

The Rockwood Review.

Our readers must be patient with us if football matters seem to fill a great deal of space this month. Probably they will not be as prominent again for some time. The Granite Juniors succeeded in defeating the Brockville Juniors after two very severe contests, in which our boys had decidedly the best of the play. When it is stated that the Granite Juniors are better this year than ever before, it will be seen that the Brockville lads are not to be despised—at least on the football field. Unfortunately some of the bad elements of Brockville, in their anxiety to win at any cost, made a protest to the Union, in which the good name of the Granites was impugned. Although the Granites furnished absolute proof of the age of the player suspected of having passed the limit, the Union deliberately threw our boys out. If we were not possessed of the probable facts leading up to such astounding injustice being done to the lads, who have been ideal in their way of playing football, we might be inclined to wonder. That such things can be done is to be regretted, but when the Granites remember how much kindness and justice they have heretofore received at the hands of the Union, they can marvel at nothing in the way of unkindness. Their success at the game has excited the envy of the small minded rivals, and as the GLOBE expressed it, the Union accomplished something that no team could do, viz. threw them out of a series. The Granites have dignity enough left to withdraw from a Union from which the spirit of justice has departed. As a matter of fact football is following the other games already in disgrace in Canada, and that Rugby as at present played is already on its last legs, is recognized by the thoughtful ones. If the Universities will continue to preserve a pure game among themselves, there will arise

at least a better ideal than there is at present. Cup competitions should also be done away with, as they bring out all that is worst in boys and men. Inter-club competitions, for the "fun of the thing," would be far better. Look at cricket for example, it is called the gentleman's game, and will always be regarded as this, because it is played without betting, intense competition, and the one desperate resolve to win at any price. In cricket such things as trickery and protests are unknown, the game is played in good nature, and bad temper is out of the question. The Granites have played football in the same spirit, and to-day find themselves branded as perjurers by a lot of irresponsible boys in Toronto, who are blind to justice, although willing to advance the interests of men who are recognized as the bad elements in Rugby to-day, the fathers of professionalism and everything else that should be avoided.

The Granite seniors met with crushing defeat in their game with Brockville, and have nothing in the way of excuse to offer, beyond saying that the better team won. They went to Brockville merely to redeem a promise made to play, and before the game retired from the Union. Brockville determined to win at any cost, had lodged its usual protest, and without doubt would have won it, if it had ever come to trial, by the same means employed to capture the Junior Championship. The Granites did their best to win, and when the game was over, retired quietly to their boat, and left for home without mixing with men who have shown themselves unworthy of the title gentlemen. According to custom, they were treated to showers of mud when going along the street.

Black Squirrels have not been as numerous for twenty years or more. They are to be found everywhere.