



Argonaut Eight (Toronto) which will Represent Canada at the British Henley and at the Olympic in Sweden.

Forecast of Canadian Rowing for 1912

A Year that May Be a Great One for Canada in This Sport

By J. T. STIRRETT

AFTER struggling against the frost, fogs and cold winds of an unusually late spring, oarsmen are now settling down to the hard but stimulating discipline of summer practice. The voice of the coxswain is heard on the deep. His megaphone competes with the storm signal and the steam siren. The coach assumes a deeper shade of pessimism and the oldest member breathes drab-coloured prophecies concerning the certain failure which lack of vigilance entails. Meanwhile, the patient crew men train and strain, catch and swing and drive, recover and catch, and swing and drive again, and yet again till ambition fades into the physical inertia of complete exhaustion.

This year may be a great year in the history of Canadian rowing. Canada will be represented at the British Henley, at the Olympic in Sweden, at the Canadian Henley on the Welland Canal, and at the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen's regatta in Illinois. The victories of last year may be repeated and excelled.

Last year the Argonauts of Toronto won practically all the American and Canadian championships. The Ottawas beat the Belgians in England and were only defeated in a close race by the Englishmen. The Winnipegs swept away all the trophies in competition with the crews of the Middle States; and the Maritime Province clubs overwhelmed the New England oarsmen.

WHAT are the high hopes of the Canadians this year? The Argonauts will represent the nation in England and Sweden with an eight-oared crew, a single sculler, and perhaps a four-oared crew. Although they have a mighty eight, perhaps the best that has ever represented the Double Blue, the task of winning the championship of the world against the crews of England and Europe is stupendous. Like Horatius, they are "facing fearful odds." Up till the present, crossing the Atlantic seems to have been as fatal for an eight-oared crew as for a cup challenger. The voyage and change of climate combine to rub the bloom off their condition. The Argonauts will have good material, eight men six feet or over in height and averaging about one hundred and seventy-five pounds. They won the American and Canadian championships with these frail creatures last year. Early in January they exiled them to the machines in winter quarters, where they pulled oar handles against a chain and spring screw. They have been on the water for six weeks in wind, snow, hail and rain. They have the best coach in America, Captain Joseph Wright. Can they win? Experts say they will at least win heats, and perhaps reach the finals. The eight-oared crew will probably sit in the shell as follows: G. B. Taylor, stroke; R. J. Gregory, 7; B. R. Gale, 6; A. Sinclair, 5; W. E. G. Murphy, 4; A. E. H. Kent, 3; P. E. Boyd, 2; C. F. Riddy, bow; and W. O. McCleary, coxswain. J. A. Wickson and George Wright will go as spare men. If the four-oared race can be contested without sacrificing the chances of winning the eight-oared race, the crew for the former will be made up as follows:

G. B. Taylor, stroke; A. Sinclair, 3; B. R. Gale, 2; and A. E. H. Kent, bow.

E. B. Butler, of the Argonauts, will compete in England and Sweden for the single sculling championship of the world. He has the championships of America and Canada, which he won last year without difficulty. Can he win? He's six feet high, weighs one hundred and sixty pounds, and has wonderful skill.

THE entry for this year's Olympic Regatta leaves that of 1908 far in the rear, and there are a number of new countries in the list. In 1908 the entry totalled 23; the present reaches 64. The



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countries then competing were: United Kingdom (2 scullers, 2 pairs, 2 fours, 2 eights); Belgium (1 sculler, 1 eight); Canada (2 scullers, 1 pair, 1 four, 1 eight); Germany (1 sculler, 1 pair); Hungary (2 scullers, 1 eight); Italy (1 sculler); Holland, (1 four); Norway (1 eight).

The entries for this year are as follows:

Single Sculls (22 entries): Australasia, 1; Austria, 2; Belgium, 1; Bohemia, 2; Canada, 1; Denmark, 2; Finland, 1; France, 1; Germany, 2; Great Britain, 2; Hungary, 2; Italy, 1; Russia, 1; Sweden, 2; United States, 1.

Fours (outriggers, best boats with coxswains), 22 entries: Australasia, 2; Austria, 2; Belgium, 1; Bohemia, 1; Canada, 1; Denmark, 2; Finland, 1; France, 2; Germany, 2; Great Britain, 1; Italy, 2; Netherlands, 1; Norway, 2; Sweden, 2.

Fours (inriggers, sliding seats with coxswains), 7 entries: Denmark, 2; France, 2; Norway, 1; Sweden, 2.

Eights (outriggers, best boats with coxswains), 13 entries: Australasia, 1; Canada, 1; France, 1; Germany, 2; Great Britain, 2; Hungary, 2; Italy, 1; Norway, 1; Sweden, 2.

THE Ottawas and Winnipegs considered sending eights across the Atlantic, but abandoned the proposal. This decision leaves them free for the Canadian Henley. Ottawa, Winnipeg and Detroit in the senior eight race would provide a soul-stirring contest, with the odds slightly in favour of Ottawa, if the crew are well trained. It is doubtful if the Argonauts will be represented by good men in the senior events, as the club will be drained to furnish contestants for England and Sweden. The junior races should bring forth good crews this year. Ottawa, Winnipeg, Argonauts and Detroit will probably be represented.

Winnipeg can be trusted to take care of all the North-west regattas without assistance.

CANADIANS and Americans look forward expectantly to the N. A. A. O. regatta, which provides the real international tests of the season. The races are keenly contested but the spirit of fair play is always in evidence. Officials, contestants and spectators take courteous interest in the Canadian crews and treat them most generously. It is safe to say that the N. A. A. O. regatta is an annual medium of interchange of good-will between the rowing men of two great nations. A striking example of this is the David and Jonathan attitude of the Argonauts and Detroit. The members of these two clubs practice together, travel together, cheer each other's victories and sympathize with each other's defeats.

Rowing is a time-honoured sport. It forces its devotee out on the water, in the bright sunlight, under the blue dome of the sky. Half naked, he is tanned and tempered by wind and sun to the colour and hardness of mahogany. It teaches industry, inculcates patience, encourages virtue and cures spiritual depression. It is a man's game and Canadians will play it well this summer.