

ATHLETIC

Sports and Pastimes

The Toronto *Globe* publishes a large photographic group of the Osgoode Hall Rugby Football team, in a supplement to its issue of Saturday last, and styles it "Champions of Canada."

The sporting editor of the *Globe* is not usually very well posted, and he is catering for the press of the Queen City, either of which reasons is possibly sufficient to excuse him for his ignorance and bad taste in dubbing the Osgoode Hall team Champions of Canada.

The Ottawa College Football Club are the Champions of Canada, and it ought to be beneath the dignity of a newspaper of standing such as the *Globe* to attempt to mislead its readers in the manner it has done.

The Osgoode Hall Club are champions of the Canadian Rugby Union, and deserve great credit for getting there. I have no desire to detract from the glory of their well earned victories, but before they lay claim to the title of Champions of Canada, they must prove their right to the claim by defeating the hitherto invincible Collegians from the Ottawa College.

A number of lacrosse clubs are now holding their annual meetings preparatory to the general convention. These meetings bring forcibly before us the very unsatisfactory state of affairs existing in lacrosse circles about professionals.

In theory there are no professional lacrosse players—Indians excepted. In practice there are dozens, and the effort to secure the services of one professional or another, and avoid discovery in doing so, is causing more trouble and annoyance to clubs, and doing more serious and permanent injury to the game, than all these redoubtable professional players are worth.

I have heard numerous suggestions made about the way to overcome this trouble; among others, a proposition that all clubs shall submit their books for inspection by an officer of the association, and that he be allowed to examine and check their receipts and disbursements, at any auditor might. This might or might not accomplish the desired end. It probably would not, as there would doubtless be devised some ingenious method of deceiving the examining officer. It would be simple enough to defer a division of the surplus among the club players until after the inspector had reported all in order.

I am of the opinion that it wants but dignity and courage to put this matter on a perfectly satisfactory basis.

I would advocate a resolution being

adopted by the National Lacrosse Association recognizing professionals and professionalism, and giving permission to all clubs to play amateurs, mixed teams, or all professionals as they may please.

If a man cannot afford to give time and money to take part in a game without receiving a recompense, and others want his assistance, why on earth should he not be paid for his services, and what is there derogatory in his taking payment?

Professionalism at any athletic sport appears to carry very mistaken ideas on this continent. In England the advantage of professionals, their status and position are much better defined.

Every county cricket club in England has its quota of professionals who play regularly with them against amateurs, none of whom suffer any disadvantage thereby, but rather gain by the advantage of competing against men probably stronger and in better training than themselves.

It may be claimed that there are many players who do not want to be classed as professionals to the loss of their amateur standing.

We have to make some sacrifices in this world, and few have to make more than the impecunious. If, then, a man cannot afford to play lacrosse without pay, he ought to consider himself very fortunate to be able to play well enough to be paid for his game.

It only wants action on the part of the Association by giving clubs permission to play professionals on their teams, and one or two courageous players who will come forward and say "We want to play lacrosse but cannot afford to do so unless paid for our time," to settle the matter; others will follow like sheep.

I would not like to see our lacrosse teams become altogether professional, but I do not think there would be any danger of this. We have too many good, bona fide amateurs, who can well afford to play the game for love of it, to permit of its descending to the level of baseball. It would rather, I believe, put it on a par with cricket in the old country.

Professional players might be utilized as groundsmen, trainers, or in a dozen different ways, and do good service to the amateur players, and the game, instead of being the greatest difficulty it has to contend with.

SKATING.

The Council of the Canadian Amateur Association have determined that the programme for figure skating which they forwarded to the National Skating Association of the United States shall govern the competitions at their annual championship gathering, which it has been resolved to

hold in the Victoria Rink, Montreal, on the 18th February.

The date of the championship races has been fixed for 20th February, and they will take place on the M.A.A.A. rink.

The annual championship skating races of the Maritime Provinces Amateur Athletic Association are announced to take place in the Victoria Rink, St. John, N. B., on the 17th February. The following are to be the events:

One furlong; quarter mile; half mile; half mile backwards; one mile; three miles; five miles; hurdle race (220 yards, 6 flights, 2 ft 3 in. high); one mile for boys under 16 years, and individual figure championship.

Entries close Saturday, 13th February. Competitors not representatives of an amateur club must present credentials in support of their amateur standing.

An entrance of 50 cents is charged for each event. The track is circular, with 14 laps to the mile. All entries are to be made with J. F. Maher, secretary, P. O. Box 352, St. John, N. B.

It is unfortunate that the Maritime Provinces have chosen a date so nearly identical with that selected by the Canadian Amateur Skating Association for the championship meeting.

If it had been otherwise some of the Montreal fast men might have easily been persuaded to attend the meeting in St. John, as the trip is an easy one to make now over the Short Line.

NEWS FROM NORWAY.

A Reuter's telegram from Hamar, Norway, says: "At the International Skating contest, resumed here to-day (2nd June), the three mile race was won by Hagen, the Norwegian skater, Smart, the English champion, being second. The former covered the distance in 8 min. 46 2-5 sec., and the latter in 9 min. 13 1-5 sec. Hagen thus beat the world's record, which was 9 min. 3 2-5 sec., a result which was hailed with great enthusiasm. In the one mile race Hagen again beat the record, his time being 2 min. 49 sec., as compared with 2 min. 51 1-5 sec., the previous best record. Smart covered the distance in 2 min. 53 1-5 sec."

A grand fancy dress carnival is to be held in the Belleville Skating Rink on Thursday, the 28th inst.

ANGLING.

The 13th annual dinner of the Lorne Fish and Game Club was held at the Lakeview House, Lachine, on Wednesday, 20th inst.

A sumptuous repast was prepared for some thirty members who were present, and the tables were handsomely decorated with orchids, chrysanthemums, and other flowers.