sport and amateur athletics. It was decided at this meeting to form a company under the Companies Act, having for its object the promotion and carrying on of a general amateur association, which was duly accomplished on January 21, 1890, the name of the company being the James Bay Athletic Association, Limited, the subscribers to the memorandum of incorporation being Messrs. H. D. Helmcken, J. C. Bales, F. C. Wolfenden, H. B. Young and A. C. Mount. Mr. Helmcken was elected president of the club, which office he has held since that time to the present day.

Sufficient capital having been subscribed to warrant the company in proceeding with the erection of a club and boat house, the committee accordingly let contracts which resulted in the construction of suitable premises, at a cost of about $8,000. Unfortunately, on completion of the building it was discovered that the sum of over $4,000 above the amount received from sales of stock had been expended, and the club found itself in serious financial difficulties.

Despite these difficulties and the lack of good boats, the club at this time had taken the premier place in the province in aquatic sports, defeating all opposing crews. Having obtained this position, it was felt desirable to place the club on a sound financial basis, and a meeting of the shareholders was accordingly held in the Board of Trade rooms to devise means whereby that object could be attained. The shareholders present materially increased their holdings of stock, and also decided to canvass the city for further subscriptions. The citizens recognizing the advantage of such an institution to the community, responded generously, and a substantial reduction of the debt was effected, since which time the debt has been entirely liquidated; a new committee of management and a board of trustees were appointed and the club generally reorganized.

The success of this effort was largely due to the energy displayed by the late Mr. George Byrnes, who up to the time of his death evinced a lively interest in the welfare of the club.

From this point the uninterrupted prosperity of the club may be said to have been initiated, the membership increasing by leaps and bounds until at the present time it has a list of over 260 active members.

A resume of the athletic achievements of the club would not be out of place, the principal of which have been gained with the oar.

Up to 1895 the efforts of the club were confined to British Columbia events, owing to the lack of a suitable boat for competition with all-comers; but in spite of this drawback, the championship of British Columbia was retained from year to year. In 1891 regattas were held at Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria, at each of which the J. B. A. A. crew, consisting of Messrs. O'Sullivan, Jackson, Askew and Widdowson, carried their club's colors to victory. For the next three years the club repeated this meritorious performance, and, encouraged by these successes, determined to acquire a first-class racing shell. Owing to the energy displayed by Mr. W. H. Langley, sufficient funds were secured, and an order was placed with Mr. J. H. Claspar, of Putney, England. In due course the boat arrived, and it may be stated that this was the first English racing boat introduced on the Pacific Coast, and proved such a success that many other Pacific clubs have followed the example set by the J. B. A. A.

In the meantime the club joined the North Pacific Association of Amateur Oarsmen, which consisted of the following clubs: Portland Rowing Club, of Portland; Seattle Rowing Club, of Seattle; Burrard Inlet Rowing Club and Vancouver Rowing Club, of Vancouver, B. C.; and the James Bay Athletic Association, of Victoria, B. C. In 1895 the first of the N. P. A. A. O. regattas was held at Esquimalt Harbor, and the J. B. A. A. entered the association races for the first time.

For the senior four-oared race in this regatta a very valuable trophy had been offered by the C. P. R. hotel, which had to be won twice in succession to become the absolute property of the winner. Up to this date it had been competed for four times. The J. B. A. A. being of an unknown quantity, were not fancied for the race; but, to the surprise of everybody except the knowing ones, accomplished a comparatively easy victory over crews from Seattle, Vancouver and Portland. The crew was composed of O'Sullivan (stroke), Scott (3), Jones (2) and Watson (bow). At the same regatta the junior sculls were also won by the club.

In 1896 crews were duly sent to Vancouver, where the N. P. A. A. O. regatta was held, and as a result the handsome C. P. R. cup now adorns the club premises. The senior sculls were also won by the late W. I. Scott. The following year the regatta was held at Portland, and the club in the meantime having procured another first-class racing boat, won senior, intermediate and junior four-oared races, and succeeded in placing their names on the new cup presented by the N. P. A. A. O., which it was necessary to win for three years in succession to become the absolute property of the winner. This the club achieved by winning it in 1898 at Victoria, and in 1899 at Vancouver. In the year 1897 the Corbin challenge cup was also won at Portland by the James Bay crew. In 1898 and 1899 the late W. I. Scott again won the senior sculls.

Emboldened by their successes on the Coast, some citizens of Victoria decided, if possible, to match the club's senior crew—more familiarly known as the "Big Four"—against the more famous crews of the East, and a race was accordingly arranged to be held at Winnipeg between the Argonauts of Toronto (champions of America), the Winnipeg crew (ex-champions of America), and the J. B. A. A., as champions of the Pacific Coast. As soon as this became known, the citizens generously provided the necessary funds for traveling expenses. The crew representing the club in this event was: D. O'Sullivan (stroke), W. I. Scott (3), D. Jones (2), F. Widdowson (bow). After a most exciting race the Victoria crew succeeded in defeating Winnipeg, but on the following day were in turn beaten by the Argonauts, but it might be mentioned that the J. B. A. A. crew were at a disadvantage owing to the fact that they were not accustomed to turn races and that their boat was unsuitable for that purpose.

It will be seen by the above that the club had now won all the cups to be competed for, in the first five years of their affiliation with the N. P. A. A. O., and it became necessary for the association to provide a new trophy, which was accordingly done. The next races, held in 1900 at Portland, saw the first reverse of the J. B. A. A., the old senior four having disbanded; and the new four, chiefly through lack of experience, were unable to compete against the older oarsmen of Vancouver, who won for the first time in six years. The junior fours was also lost by the J. B. A. A. on that occasion.

In 1901 a new trophy was put up by Hiram Walker & Son, Limited, to be competed for annually and to be won three times in succession by the same club before becoming its permanent property. This cup, which is the finest of any competed for previously, was put up through the instrumentality of the late Ben Gordon, who was an enthusiastic supporter of athletic sports and a great admirer of the J. B. A. A. This trophy was competed for for the first time at Shawnigan Lake in 1901, and after a very exciting race was won by Portland, who crossed the line about ten feet in front of the J. B. A. A. crew, thus taking the N. P. A. A. O. trophy and Hiram Walker cup to Portland. The junior crew also suffered defeat on this occasion, they having unfortunately had their rudder carried away at the start of the race. This year the Nelson Rowing Club entered the N. P. A. A. O. and it was decided the races for 1902 should be held at Nelson, B. C. With the reverses they had just experienced, the J. B. A. A. club decided to put forth their best efforts to regain their old position, and with this object in view a crew was put early in the field, the new crew consisting of W. W. Wilson, H. A. Briggs, L. A. Gill and B. C. Pettingell. They showed what material they were made of by easily defeating Vancouver senior four at the regatta held at the Gorge on May 24, 1902, for the championship of British Columbia. The next event in which the J. B. A. A. had to take part was the N. P. A. A. O. regatta held at Nelson, when a crew composed of Wilson (stroke), C. Kennedy (3), H. A. Briggs (2), L. A. Gill (bow) won the junior fours on the first day and the senior fours on the day following, thereby bringing the three handsome trophies back to Victoria. Strong efforts will be put forth to retain these cups until they become the property of the association. It may be well to mention here the reception tendered the victorious crew on their return, as showing the keen interest taken by the citizens in the appreciation they felt at the success which crowned the club's efforts.

During the present year the club has added two four-oared lapstreak boats, and have also purchased two double and one racing shells from Sims & Sons, of Putney, England, which were shipped from Liverpool by sailing ship in the latter part of November, and are expected to arrive about April. The securing of these boats will make the J. B. A. A. the best equipped rowing club on the Pacific Coast, and will enable them to take part in all the events held in the N. P. A. A. O. regattas.

For the purpose of encouraging rowing among its members several regattas are held during the summer months by the club, and a keen interest is manifested among the rowing members in all the events, as many as sixty oarsmen taking part. These regattas are greatly enjoyed by the general public, who always turn out in good numbers to witness the races.

It must not be considered by the above that the club is simply interested in aquatic sports, handball and basketball being included in its other branches, in which games the association has also showed marked success. Handball tournaments are held annually between the J. B. A. A. and Seattle Athletic Club, at which the James Bay club have generally been successful. A series of matches is also being arranged with other clubs in the city.

Early in the spring of the past year the management of the association decided to make tennis a branch of its sports, and with this object in view a piece of ground was secured on Kingston street, where three modern courts—two clay and one cinder—were laid. Although it was not until late in the summer that these courts were completed, considerable interest was taken by the members, and a club tournament was held at the close of the season. It is the intention of the management to further improve and add to these courts during the present year, and to eventually make the grounds the best appointed ones in the city.

The past year has been the banner one of the association from all aspects, the membership having increased by seventy odd new members, making a total of about 260 active members. In September the by-laws of the association were revised, whereby junior members, of the age of 14 and under 18 are entitled to use the club at certain times; and the admission of lady members is also provided for.

An annual ball is given by the association for the purpose of raising funds for special purposes. These balls are always attended by marked success, and are eagerly looked forward to.

A short description of the club premises may be of interest.

The club house is situated at the foot of Menzies street, facing the harbor, and is two storeys in height, with a floating boat house adjoining. The lower floor of the building is entirely utilized as a gymnasium, and is fully equipped as such, and also contains a first-class handball court. The upper story is divided into card room, reading room, bath rooms, dressing room and offices. In entering the reading room one is struck by the general comfort of the furnishing, as well as by the quality and quantity of the reading matter to be found there. In this room are displayed in a handsome oak cabinet the numerous trophies won by the club on various occasions. The walls are tastefully decorated with banners and photographs of members who have distinguished themselves in different branches of athletics, the principal among them being a large photograph of the late Sergeant W. I. Scott, killed at Paardeberg on the 18th of February, 1900. W. I. Scott, who had been a member of the club since 1894, was always foremost in any sport with which the club was connected; he was one of the famous "Big Four" and also amateur champion sculler of the Pacific Coast for three years. His name will be found on all the prominent trophies in the case, which is sufficient evidence of his prowess as an all-round athlete. The card room is also comfortably furnished, and is the scene of spirited whist tournaments once a week during the winter months, to which visitors are cordially invited. Chess tournaments are also held during the winter months, the club numbering among its members the strongest players in the city. These tournaments are open to all who care to take part.

Turning to the boat house, we find it equipped with all modern racing crafts, and all remaining available space occupied by the private boats and canoes of the members.

With those unfamiliar with the aims and objects of the J. B. A. A. it is difficult to appreciate the advantages which it is possible to derive from membership in such an institution. It is worthy of note that one of the rules which is strictly enforced is that no gambling and no intoxicating liquors are allowed on the premises, which are open from 7 a. m. to 11 p. m. This of itself should prove a strong recommendation to parents inducing their sons to become members and further promoting the interests of the association in every way in their power. Anyone desiring to become a member of this association can obtain all necessary information from the secretary, Mr. E. P. Johnston, who can be found in the offices of the Victoria & Esquimalt Telephone Company, in the Five Sisters block, or by writing to him at the club premises.

The trustees of the association are Dr. J. D. Helmcken, D. O'Sullivan, A. J. Dallain, A. E. Todd and W. A. Lawson. The committee of management for the present year is as follows: H. D. Helmcken, K. C., M. P. P., (president); D. O'Sullivan (vice-president), J. H. Lawson Jr., J. C. Bridgman, W. C. Moresby, A. E. Todd, D. Leeming, E. H. Russell, J. Hunter and J. A. McTavish. E. P. Johnston, secretary-treasurer.

Victoria Athletic Club

Although organized as lately as September, 1901, the V. A. C. is of much older growth. It has risen phoenix-like from the ashes of past clubs, amongst which may be mentioned the old Victoria Athletic Club, a strong association, and at one time with a splendid following and considerable wealth, and Foster's School of arms. These all had their day, and for one reason and another fell to pieces. From the record that the present club has made there seems strong ground for hope that the V. A. C. has risen once more, to stay. It has a membership roll, all told, of over one hundred, with a working head in the person of its president, the Rev. W. W. Bolton, and an active executive. Its Honorary President is the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, and the Premier, Colonel, the Hon. E. G. Prior is its vice-president. The club from its start has had the experience of Professor Bob Foster to aid it; and possesses an excellent gymnasium, having rented the well known Philharmonic hall from Dr. Milne. This hall, which has seen so many festive gatherings, and whose floor has been lightly tripped over by thousands of gay dancers now sees the young men of the city daily developing muscle, and resounds again with the applause of those who watch the battles royal for supremacy in the various lines in which the club members take part. The "plant" is excellent, and is certainly the most complete in the province. The executive have thrown open the large and commodious reading room to all clubs for their meetings, and night after night councils have been held throughout the year. This has been greatly appreciated, for many of the athletic lines followed in Victoria have no home. It is very much to be regretted that the athletics in the city are so split up, but the V. A. C. has done its best in the present distress, and looks forward hopefully to the time when, like as in Montreal, there shall be formed a Victoria Athletic Association, which will take under its management all the various branches of sport, leaving large freedom for each branch to work out its duties and its destiny. The executive, finding most lines already taken up, have endeavored to make their special work the fostering of pure gymnastics and of boxing. In these they felt that they would be treading on no one's toes, and certainly they have made a remarkable success in each. In gymnastic work they have been able to secure the able assistance of such capable gymnasts as C. Wriglesworth, Mellish, Braden and Erskine. These men have taken in hand the rising generation, and have shown the public again and again what can be done by systematic training. E. Milne, of lacrosse fame, and Neil Johnson and Baker are young men, but have shown marked capability in gymnastics, and are well capable of carrying on the traditions of their instructors. Boxing was till this year in a somewhat somnolent condition, and few thought it would draw an audience, but the V. A. C. took it up with enthusiasm, and the public have shown again and again their hearty appreciation. To have risen in a year from a state of nothingness to a position to dispense the amateur boxing championship of the province is in itself a high record. This the V. A. C. has done, and it is to its credit also that after wide advertisement the champions to-day are all, save one, members of the club. The splendid exhibitions that have been given by the club have roused the city to a realization that strength and skill and gameness are to be found elsewhere besides on the playing field; and have effectually killed the notion that boxing is rough and brutal. Whilst the amateurs have shown to much advantage, the navy and the army have done their share in building up the high reputation of the V. A. C. The magnificent bouts put up by the present naval champions of the Coast, Messrs. Todd and Northfield, respectively middle and light weight, together with their nervy opponents, Oakley, Clarke and Gainen, will long be remembered. But these are but the beginnings. The executive, not resting upon their laurels, are busy now arranging for Seattle and Portland, and even far-off San Francisco, to send hither their best men to meet in battle ours. Whatever the outcome personally, the sport will be clean and game. The reverend president is at hand at all exhibitions and games, and watches with keen eye to see that all is squarely and honorably carried through. There have been three public exhibitions by the club's gymnasts—the first in the club house in March, the second at Beacon Hill on Victoria Day, the third at the fair grounds. Besides these, the men have given assistance at various outside meetings, and nobly assisted at the Barton benefit in the theatre. The boxing nights have been frequent, the best house being secured when Todd and Oakley met for the second time, and the vanquished on a former occasion then became the victor. That night it was hard to find standing room, though the hall is large. The V. A. C. had last season a senior basketball team, which made fine showing against strong teams. This season they have had intermediate and junior teams, which doubtless will develop as the years go on. They have also organized an indoor baseball team. The executive have made great efforts to pay their way, and have a good name in town as men who are determined to keep out of debt. Those who have charge of the financial end of clubs know what this means and how great a labor it is with many members wholly indifferent to the business end so long as they can put in a good time in the club rooms. The annual meeting is to be held in January, when plans will be laid out for the new year; the constitution and by-laws will be revised after a twelve months' watching of how they work; and a financial statement will be presented, to be made public, so that the city may know just how the club which bears its name has gamely fought its way to the front, and to assure Victoria that it proposes to stay there.

Rugby Football.

Victoria has always boasted of having a good Rugby football team away back in 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894, when the famous Nanaimo Hornets won all the games they played the Victoria players in all their matches with them kept the spectator guessing as to who was going to win, and they had the honor of being the first team to lower the colors of the Hornets. The match was played at Beacon Hill on Thanksgiving Day, 1894. Victoria won the championship for the season 1894-95. Old players will always remember the gentleman who was captain then, and to whom was due the honor of the team's success. It is not often that a team has the honor of being captained by such a good player as "Johnny" Miller was. Vancouver won the championship for the next two seasons, and then Victoria got together a team that has never been equalled. The championship remained with this city for three seasons, Vancouver capturing the cup in 1901-1902; but it is safe to say that this was owing to the fact that such men as A. T. Goward, Alexis Martin, H. Gillespie, C. Gamble, J. Rithet, K. MacRae, H. Little and others either dropped out or were away from the city.

This year it seemed as if there was very little likelihood of being able to get a team; in fact, three times did the secretary call a meeting before anyone turned up. Finally a few got together and elected the following as officers for the ensuing year: Sir H. P. Pellew-Crease, honorary president; H. Dallas Helmcken, M. P. P., president; Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, V. D., T. B. Hall, Geo. Gillespie and Geo. Jay, vice-presidents; captain, K. Scholefield; sec.-treasurer, B. P. Schwengers; managing committee, Rev. W. W. Bolton, J. A. Rithet and W. C. Moresby. It was found on making a canvass that of last year's players only seven would be able to play this year, and as two of those had been offered places on the All-Canadian team, it was a bad outlook, especially as no new blood had turned up. However, a match was arranged with the United Service at the Canteen grounds, and some good play was evidenced, the club winning easily. Following this a match was played against the Royal Artillery, which was a much better game, being won by the club after a keen contest. The inter-city match for the McKechnie cup (presented by Dr. McKechnie, formerly of Nanaimo) against Vancouver, was played at the Caledonia grounds on the 22nd of November, and resulted in a win by 8 to 3 for Victoria, much to the surprise of everyone. Vancouver papers have of course excused their team, saying that there were six juniors on the team. (Are these so-called juniors ever going to be seniors?) It may be said for Victoria that she had her quota of juniors, and was proud of them, and further, that only six of the players who played in that match had played for Victoria before. The next match will be at Vancouver, on the 10th, and will no doubt be a good game. Practices will be held regularly from now on, and the usual runs every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights.

Cricket.

It is very interesting to note that a great revival has taken place during the last year in the fine old English game of cricket.

It has been a regrettable fact for the last three or four seasons that Victoria has not been represented by an organized local club, although it has been the custom for a scratch team to be got together to meet teams from Vancouver and the Navy.

Realizing the importance of a local club, a lot of "new blood" got together, and at a preliminary meeting held on March 17, 1902, the present Victoria Cricket Club was organized, which started with a membership of about 60. The old Albion cricket ground at Beacon Hill was selected and a new pavilion was erected; and although the ground was not what it might have been, a very fair pitch was made, and some interesting and well-contested matches were witnessed last summer by lovers of the good old game. However, as previously mentioned in the Colonist, the ground problem has finally been solved, the club having leased part of the Jubilee Hospital grounds, and work is now in progress putting it into shape, although it is feared it will not be in a fit condition to permit of much playing until late next season. In the meantime the Beacon Hill ground will still be retained.

The initial season of the club was most satisfactory in all respects. The club's record is worthy of note; the first eleven having played twenty matches, winning fourteen and only losing six, and the second eleven also had a very successful season, for out of fifteen matches played they proved victorious by eleven. L. S. V. York headed the batting averages for the first eleven with 33.57; while C. B. Deaville showed up well, leading the second eleven with 26.87.

The club is to be congratulated in having such a good bowler as W. N. Binns, some of his performances with the ball being phenomenal, and it is hoped that he will still be in Victoria next summer.

P. Richardson proved himself to be the best bowler in the second eleven, his analysis being 4.19.

A project is on foot to form a North-west League, embracing teams from the Island, Vancouver, Sound cities, Portland and possibly San Francisco. At a meeting of the representatives from the various clubs held here on September 20, Mr. E. W. Carr-Hilton was appointed secretary of the league.

Several interesting matches were last season played here and also in Seattle and Tacoma, between teams from the latter two cities and Victoria, and although the local team showed themselves to be superior to their opponents, owing no doubt to the fact that they had better opportunities for practice, these matches were always most enjoyable, as a very friendly feeling exists between the members of the V. C. C. and the Sound clubs. Several very pleasant matches were played with the Royal Navy and Garrison teams, and also Nanaimo and Vancouver. The local team are going to try hard and turn the tables on the Vancouver eleven next season. Both games were won by Vancouver this year, owing to the fact, no doubt, that the Victoria batsmen were "funky" of the Vancouver crack bowler, who is an English pro.

The committee are very desirous of increasing the membership, and if any one wishing to join will kindly hand their names to the honorary secretary or any of the committee, it will be appreciated.

As the club will be put to considerable expense in connection with laying out the new grounds, it has been decided to hold a ping-pong tournament at the Dallas hotel on the 6th and 7th of January, and it is to be hoped that the entrance lists will be well filled, and that the tourney will be a financial success.

Following is a list of the officers who were elected for the ensuing season: Honorary president, the Hon. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere; honorary vice-presidents, Hon. C. E. Pooley and Dr. J. D. Helmcken; president, Hon. E. Dewdney; vice-presidents, George Gillespie, E. V. Bodwell, K. C., and Hon. Justice Irving; captain, D. Menzies; committee, E. V. Bodwell, K. C., W. B. vice-captain, E. J. Howe; honorary secretary, L. B. Trimen; honorary treasurer, L. S. V. York; management Ransom, W. P. Gooch, E. Carr-Hilton and W. York.

Baseball.

The past season of baseball in Victoria was without a doubt the most successful season of the great American game seen here in years. No local amateur club ever played the number of games or received the large patronage that the "Victorias" received during the past season. The boys played no less than thirty games during the summer, in sixteen of which they came off Victorious. Twenty of the thirty games were played on the local grounds, the team losing but six of their home games. From June 22 until August 23 the boys did not meet with a single defeat, winning during that time thirteen straight games, among the teams defeated being the Everett, Vancouver, Nonpareils and Lavitas of Seattle, the Stanford Alumni team, and several others.

The season was opened on the 3rd of May by the now well-known Pendleton Indians, who were just a bit too strong for the locals. Vancouver was the next team to try conclusions with the Victorias, the visitors winning a splendid game after a ten-inning struggle. The University of California was the attraction for the 24th of May holidays. They defeated the locals in two games—the first one by 5 to 4, the second game being one of the best and longest ever played here, thirteen full innings being played, the Californians winning the game by 13-7.

The season seemed to start most disastrously for the boys, but although they had not won a game as yet, they certainly gave Victorians the finest exhibitions of baseball ever seen here, and the patrons of the game were not slow to appreciate that fact. At the first game with the University of California the attendance was slightly over 3,000, whilst at the second game, despite a light shower, and the regatta as a counter attraction, 1,800 people attended the game.

The first game won by the locals was from the Port Townsend team. After winning one game the boys lost the next game at Vancouver—this game being, however, a disputed one. The Victorias practically threw the game away after the sixth innings, owing to the unfair decisions of the umpire and the refusal of the Vancouver management to appoint another umpire. This game was the last one the boys lost for two months, the Stanford team being the first victims, losing three straight. The crack Everett team came next, being defeated by 5 to 1. Port Angeles, Nanaimo, the Chemawa Indians, the Lavitas, the Nonpareils and Vancouver followed in the order named, each losing to the locals. Then came a string of defeats, commencing with three games by Vancouver—one at home and two on that disastrous trip, when the team, short of the services of Rithet, their first baseman and best batter, Harrison, their best outfielder, and, to make matters worse, Holness' arm going back on him entirely. This left the team in a rather crippled state, but engagements had been made with teams on the Sound, and the club decided that they would not disappoint the teams they had arranged to play, and rather than cancel their dates they played the games with the crippled team, the consequence being that they lost six out of the seven games played on their tour, and also losing their last game of the season at home on Labor Day to Everett.

The club started the season with the following members: B. Schwengers, J. Holness, George Burnes, F. McConnell, G. W. Potts, William Harrison, J. H. Smith, G. H. Haynes, J. A. Rithet, G. Gowen and W. Wriglesworth as players, F. F. Jewell as team manager, and H. Wille as business manager. Wriglesworth, however, after playing four games decided to retire from the team, being unable to get into playing condition. H. A. Goward was taken on the team during the Stanford games.

Taken all in all, the boys did remarkably well in holding their own against the class of teams that they had to compete against. Victoria had one of the few, if not the only, team among those they met, composed entirely of local boys. The majority of the teams they played against had from one to nine paid men on their teams. This speaks extremely well for the ability of the home team.

Among the features of the members' playing during the season was Rithet's splendid first base work, Burnes' work at second, and McConnell's fast work at short; also the developing of Schwengers into a splendid pitcher, and Goward's playing in the field, he having never played on any team before he joined the locals. Of Holness' work in the box during the early and middle part of the season too much cannot be said, his work against Everett on July 1st being wonderful. During the latter part of the season his arm lost its cunning, however, and he could do very little with his opponents. No doubt his arm, after a winter's rest, will be in form for the coming season's work.

The work of the remainder of the team was also above that of the average amateur; all hands worked hard at all times to win out. The boys showed their appreciation of the large patronage they received during the season by practicing faithfully and hard and keeping themselves in fine form during the entire season.

For the coming season plans are already under way for the reorganization of the team, and no doubt all the members of last year's team and several of the most promising of the intermediates will join the team for the summer. One thing that the club has proved to be than anything else, and what they should have without fail, is a capable coach and captain. Individually the boys are all good players; in fact most of them are far above the average players seen here, but collectively as a team they are very weak. The entire lack of team work is very evident in almost every game. The club should make a strong effort to secure a man capable of teaching the boys the game—that is, teach them the many little tricks of the game that can only be accomplished by a team well drilled in team work, not only in the field, but also at the bat and on the base lines.

Once they get down to good team play they will surprise their friends and patrons, as well as their opponents, by quicker and more brainy work at all times during the game.

In conclusion, a word about the intermediates will not be amiss. The Hillsides, Wanderers, Fernwoods and Capital City nines formed an intermediate league, the two first-named teams tying for the leadership, which is to be played off at the opening of the next season. Several promising players are to be found among the intermediates, some of whom will no doubt be found with the seniors during the coming season. Haley Wilson and K. Hughes, of the Hillsides, are both splendid players in their position, as is also H. McConnell, with the same team. Wilson, besides being a good pitcher, is also a splendid hitter. Hughes and McConnell both need another season with the intermediates to develop them properly. The Wanderers have in Moore and Robertson a splendid battery, Moore being also a good fielder and a hard hitter, while Robertson has all the earmarks of a first-class catcher, his throwing to bases being exceptionally good; and although he still has much to learn about the game, the seniors would not make a mistake in taking him on during the ensuing season. A couple of prominent lacrosse players have also expressed their intention of trying their hand at baseball this coming summer. With the members of last year's team in line and the acquisition of several intermediates, and the probability of a couple of new-comers, the local ball team for 1903 should be even better than the team of the past season.

THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Active Organization Which Is Doing Splendid Work for City of Victoria.

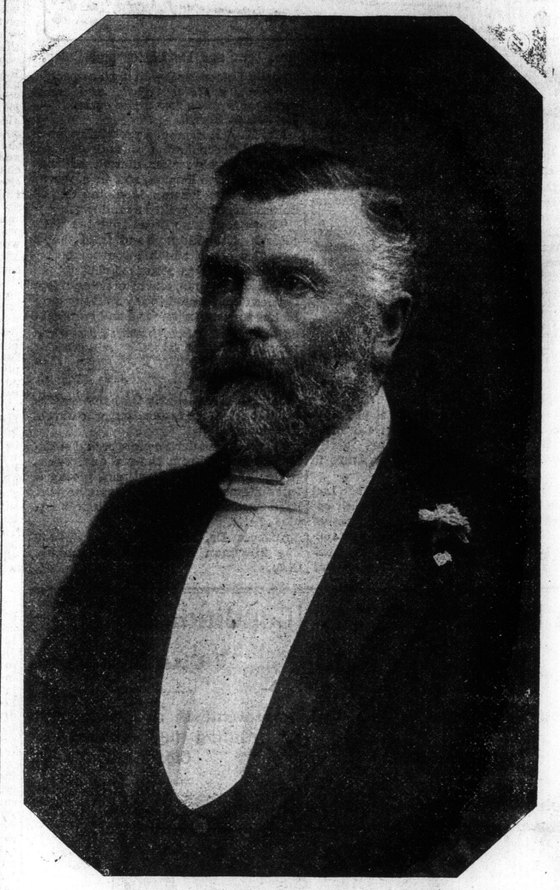
The gentlemen in whose hands have been placed the task of directing the affairs of the Tourist Association during the year which has just opened, are extremely enthusiastic about the work which they have in hand, much gratified at what has been done in the past, and determined to make the results accomplished during 1903 far exceed what was achieved during 1902 in the direction of making Victoria's multifarious attractions widely known and appreciated.

In a conversation which a Colonist reporter had with the association's traveling representative—Mr. Herbert Cuthbert—the other day, considerable of interest regarding the projected season's work was learned, as was also certain information regarding what has come under the notice of the officers of the association since the last annual report was submitted to the members.

In the first place, it has been demonstrated beyond the possibilities of contradiction that through the efforts of the Victoria Tourist Association a number of additions have been made in recent months to the permanent residents of the city. From inquiries which have been made it is clear that people of means who reside in Manitoba and the Territories are inclined to come here during the winter months. Mr. Cuthbert cites the case of a gentleman who came here a short time ago from Manitoba, intending to spend but a week in the city. He is so impressed with the beauties of the place and its advantageous climatic conditions that he is now about to complete the purchase of a place at Gordon Head.

Two others came from points in Eastern Washington and purchased cottages here inside a week. There is every reason to believe that the near future will witness a considerable in-

(Concluded on page 11.)



MAYOR CHARLES HAYWARD (PRESIDENT).

Victoria Hunt Club.

Among the many sports that Victoria is justly proud of is the Victoria Hunt Club. The objects of the club are cross-country riding and steeplechasing. It had its beginning some 12 or 15 years ago, when a few ardent horsemen gathered together on a Saturday afternoon for a run over the country; but the club was not actually formed until the fall of 1896, when the first meeting was held at the Work Point barracks, when the idea of forming a hunt club was carried out in all its detail.

The club has been most prosperous, owing in no small way to the earnest support of the non-riding members, as well as the active, who are the mainstay of the club. The total membership of the club is some sixty odd; among these can be counted some of the best amateur riders in the country, both at cross-country riding and at steeplechasing. It is not only confined to the gentlemen; the lady riders are second to none, and Victoria has yet to see the lady who can surpass the fair riding members of the V. H. C.

The weekly paper-chases are the main sport of the club. Two of the members, well mounted on good jumpers and horses of fair speed, carrying two saddle-bags, each filled with paper, are given five minutes' start of the balance of the field; the object is to catch the hares. To the layman this might seem easy; all we can say is, let him (or her) come out to one of the meets and try, and we will be of the opinion of some of the members who have not yet had that honor. The hares take a line across country previously arranged by them, dropping paper as they go. Very often they are hard pressed, and they rely on the only means of not being caught by laying a false trail or check; this is done by one of the horses laying a trail of paper in an opposite direction for several hundred yards, then stopping, joining his partner, who has gone on the right course, and after some little time continuing laying paper. Even this ruse does not always work, and the hares have been ignominiously caught. It has been one lady's honor—and only one as far as the records show—who has caught the hares. This happened at Colwood last fall, after a most exciting chase, one of the hares coming down over some sloppy ground; and before he could remount and gallop on, the lady in question and three others were upon them. The hares this season have been caught but twice. On several occasions they barely save their "brush" by a few minutes. One time 30 seconds was all the margin they had to reach "cover." Incidents are both numerous and funny. One especially is worthy of mention. The rider referred to is one who has never missed a meet, and it is his boast that he never will; he was riding a horse that could jump when he felt like it, but on this occasion was not in jumping mood; he tackled a rather stiff four-rail fence; the horse cleared all but the top rail, and, landing heavily on its knees on the other side, threw the rider some ten feet further on; but in some mysterious way the rider's boot caught in the stirrup, and on picking himself up he found he was minus a boot. Another most enthusiastic rider, seeing the spill, ran to his assistance, shouting, "Spill, he's lost his leg." The laugh is still on the Good Samaritan.

The spring meet of the club at Colwood is a fashionable as well as the principal sporting event of the year. The meet is generally held on Easter Monday, and judging by the way it is patronized, it is looked forward to by lovers of true sport. There is no such thing as jockeying, and the public is sure of seeing the riders and horses doing their best to win. True, the best horse does not always win, but this is not due to the want of trying, as it is well-known steeplechasing is most uncertain; a horse may have better speed and better jumping abilities than another, but let him make one mistake, and his chance for the race is gone.

The meets so far this season have been the largest in the history of the club, owing no doubt to the very able committee and tireless secretary, who spends a great deal of his time rounding up strangers. How true is the old saying that "everything depends on the farmer." Even the Hunt Club relies upon his graces to allow them to cross his lands, and if approached in a proper manner the permission is never refused; on the contrary, they very often leave their work to put up jumps for the club. The farmer is a keen sport and good judge of a horse, and by no means is the farmers' race at Colwood the least interesting event on the card. He has the club's most earnest thanks for this great privilege.

The standard of the horses of the Hunt Club is very good, both as regards their jumping abilities and pace. Mr. J. D. Pemberton's "Starlight" has the greatest number of wins to his credit, having started in nine races, winning eight. Mr. Elliott's "Min Ovid" has won five events. Mr. T. P. Patton's "Mary Anderson" six out of seven races; the latter mare also holds the club record for high jumping—5 feet 4 inches—which is a remarkable jump for a pony her size, being only 14.2 hands in height.

Besides paper-chasing and race meets the club has held two gymkhanas for horses and ponies, which proved quite a success and afforded plenty of amusement to the numerous spectators at Colwood. The club is in a most flourishing condition, financially and otherwise, having no liabilities. They have about $1,000 of improvements in the grandstand, dressing rooms, tea sheds and on the course generally at Colwood, which is now the prettiest natural race-course on the Coast. At the club's spring meeting it is a sight worth traveling miles to see; one would fancy he was at Sandown, with the fashionably gowned women with the bright silks of the jockeys blended together with the natural beauty of the course, makes one forget his troubles in the keen enjoyment and pleasure of the "sport of kings." There is little doubt, judging from the numbers that turn out at the meets, that the grandest of sports has come to stay in Victoria. Long may it be is the wish of lovers of clean, gentlemanly sport.