

SPORTS

(By Capt. S. H. Okell)

During the past week the hearts of the champion boxers and wrestlers of the Battalion were gladdened, each receiving an order for merchandise to the value of five dollars at some store in the city. Each man was allowed the privilege of stating the merchant on whom he would like his order made. It was easy to tell the married man, he had his order on a dry goods store; the thrifty bachelor at his clothiers, the beau at his jewelers. While it is not authentic, still it is rumored, that one man, recently engaged, intended securing the ring at this opportunity. He must be a champion indeed.

Let's have another tournament soon.

Soccer

We are now the proud champions of Lower Vancouver Island and holders of the handsome Peden Cup.

It is only after strenuous games and good team work that we are able to hold this position. At the commencement of the league there were seven teams, viz.: "Western Scots," Victoria West, Thistles, Sir John Jackson, 88th Battalion, 103rd Battalion and North Ward. Our first victims were the 103rd. Then we defeated the 88th in a hard-fought game. In the meantime the Victoria West team had been following a victorious path eliminating the Thistles and Jacksons, whereas North Ward had previously been disposed of by the 88th. Thus it was that the 67th and Victoria West remained to fight out the final. Last Saturday was the day. Beacon Hill was the place, and the game sure was a case of Greek meeting Greek.

It is some years since a soccer game has attracted such interest in this city. Moreover, it is conceded by all that it is a long time since a better or more evenly contested game has been played here.

The grounds were in perfect condition and the fine weather had brought out an immense crowd of spectators. Needless to say, the soldiers were out in force. Our pipe band was on hand and did splendid work, especially at the close of the game, when they paraded about the field, followed by hundreds of excited "Western Scots."

The first half found the "Scots" kicking down hill and playing superior team work to the "Westes," finishing the period with a lead of one goal, being the result of a well-aimed shot by Lumsden.

In the second half the "Westes" pressed continuously, but only to be repelled by our strong defence, Christian and Ord returning time and again, while Dakers, in goal, was a tower of strength. We, in turn, had our share of the play and Allen, after a splendid run, tallied our second goal. The "Westes" came back strong, Sherratt securing their only tally of the game. From this time to the final whistle play was most exciting, especially when a penalty was awarded against Ord. Petticrew took the kick, which was stopped in fine shape by Dakers, amid the deafening cheers of the crowd. It was then that time was up and the "Western Scots" left the field champions by a score of 2 to 1.

For the enemy, Bob Whyte was the mainstay, who, with Petticrew, strove unceasingly to avert defeat. For the "Scots" all did well, but Dakers in goal and Nichol on the forward line, deserve special attention.

Our team was: Pte. Dakers, Cpl. Christian, Pte. Ord, Pte. Niven, Lieut. McDiarmid, Capt. Okell, Sgt. Fenton, Pte. Nichol, Pte. Sherman, Drummer Allen and Pte. Lumsden.

Referee, Goward.

The result of last Saturday's match entitles us to play for the McBride Shield, emblematic of the soccer championship of B. C.

There are three soccer centres, namely, Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo. The "Western Scots" are now champions of the Victoria centre, but the other leagues are not yet completed.

It is only problematical if we will be here to see this series through. It will be a pity if we are not, as it would be indeed nice to leave for overseas with the championship of B. C. in our vest pocket.

Miscellaneous

At the last meeting of the Sports Committee Lieut. McDiarmid was appointed to do preliminary work regarding a baseball team for the coming summer, while Capt. Okell was appointed to act in a similar manner regarding lacrosse.

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Preparations are being made for entertainment and amusements during our long ride across the continent and on ship-board. While on the train it will not be possible to have any athletic games, except during stops when, no doubt, some football games may be arranged; but in each car it is proposed to organize a committee so that entertainment may be given nightly. On the boat many games can be played, such as boxing, wrestling, fencing, running, jumping, etc.

The instructions in fencing under Capt. St. Clair is much appreciated by the officers. We think this instruction should be passed on by the officers to the men.

Mr. A. W. Yeo, M.P., has been telling a very good story in the House, which has the merit of being true. A soldier at the front wrote home to his mother a very dramatic story of the fighting at Loos at the end of September, and gave a very fair idea of its exceedingly fierce nature. At the end of the letter he finished up by saying: "Fortunately, I came through without a scratch, but the bullets were everywhere, and went through everything with the exception of the bread pudding which you sent me."

"Somewhere in France," two regiments were returning from the trenches when they chanced to meet. At once there was the usual exchange of wit. "When's this bloomin' war goin' to finish?" asked one North-country lad. "Dunno," replied one of the South-shires. "We've planted some daffodils in front of our trench." "Giddy optimists!" replied the man from the North. "We've planted acorns!"—"Weekly Chronicle," 47th Batt.

Montenegriens can enlist with the Canadian battalions, if physically fit.

Germany is taking steps to control the consumption of cheese. A watch on the rind!