

Abel's Meeting

NOTE AND COMMENT

Athletic Indians have a prominent place in Canadian field and other sports from Deerfoot down to Tom Longboat. The present contest between the two is probably the most prominent of them all, if he is to be judged by the interest taken in him by the newspapers. Good judges say Longboat is as speedy as the Indian of a generation ago, tho with the absence of accurate timing in these days. W. J. Moyes, always a follower of games, is one who watched them both on the track. He appeared on the track at Glasgow and was a sight for the gods. The wonderful runner was clothed in the garb of the original North American, a genuine click of deerkins and head dress of feathers, which he doffed for the race. Thus he gave his exhibition, his bronzed skin, the gleam of his eyes, and the gleam of his teeth, being his running costume. The world would be grateful to any reader for a picture of this wonderful Indian runner.

Then there was Jake Gaudaur, of whom Mr. Moyes related an interesting incident of the early '80s. Jake and his brother Charlie were contesting a match double scull skiff race with Wise and Leslie of Toronto at Orillia, three miles, including the turn. They were scheduled to take their boats at 3 o'clock, and at 1:30 the Gaudaur brothers sat down to dinner, which consisted of everything from soup, fish, roast beef, to pie and vegetables, finishing up with two large bowls of tea. Mr. Moyes had placed his money on the Gaudaurs, and, happening to sit at the same table, he watched the heavy feast with wonderment. The first thing he did after his own meal was to hedge, and, telling the dinner story to his friends, they also bought money on the Gaudaurs. Of course, everyone knows that the Toronto men were never in it, regardless of the liberty the Gaudaurs had taken with the victuals little more than an hour before the race.

It is said Deerfoot had no method in his training. He was just a runner. And it has been suggested that Longboat might profit also by perfect liberty as to his food before races.

In all the controversies about Longboat, the method of his handlers and the results of his races, not one genuine word of condemnation has been uttered. Longboat's latest feat of beating Shrubbs' trial indoors at Borton has been criticized because the track over which the Indian ran was short—not the Englishman's course—tho they were one and the same. Even if Longboat did cover 10 miles in 56:35, listen what Longfellow said of another Indian:

Swift of foot was Hiawatha;
He could shoot an arrow from him;
And run forward with such fleetness
That the arrow fell behind him!

One of the most interesting and pleasant curling competitions of the year is that between the Toronto Caledonians and Hamilton Victorias for the Reid Cup, a trophy that was put up by Ald. W. G. Reid of Hamilton just 27 years ago. In that time play was missed three winters owing to exigencies of the weather, in '08, '02 and '06. Caledonians won the prize three years right at the start, and then the Victorias held the prize for four years. The clubs won the different seasons as follows:

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