

Latest News From Far and Near

SPORTING GOSSIP

BY SOUTHPAW

About the only event of interest for the Canadian sporting public today, outside of the C. A. U. Federation mix-up, is the coming Burns-Moir battle.

At present, with the battle but two days off, the Canadian is favorite, at 5 to 4.

Canadians cannot see Moir in the battle at all, but then they have never seen Moir perform.

Eric "Opin-a-bloomin'" Johnny Bull gets in.

Professional hockey players don't ask much for their services. Bruce Stuart was recently offered \$65 a week to play for Winnipeg, but declined.

Here's a funny one from the Toronto Star:

Tom C. Flanagan was neatly stung the other day. Yesterday he received a letter from Mr. Stevenson, treasurer of the David Hartley fund at Peter-

boro, thanking him most cordially for the Irish-Canadian's donation of \$50 toward the fund.

"Your telegram was greeted with cheers," read the letter.

"Wonder!" exclaimed Tom, as he turned the letter over and read it again.

"Stung! Be jabbers!" he ejaculated again. "I didn't wire a nickel to the Hartley fund!"

He turned the letter over thoughtfully. "Such a nice letter, too," he said.

Toronto has the hockey fever, too. Nineteen teams turned out to a meeting the other night and there is promise that more will line-up shortly.

Billy Macgregor denies the report that he will launch an independent team this season. In the first place he argues that with so many clubs in line it would be next to impossible to get together a good team, and in the second place, Bill's busy just at present.

METHOD OF SELECTING OLYMPIC TEAM NOT YET DECIDED UPON

Toronto, Nov. 29.—The method of selecting athletes to represent Canada at the Olympic games in London next year will be an interesting point of discussion at the conference of the C. A. U. and Federation delegates at Ottawa tomorrow. There must be some way of choosing a representative team. Whether it will be by a series of meets, or on past records, rests with the two governing bodies, should they come to a mutual understanding.

Colonel Hanbury-Williams, the Canadian Olympic commissioner, is very anxious to bring the two athletic bodies together, so that the Dominion will be able to send over its very best quality of athletic material.

The colonel frankly admits nothing can be arrived at until the warring factions cease fire and discuss the matter from one and the same standpoint. In an interview with the Ottawa correspondent of The News last night, the colonel was confronted with the following interrogatory:

"What method will be adopted in selecting athletes for the Olympic games? Will a series of meets be held, and the best men go, or will the committee select them on past records?"

"That's a large order," was the reply, "and one which cannot be answered till after the conference of the

two governing bodies next Saturday. Things will have to be left as they stand now. The Olympic games will comprise sports of almost every known character. There is football, tennis, field and track events, swimming, etc.

"The Canadian teams will not, of course, be represented in everything. But for the events in which they compete, it is the duty of the committee to select the best men possible. The Olympic games are a purely amateur and the status of a competitor must be in accordance with the Olympic committee's definition. The two Canadian bodies, now at loggerheads, have a diversity of opinion as to an amateur. One says he is one thing and the other something else. Now, that is what I hope to see overcome, so that the two bodies can place the same definition on an amateur, and that definition, coming from the joint unions, will without doubt be accepted by the Olympic committee."

The question or methods of selecting athletes has not been arrived at and will not till the two quarrelling bodies come to an understanding. That may be Saturday, when the delegates from each will meet each other at 2 o'clock, in my office. I would like to say something more definite, but, as you know, it is out of the question at present."

With the Puckchasers

Thomas Phillips, the greatest left wing hockeyist in the game, will play with Kenora Thistles again this year. Phillips stated in the spring that he had played his last hockey, but pressure has been brought to bear and he will again lead the Kenora players. The Thistles have reorganized and it is understood that both Hooper and Beaudro are on their way from British Columbia to Kenora. The Thistles intend making another fight for the Stanley cup. There is still talk of a new rink at Kenora. Thistles expect to get Eddie Geroux back in the game and their probable lineup will be as follows:

Goal, Geroux; point, Brown; cover, Hooper; forwards, McGinnis, R. Phillips and T. Phillips and Griffiths.

Phillips had offers from the Ottawas and Wanderers and the Wanderers also wanted Griffiths. Both have declined to go east.

Kingston will have at least two junior teams in the O. H. A. — St. George's will enter one and the Frontenacs will also reorganize. The latter team will have all their old men, with the exception of Gravel, who is in Winnipeg.

There is plenty of good material in the city for an intermediate team. Many good players, who are just past the age limit, and cannot play junior, and who have never played senior hockey, are on hand. It is a pity that since Kingston has been represented in all series, but this year there is no reason why she shouldn't. With the proper practice at the rink, this city could put three excellent teams in the O. H. A. this season.

A new junior hockey team has been organized for the coming season in Ingersoll, under the rather unique name of the Useless Seven. The men are: Curly Noe, goal; H. Smith, point; P. English, coverpoint; B. Henderson, J. Cross, B. Kelley and H. Noe, forwards; D. Burns, manager.

Yale expects to tour Canada this winter, playing Varsity, McGill and likely Ottawa and Queens.

The Wanderer hockey team will leave Montreal for Winnipeg on Dec. 22 to play a series of exhibition matches.

Tommy Smith left Ottawa last night for Pittsburgh, where he will captain one of the clubs in the Pennsylvania State League.

Brantford Expositor: The prospects for the junior hockey club in the O. H. A. series are very bright. There are several youngsters hereabouts who have everything, even the age, to qualify.

Woodstock Express: Prospects look bright indeed for junior hockey in Woodstock this winter. If everything turns out as expected, seven youngsters will be put on the ice when the season opens that will form one of the strongest junior teams that has

yet represented this city.

Citizen: Harry Smith, the dashing forward player, who figured on the Ottawa team last season, leading the E. C. H. A. in goal-getting, will probably play at Winnipeg this season. Last evening Harry received a tempting offer from Manager John Lee, of the Winnipeg Maple Leafs, the new professional team that is being formed in the Prairie Provinces.

Hanbury-Williams played left wing for the Ottawas, left yesterday for Winnipeg, where he will play on the Strathcona team, of which Billy Baird is manager.

New York World: "Many of the tens of thousands who love this game, who are entranced by the flash of human bodies over a sheet of ice—every dash having a certain object in view, every crash having the likelihood of a serious injury in store—many of these tens of thousands find the ice in order to get a 'line on their favorite team.'"

Brantford Expositor: "Let no one take it for granted that Manager-Play Brown is not active. Lines are out for the new men, and with the nucleus already on hand, things look bright."

The Guelph Mercury states that Herb Fyfe, a strong player on the firing line, and a native of the Royal City, will show Toronto this year. Fyfe is attending the university.

A Tientsin dispatch says that a new agreement for the building of a railway between Tientsin and Chinkiang has been reached which will provide that a British syndicate shall build the southern half of the line with its own funds, while a German syndicate will do the same for the northern half. A certain period will be allowed for foreign syndicates to run the line, after which it shall be allowable for the Chinese to redeem the railway.

Concrete is now being employed for paving purposes. This material promises to be of great cleanliness of surface and durability. A foundation of cinders to the depth of ten inches is first made and permitted to pack well for a week. Then the concrete curbing is made in the usual manner. Finally the concrete is mixed and thrown into place, considerably higher than center and sloping to either gutter. Immediately before the concrete hardens it is marked off with an instrument to resemble a pavement laid with brick. This method will insure a firm footing for draft horses in the winter.

The women of Fayal, in the Azores, make a lace out of the fibers of the leaves of the century plant, and it is not less beautiful than costly. These women are the only makers of the lace left in the world today, and travelers stopping at Fayal on their South Atlantic voyage do not miss the opportunity of seeing these women at work. The passengers of Absolona once possessed the same art. They made lace of the century plant's leaves a beautiful black lace, but it was not worth

C. A. A. U. WILL STICK BY THEIR PRESENT AMATEUR RULE

Toronto, Nov. 29.—The members of the C. A. A. U. executive who will represent the union at the joint meeting with Col. Hanbury-Williams at Ottawa tomorrow, will leave on the C. P. R. this evening, and on the way down will go over the matter very thoroughly.

A member of the committee stated this morning that, while in all probability the federation would be represented, the C. A. A. U. will look on this more in the light of an incident, as the committee is going down to Ottawa on Col. Hanbury-Williams' invitation to meet him, not the federation.

Furthermore, if the federation makes any kind against certain members of the C. A. A. U. committee, the objection will be ignored, leaving the federation the option of either giving in or leaving the meeting. The C. A. A. U. does not intend to commit itself to any definite agreement, although prepared to lend all the aid possible to Col. Hanbury-Williams.

There will be absolutely no compromise on the amateur principle, and no concessions whatever will be made towards paying the way for the introduction of the "broader" amateur law, as it is termed by the federation. The C. A. A. U. will not give in one inch on their amateur definition, and no concessions whatever will be considered, though they do not invite a conflict with the Olympic committee in regard to any thistle they may select to represent Canada in England.

"Rather than renounce our amateur principles, I would rather see the C. A. A. U. refuse absolutely to send any men to England," said a member of the governing body this morning. However, he is not a member of the committee which will go to Ottawa tonight.

The Superstition as to Number 13

A PROFESSOR WHO SAYS IT HAS SOME FOUNDATION IN FACT—WORLD-WIDE DREAD OF THE NUMBER—IT WAS WAGNER'S FAVORITE.

People who smile with a superior air at the notion that thirteen is an unlucky number will have to revise their incredulous attitude, for science—American science, it is true—says it is wrong, and that what they scornfully call "superstition" is based on fact. Professor Sherman Davis, of the University of Indiana, delivered an address recently in which he told them that thirteen is the age at which 65 per cent of boys begin to learn of the age from which the ruin of men dates. He based his assertion upon a critical examination of 2,000 men, asking them when they first contracted such petty vices as smoking cigarettes. And of these 2,000 men, 1,300, or 65 per cent, began to learn of the age from which the ruin of men dates. He based his assertion upon a critical examination of 2,000 men, asking them when they first contracted such petty vices as smoking cigarettes. And of these 2,000 men, 1,300, or 65 per cent, began to learn of the age from which the ruin of men dates. He based his assertion upon a critical examination of 2,000 men, asking them when they first contracted such petty vices as smoking cigarettes. And of these 2,000 men, 1,300, or 65 per cent, began to learn of the age from which the ruin of men dates.

DA VINCI'S GREAT PICTURE. Statistics compiled by actuaries are said to show that of any thirteen persons assembled accidentally, or without any selection, one should be dead within the year. In other words, taking the population of the world as a basis for calculation, one in every thirteen persons dies each year. The death rate varies, of course, according to age, climate, and sanitary conditions, so that the "superstition" of thirteen might not be so bad if the population of one country alone were considered. This, I think, goes a long way to explode the superstition, though the fact is quoted in its support.

The origin of this superstition is lost in the shadows of time. The commonly held belief is that it originated from the Last Supper, at which Christ and his twelve apostles sat on the eve of his betrayal and crucifixion. The popular conception of this scene has largely been lost. Leonardo da Vinci's wonderful picture on the wall of the refectory of the Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, in Milan, which has been reproduced so many thousands of times that there scarcely a gallery in the world in which a copy of it does not hang. But this idea is erroneous, for the superstition was ancient long before the Last Supper was eaten. The superstition that it is unlucky to spill salt, probably equally ancient, is also expressed in this picture, wherein Dr. Vinci has painted Judas Iscariot in the act of spilling the salt.

IN THE FAR EAST. In the Norse mythology there is a story that the twelve major gods were seated at supper when Loki, the god of mischief, entered—brought in a veiled and quarrelled with Baldr, god of peace, and shot him with a mistletoe arrow. But we must go even further back in time than the Norse mythology, for in the Far East, in the myths of the ancient Hindus, is a reference to the superstition that Friday is an unlucky day on which to undertake any enterprise or begin any journey. Christians have always imagined that this belief was to be referred to the fact that Christ was crucified on a Friday, but long before the time of Christ tradition had it that Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and were driven from paradise on a Friday.

IN MODERN HOTELS. The survival of the thirteen superstition in all lands is remarkable. The church-tried once to extirpate it. In the chapel of the Trinité de St. Gregory, adjoining the Colosseum in Rome, is a marble table with an inscription recounting that Pope Gregory the Great was in the habit of entertaining twelve poor men at a banquet every morning, and that on one occasion Christ appeared and shared their meal, making thirteen at table, and that, therefore, henceforth thirteen was a lucky number. If this had any effect that effect has quite passed away in the minds of the superstitious. In modern days there are many striking instances of the prevalence of the superstition. There are many hotels which have no rooms numbered thirteen. In Germany it is said that more than 500 hotels omit this fateful figure. In Berlin the number thirteen is omitted from all new streets. In Bern, Paris, and other European cities thirteen as a house number has nearly always been changed to 11A or 11B. Bismarck had the thirteen superstition in his most violent form. Last year when the French cabinet was reorganized the official announcement was deferred a day solely, it is said, to

avoid announcing it on the thirteenth day of the month. When this was told to the Pope, his holiness smiled and remarked, "Evidently being a free thinker does not exclude superstition."

MATTHEW ARNOLD'S CHALLENGE. The Turks have almost expunged the word "thirteenth" from their vocabulary; the Italians never use it in making up their lotteries; in Paris and other European cities there are men known as "quatorzièmes," well recognized in society, whose business it is to be ready to go to any house to dinner in order to make up fourteen at table. The following anecdote is related in the biography of Sir John Millais, the famous artist. He gave a dinner in honor of Matthew Arnold in August, 1885, and one of the guests called attention to the fact that there were thirteen at the table, and expressed some fear. Matthew Arnold laughed at such superstition and said: "The idea is that whoever leaves the table first will die within a year; so, with the permission of the ladies, we will cheat the fates for once, I and these fine, strong lads (indicating Edgar Dawson and E. S.) will rise together, and I think our united constancies will be able to withstand the assault of the reaper." Six months later, Matthew Arnold, in the prime of life, died suddenly of heart disease. A few days later E. S. was found dead in bed, a revolver at his side. Edgar Dawson, the third of the three cranks who were invited to carry the colors of the Woodstock Irish-Canadians, viz.: Murray, sprinter; Leahy, jumper; and Walsh, shot-putter. They all hail from Ireland. They sailed from Cork for the port of New York, where they fell in with Mr. Boyle, of Woodstock, and doubtless it was his name that attracted them, for they soon decided that the only place on the American continent for them was Woodstock, Ont.

Then take our own Toronto Irish-Canadians. Coley of their string is merry from the hills, and dales of fresh England, while Huddleton, who looks good in most numbers from a half mile up, also comes from the one-time home of Robin Hood. Neither of these men has been in Canada long enough to learn to like the winter. And it is even the same with Lawson, of the West End Y. M. C. A. And then there's Creed, now on the way out, and said to be consigned to Thomas Flanagan. He's a good all-round man, but hardly a Canadian.

That's how the land lies at present. The present great revival in athletics is very much so, except the import trade. That is hardly the true object of the revival. That object should be the development of Canadian athletics, and those in whose hands the selection of the Canadian Olympic team is placed should bear it in mind. In selecting that team they should see to it that none but Canadians are considered. They may not win, but what if? If winning prizes is all that counts, then the athletes amount to nothing. There is just as good material in Canada as anywhere else on the footstool. All it needs is development. It will never be developed if young Canadians are discouraged by the importation of crack athletes from the prominent places. It can be developed if Canadians are pushed to the front, and given the necessary chance and experience. "Let us be Canadians first" is the advice handed out to the warring athletic unions. Yes, and as Canadians let us be represented in London by a Canadian team.—Toronto Telegram.

What place does the Stanley cup occupy in hockey? It is presented by Lord Stanley to encourage professionalism in the winter national sport. These questions seem timely in view of the Winnipeg hockey club's challenge for the silverware. Everybody remembers that when the other clubs in the west were carrying for the "Pegs" stood out as amateurs, and refused to listen to the voice of the tempter. But very club has its price, and when Kenora moved the Stanleyware up next door to them, and they became champions of their little league had the right to challenge for it, they fell by the wayside. They didn't get a chance to play for it, but this year they have thrown off their robes of white, branched out into professional circles, and are coming to Montreal to look after it.

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Trade balances may vary, gold reserves may shift, international business complications may arise, but the great stream of American tourists' gold continues to flow Europeanward. Reports from steamship companies, banking houses doing large letter-of-credit business, and excursion companies show that in the season of 1907 the amount of money spent by Americans in Europe has been far greater than in any previous season. Averaging the estimates obtained from a variety of sources, Americans have spent so far this year not less than \$150,000,000 in Europe.

Aside from the vastness of the sum itself, one of the new and interesting features of this expenditure is found in the part taken in it by tourists from the United States who live in the Atlantic seaboard. New York residents of even moderate means have always been European travelers. The same has been true of most of the large eastern cities. But until recently the other parts of the United States supplied but a small proportion of the total army of tourists. Great prosperity throughout the country has wrought a change in this regard.

According to the steamship agents and excursion managers the proportion of Europe-bound tourists from the interior this season took an unprecedented leap. The south, particularly, which for several years has enjoyed even more than the average quota of prosperity, has sent thousands of tourists to Europe this year in excess of the number ever sent before. Almost every hamlet in the south has been found to have been stung by the European "travel bug."

In the procession of 170,000 east-bound passengers on steamships from New York and other American ports recorded up to Oct. 3, 1907, the west also has had an uncommonly large representation. The men close in touch with the tourist business say that the gain from the Pacific Coast has not been so large because that section of the country always sent about as many persons to Europe each year in proportion to population as did the Atlantic seaboard. The great west, however, has overrun Europe during the season just closing.

Not only has the aggregate number of tourists been increasing year by year until the enormous total given by the tourist business says that the amount of money expended by each has kept pace with the increasing prosperity of

Short Talk

Who will represent Canada at the Olympic games in England next year? Will it be a team of Canadians or a team made up from across the pond, who have either drifted in on the tide of imagination or who have been invited to come into our midst and teach us the tricks of track athletics? This seems to be even a more important question than the one that is causing all the trouble at present, to wit, which governing body will lose the job.

Have you ever stopped to think how many of all the army of heroes of athletics who are being paraded before the Canadian public, own Canada as their native country. Who ever stopped to think how much honor will be done to Canada by the mere fact if we cleaned up the whole Olympic card with a team of imports?

Now let us get down to particulars and single out the stars. Tom Longboat belongs to Canada for some centuries back, and of course he's the king pin of the bunch. Hilton Green has also his complexion to prove his nationality—even if he is only a pretty fair sort of a second rate. Bobbie Kerr, of Hamilton, the only man in sight who would have a chance in the sprint, can also lay a fair claim to being a Canuck. He was born in Ireland, but has lived in Hamilton for twenty years. But where are the others? Young Italians, of Varsity, looks like the best quarter mile man trotted out, but his family are said to be none too fond of his participation in athletics. So it is fairly safe to count him out; while Wilson, of Peterboro, has yet to show whether he is a good five-mile man or whether his "victory" over Coley was more or less of a fluke.

So holl it all down and you have the eligible Canadians who have a chance in London as Tom Longboat and Bobbie Kerr. What of all the others who figure so largely in the papers? Well, they seem to have flocked to this little old Dominion as flies to a lump of sugar—and no one can tell really, and for sure why. In any case, the three cranks who carry the colors of the Woodstock Irish-Canadians, viz.: Murray, sprinter; Leahy, jumper; and Walsh, shot-putter. They all hail from Ireland. They sailed from Cork for the port of New York, where they fell in with Mr. Boyle, of Woodstock, and doubtless it was his name that attracted them, for they soon decided that the only place on the American continent for them was Woodstock, Ont.

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Trade balances may vary, gold reserves may shift, international business complications may arise, but the great stream of American tourists' gold continues to flow Europeanward. Reports from steamship companies, banking houses doing large letter-of-credit business, and excursion companies show that in the season of 1907 the amount of money spent by Americans in Europe has been far greater than in any previous season. Averaging the estimates obtained from a variety of sources, Americans have spent so far this year not less than \$150,000,000 in Europe.

Aside from the vastness of the sum itself, one of the new and interesting features of this expenditure is found in the part taken in it by tourists from the United States who live in the Atlantic seaboard. New York residents of even moderate means have always been European travelers. The same has been true of most of the large eastern cities. But until recently the other parts of the United States supplied but a small proportion of the total army of tourists. Great prosperity throughout the country has wrought a change in this regard.

According to the steamship agents and excursion managers the proportion of Europe-bound tourists from the interior this season took an unprecedented leap. The south, particularly, which for several years has enjoyed even more than the average quota of prosperity, has sent thousands of tourists to Europe this year in excess of the number ever sent before. Almost every hamlet in the south has been found to have been stung by the European "travel bug."

In the procession of 170,000 east-bound passengers on steamships from New York and other American ports recorded up to Oct. 3, 1907, the west also has had an uncommonly large representation. The men close in touch with the tourist business say that the gain from the Pacific Coast has not been so large because that section of the country always sent about as many persons to Europe each year in proportion to population as did the Atlantic seaboard. The great west, however, has overrun Europe during the season just closing.

Not only has the aggregate number of tourists been increasing year by year until the enormous total given by the tourist business says that the amount of money expended by each has kept pace with the increasing prosperity of

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the people of the United States, much to the delight and profit of the European shopkeepers, hotel proprietors and others who cater to the comfort and interest of tourists.

Inquiry among those familiar with the expenditures of tourists of the various grades of wealth shows an interesting range of expenditure by the different classes. According to C. F. Dellinger, manager for Brown Bros. bankers, who do an extensive business in letters of credit and travelers' checks, the average letter of credit for 1907 was approximately \$2,750. To this figure the average has climbed from about \$2,000 a few years ago. Some letters of credit are carried by Americans for as high