



SPORTS AND PASTIMES

In the plenitude of their power and good nature the mighty men of the A.A.U. have condescended to mind their own business, at least so far as Canadian athletes are concerned. When the now celebrated suspension of the lacrosse men who had played in Madison Square Garden was first made known, to put it mildly, it rather surprised us here in Canada. Of course, it would not be proper to suppose that such a potential body as the A.A.U., owning the great U-nited States and the athletes thereof, would have consideration enough for the benighted Canadians to appropriate us bodily and by administering a mild parental castigation immediately give us to understand what we might expect in the future if we had the audacity to simply keep on existing without permission from the fountain-head of athletic wisdom that bubbles up to refresh the world from Manhattan Island. Of course such a thing was not to be expected, and a good many of us boiled down our own private impressions in the vulgar but significant word "gall." We were mistaken. It was simply ignorance, not invincible ignorance, but plain, ordinary, excusable ignorance. It has taken some weeks to partially eradicate this mental affliction, but the operation was successfully performed on Saturday last, when the A. A. U. were graciously pleased to remove what they styled the "ban" put upon the lacrosse players. The American clubs may look on the matter as they see fit; but it would be just as well for these gentlemen in the future to remember that there is a Canadian Amateur Athletic Association in this country to suspend or reinstate as is thought proper. We like to see the Americans come to the championship games and capture all the prizes for that matter, but in other things we are able to take care of ourselves and are inclined to look upon any interference, in the way of athletic legislation or suspensions especially, in the light of gratuitous impertinence.

In this connection there was another development, by the way, which appears to me to have been rather ill-judged on the part of the executive of the C.A.A.A., and which, without any great stretch of imagination, may be traced to something closely resembling club prejudice. It was generally known that the A.A.U. meeting would be held on Saturday last and some action relative to the suspended players would be taken. If the C.A.A.A. were so anxious to follow up the initiative taken by the American association they also might have had the patience to await the ultimate result. But there seemed a possibility of placing the Montreal Lacrosse Club in an unenviable position, and there was unseemly haste. The Montreal Lacrosse Club was asked for certain documents regarding invitations and the arrangements made with the Staten Island Club. It was not put in so many words, but reading between the lines it was tantamount to a demand that the club show cause why it should not be suspended or censured. Now, we all know that an athlete declared a professional in the United States, or in any part of the world for that matter, is a professional here, but in this instance, as in several others since the A.A.U. undertook to legislate for everybody, the question was simply one of jurisdiction, or competing in games held under the auspices of the A.A.U. or affiliated clubs. The American clubs may have offended against their laws through forgetting to ask permission from the ruling body, which had no power whatever over Canadians; but why the Montreal club should have a suspension hung over its head is difficult to fathom, especially when exhibition matches with Indians are distinctly allowed by the rules. As to the question of receiving remuneration or valuable trophies for their matches, that is just as absurd as the suspension. Per-haps, after all, there were some lacrosse players a little disappointed at the fact that they did not have a trip somewhere, but that is only a surmise. To the demand for documents made by the C.A.A.A., the secretary of the Montreal Club was very properly instructed to reply, asking what the club was charged with, who made the charges, and expressing a readiness to answer any accusations made. Then came the "removal of the ban," and just now it

would be interesting to know exactly what the C.A.A.A. think about their own hasty action. If it is proposed to make the Montreal Lacrosse Club stand an alleged trial, it will be only further proof that club jealousy and not a genuine desire for the good of amateur sport is at the bottom of the matter. Take *Punch's* advice, "Don't."

The last spasm of virtue in amateur circles does not seem to have met with universal approval, and the first protest came to the League of American Wheelmen from the Hartford Wheel Club, which is one of the most powerful organizations in the country. They still hanker after the substantiality of gold watches and diamond rings by way of trophies, they do not like the limitation put on the value of prize medals, and they threaten the organization of a new governing body, as will be seen from the following portion of a resolution passed by the club:

"Whereas, it being the unanimous opinion of the members of this club that the adoption by the League of American Wheelmen of rules forbidding team races and the award of various articles of intrinsic value and worth as prizes in amateur cycling events, as recommended for adoption by the joint committee of the League of American Wheelmen and the Amateur Athletic Union, would be so highly prejudicial to the interests of amateur cycle riding as to make the creation of a new and independent authority for the government of such races a matter of necessity; therefore be it resolved that present rules regulating races and award of prizes remain unchanged."

When it is remembered that the Hartford Club give one of the most successful annual meets on the continent, the future course pursued by them will be watched with interest, although it is hardly likely that any such extreme measure as forming a new governing body will be resorted to. At the annual assembly of the L.A.W., held in Washington on Monday last, the total membership was shown to be over ten thousand, a rather powerful organization for one club to butt against, unless the expected results were something like what happened the steer when he charged the locomotive. In his annual report President Dunn also advocated a closer relationship and a more complete harmony between the Canadian cyclists and the L.A.W.

If in the past there was any one particular branch of sport which was supposed free from the stigma of professionalism, that sport was lawn tennis; but even the Lawn Tennis Association for the United States is apparently afflicted with the epidemic of reform. At the tenth annual meeting their rule defining an amateur was made more stringent, as will be seen from the new text, which is given here:—

"An amateur is one who has never violated any of the following rules:—1. He has never entered a competition open to professionals, nor played for a stake, admission money or entrance fee. 2. He has not competed with or against a professional for a prize. 3. He has not played, instructed, pursued or assisted in the pursuit of tennis or other athletic exercise as a means of livelihood, or for gain or other emolument. 4. His membership in any tennis or athletic club of any kind was not brought about or does not continue because of any mutual understanding, expressed or implied, whereby his continuing a member of any such club would be of any pecuniary benefit to him or his club. 5. If connected with any sporting goods house, such connection was not brought about or does not continue because of his proficiency in tennis or any other form of athletic exercise. The executive committee of the association shall be the tribunal to decide whether a player is a professional or an amateur."

This change brought out a good deal of opposition, one of the disputants pertinently remarking that the organization which at present had the most iron-clad rule was having more trouble with its amateurs than any other body.

From the fact that there was a possibility of the American skating champion being seen at the Canadian championship races, on Saturday, the following paragraph which has been going the rounds of the press recently, may be of interest. It is claimed by Ole A. Olsen that Donoghue's time for the five miles has been beaten at Hamar by Lindahl, of Gjovik, and Norseng, of Hamar, whose respective times are alleged to be 15.18 and 15.19¾. Donoghue's time was 15.37.

Hanlan and Gaudaur are still waging a wordy warfare—a sort of battle of back-numbers—that just now is only interesting to the public from the fact that there is very little aquatic news of any importance to talk about. Gaudaur is so anxious for a match that he wants to row for fun, which must be a new sensation for a professional oarsman,

but Hanlan wants a stake of \$1,000 a side. He also wants to row rain or shine, hurricane or zephyr, water smooth as glass or churned into white-topped billows. The ex-champion says he is no parlor rower, and apparently thinks Gaudaur will weaken at the proposed conditions. Probably he will.

The Montreal Snowshoe Club had a field day on Saturday last, when the annual races were held. On account of the number of handicap events the list of starters was not as large as might be expected, but there were good races for all that. The final of the hundred was won by C. A. Lockerby; W. O. H. Dodds won the club cup for two miles; T. O'Brien, an Argyle man, captured the quarter, and the half fell to Dodds again. In the mile open Lumsden (scratch) was first. In the veterans' race Harry Young was the winner, and C. A. Lockerby won the final in the 115 yards. In the evening there was the usual banquet in the Windsor, which was one of the most successful efforts ever made in that direction.

According to the despatches, McCormick, the St. John professional skater, was an easy mark for Hagen, the Norwegian champion. It is down in the reports that the distance was about 4 4-5 miles and the time 15 56 2 5. Pretty slow, considering; but there is an uncertainty about these skating times that will bear looking into.

The Toronto Fencing Club has been making remarkable progress since its resuscitation some time ago, and perhaps nothing brought it before the fencing world so prominently as the contest between Mr. Currie and Mr. Bevington, in which, after a splendid exhibition of the beauties of carte and tierce the former was victorious. On March 7 the championship of the United States will be fenced for, and Mr. Currie intends to challenge the winner. But in order that he shall be the recognized Canadian champion he invites any amateur foilsman in Canada to meet him before that date.

Those thorough sportsmen of the Albany Curling Club are bound to keep alive the interest in the international match for the Gordon medal; and although up to the present Fortune has not been very favourable in the way of granting them victory, the Albanians will not be discouraged. The president of the Branch, Mr. Geo. S. Brush, was unable to act as referee, but his place was ably filled by the veteran Mr. Wm. Wilson, a keener curler than whom never put away a stone. The match was played on the Caledonia rink, and "Aleck" felt pardonably proud at the condition of the ice. As the match was played with granite, it was natural to expect that the iron playing men would be handicapped somewhat, but still they managed to win by a majority of 7 shots. On Rink No. 1 the visitors lost by 14, the local skip, Mr. R. Wilson, unmercifully piling up big ends, but on No. 2 the visitors had the best of it by 7. Following is the score:

United States.	Canada.
C. Tremper, jr.,	A. Ramsay, Heather,
J. J. Van Schoonhoven,	Geo. W. Sadler, Caledonia,
Wm. Kirk,	W. Hutchison, Heather,
Jas. McCredie, skip 20	R. Wilson, Caledonia, skip 34

RINK NO. 2.

W. E. Elmdorf,	T. Williamson, Montreal,
J. W. McHarg	J. S. Archibald, Thistle,
J. C. Laing,	Rev. J. Williamson, Montreal,
A. McMurray, skip 28	Rev. J. Barclay, Thistle, skip 21

Total for Albany, 48; for Canada, 55.

It will be remembered that the Ottawa and Montreal Curling Clubs won the finals in their respective centres for the Branch tankard, and last week the deciding match was played off, the Montreal Club being successful.

For the Royal Caledonia medal, as was foreshadowed, the Montreal Thistles could not overcome the lead which the Quebec men got in the first half of the match. Quebec's majority for the two days' play was 24 shots.

The Stancliffe cup managed to keep the curlers pretty busy for three days during last week. It was a very close match, but at last the Montreal and Caledonia Clubs were left for the final, and Montreal carried off the trophy with a majority of 8 shots.