

## ATHLETIC Sports and Pastimes

The remarks made in these columns about the depressed condition of curling interests in the Maritime Provinces at the present time, have induced "Bluenose" to address the *Montreal Gazette* in a letter which implies that there is anything but depression among the "brethren o' the besom" in the East, and in a pleasant manner he expresses a desire to have the accuracy of his view tested by a deputation of Western curlers visiting the Maritime Provinces to prove the skill and hospitality of the curlers by the sea.

I can only say my reason for stating the game was in a depressed condition owing to financial stringency, was because I was informed that the secretary of the Ontario Branch R. C. C. Club had received a letter to that effect from the secretary of the Maritime Province Branch in answer to a circular issued proposing the formation of a Dominion Curling Association, and asking for the co-operation of the Maritime Province Branch.

Such a statement emanating from an authoritative source, I naturally assumed ought to be correct, but if it is not, it will be very welcome news to all curlers in the West.

Bluenose extends a generous invitation to Western curlers to visit their brethren by the sea, and test the ability and hospitality of the rinks in the Eastern Provinces; and states that while the Lower Province clubs have on several occasions sent representatives to Quebec and Ontario they have never been favoured with a return visit.

Without disputing the fact of the trips of the Eastern curlers to the West, of which I cannot remember any except the rinks who came to Ottawa to play for the Governor General's prizes, I think I can give two good reasons for the Western players not being drawn to the East.

In the first place the most natural men to visit the Lower Provinces would be the Quebecers, but they, instead of being a bond of union between the Maritime players and those further West, are unfortunately the very reverse, owing to their use of irons instead of granites. I have already advocated the adoption of granites by the Canadian Branch curlers and will be very glad if I can secure co-operation from the East as well as the West to bring pressure to bear to induce them to fall into line with the rest of the world, instead of forming a barrier between the Eastern and Western men as they do now.

In the second place my friend "Bluenose" ought to bear in mind that whenever the Maritime Province players have visited Ontario and Quebec, they have had some attraction beyond a friendly game in view. I have yet to learn, however, of any inducement in the way of

bonspiel, trophy, or other excitement, being offered to Western players by those in the Maritime Provinces to bring them Eastward.

The Manitoba Branch holds an annual bonspiel in which, I believe, representatives from Ontario have always taken part, and I do not think our Eastern friends would fare any worse if they would make a similar attempt, although I must admit with iron players for their immediate neighbours on the West they are labouring under a disadvantage.

### ATHLETICS.

A movement is reported to be on foot in Halifax to organize a new athletic club and erect a building to cost \$50,000, which will include swimming and Turkish baths, bowling alleys, gymnasium, racket court and covered tennis court.

I trust the information is correct, and wish the scheme every success. No more striking evidence can be given of a healthy tone among the young men of a place than a general participation in athletic amusements.

Athletic associations well managed do as much to keep young fellows away from the greatest curse of American towns—the bar—as all the clergymen and churches on the continent.

The students of St. Boniface College, Manitoba, have decided to build a gymnasium in connection with the college, and recently gave a successful entertainment in aid of the undertaking, when a capital selection of literary and musical selections, together with an exhibition of club swinging by Messrs. McCaffrey and Walsh, was presented.

### HOCKEY.

The Canadian Mounted Rifles have a hockey club, and are apparently able to give a good account of themselves against other local clubs. They recently played a close and exciting match against the Winnipeg club.

The second hockey match of the season for the championship of Canada was played on Friday night last at the Rideau Rink, Ottawa, between the Ottawa A. A. Club (champions) and the Shamrocks of Montreal, who came to the Capital, according to the Montreal press, very confident of carrying back to the Metropolis the coveted trophy.

The visitors were inclined to play rather a rough game, in which they were unfortunate, as with one or two exceptions their opponents appeared to be decidedly heavier and stronger, and in no wise rattled by the treatment; indeed there are

few teams on the ice more capable of meeting a rough game when forced on them than the members of the O. A. A. Club.

The advantage was decidedly with the champions during the first half, the score standing three goals to one. Shortly after play opened in the second half the Ottawas scored another goal, and then their opponents took two in rapid succession, making the games four to three.

At this stage of the proceedings the excitement was intense, but it soon died out as further goals fell to the champions in rapid succession, and the match ended eight games to three in favour of the Ottawa A. A. Club.

The Montreal A. A. A. have challenged for the championship, and the game is to be played in the Rideau Rink on Thursday evening, 21st Jan.

A challenge has also been forwarded by the Quebec Hockey Club, which will entitle them to play the winners of the game to be played on 21st inst.

A match for the junior championship was played on the 16th between the Ottawa A. A. Club juniors and the Victoria juniors of Montreal, which resulted in a win for the O. A. A. Club by four games to one.

Mrs. Cotton, wife of Lieut.-Col. Cotton, R.C.A., on behalf of the management of the Kingston Skating Rink recently presented the Kingston Hockey Club with a handsome pair of silk flags.

At a meeting of officers of the Prince of Wales Regiment, held recently, it was decided to organize a hockey club, and the following officers were elected: Hon. President, Lt.-Col. T. P. Butler; President, Capt. Bartlett; Treasurer, Capt. Bradshaw; Secretary, Capt. W. L. Bond. A challenge was immediately issued to the Royal Scots and the match took place on Saturday, Jan. 9th, by permission of the directors, on the Victoria Rink. After a hard fought match the Prince of Wales team came out victorious with a score of 6 to 1. The Prince of Wales team consisted of the following players: Captains Bartlett, Bond and Lewis, and Lieuts. Meighen, Macrae, Howell and Armstrong.

### SNOWSHOEING.

Clubs generally are at last able to take their tramps with shoes on, and we may soon expect to hear of races being brought on.

Le Canadien Club of Montreal on Saturday last tramped to St. Hyacinthe, mustering over 40 strong for their long journey. The return was made on Monday.