

ATHLETIC

Sports and Pastimes

It has often surprised me that united action has not been taken by the athletic clubs of the Dominion to obtain more favourable terms from the railroad companies than are now accorded, to members of clubs travelling in numbers for different competitions.

The first thing to be ascertained now, when a foreign game is under discussion, is: What will the railway do for us? Will we have to pay full fare, or will it be a fare and a third, or do you not think we can persuade them to grant us a single fare? And unless the club has the good fortune to be at the company's headquarters, there is delay, writing, or telegraphing, to know what is the best rate that may be given; and many a good match has been declared off because of the expense, and trouble trying to lessen it, which if some liberal concession had been granted would have turned money into the coffers of the company, and health with attendant happiness into the lungs and livers of many a good fellow.

I am sure that if proper representations were made by the united associations to the managements of the various railroad companies, a single fare rate for return journeys might be obtained for the members of clubs when travelling for a match in not fewer numbers than seven.

This would be a satisfactory concession, and yet not tax the generosity of the railroads very heavily, as when pressure is brought to bear and time permits it can now be obtained from many points. It would, however, put the matter beyond the necessity of entering into negotiations for, each time a trip was contemplated, and would give all clubs an equal footing.

These terms have been granted to riflemen this year attending the larger meetings, by both Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways, and might be secured by other organizations if represented in sufficiently united manner to the authorities.

I heartily agree with Mr. Logie, of Hamilton, in his opposition to the reduction of the number necessary to constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Rugby Football Union.

In all our sporting associations there is too great a tendency to leave the practical management in the hands of a very few members, all residents of the locality where the headquarters may be established.

Without doubt there is often a difficulty found in gathering a quorum for an executive meeting, but I do not think the proper way out of the difficulty is to be found by reducing the number required to constitute a quorum, but rather in an en-

deavour to ascertain how to obtain better attendance.

One very serious difficulty in the way of many delegates attending executive meetings regularly is, that in many instances they are called upon to defray their own expenses. I do not allude to football only now, but to sporting representatives generally.

This ought not to be. It is decidedly to the advantage of every club to be represented at all important meetings by a member or members of their own club, and these members ought not to be called upon to defray their charges in addition to the sacrifice of their time. The club they represent should pay their expenses.

Another difficulty in the way of getting quorums is the lack of forethought shown by many secretaries in not having a resume of the business to be discussed thoroughly in order before the meeting is called, as well as any possible subjects which may soon need consideration, and which might in many cases be left in shape for the officers or a sub-committee to deal with on a given basis.

If this was thoroughly attended to, the number of meetings called might be considerably lessened, and the business more satisfactorily settled.

I am able to recall meetings of associations, both in Montreal and Toronto, that I have attended, which have adjourned for a week or two, before their business was half completed, for no other reason than that the secretary had called the representatives together before he had his business in order to lay before them.

This is very annoying to outside delegates, and naturally deters many from attending other meetings.

If these two points were attended to, there would not be such difficulty experienced in obtaining quorums, and greater satisfaction with the decisions of executives would prevail.

I am glad to welcome the newly formed—or rather the reorganized—Queen's Own Athletic Association to the sporting clubs of the Dominion.

It ought to be an unqualified success, and with the names mentioned as composing the executive, there cannot be any doubt but that it will be all that can be wished for such an organization—a decided benefit to the regiment, and an acquisition to the list of sporting clubs in the Dominion.

An old athlete himself, the popular Colonel of the Regiment, as Honorary President of the Association may be depended upon to do all in his power to raise it to that high standard which an officer commanding such a well known and thoroughly efficient battalion as the Queen's Own would desire to see attained

by any body claiming association with the regiment under his command.

The advent of a new athletic club in Toronto composed of men so well known as most of the members of the Queen's Own, and who have a bond of union with members of sister corps throughout the Dominion, ought to be a strong factor in aiding fair minded supporters of athletics in the Queen City to relieve their body from the constant reproaches which are being cast upon them of selfishness in regard to all events of a sporting character unless held in the City of Toronto.

That such reproaches are warranted will no doubt be denied by many Torontonians, but unfortunately they are too universally and frequently heard everywhere outside of Toronto, for there to be the slightest reason to believe there is any injustice about them; and the spirit of antagonism which this feeling is arousing against Toronto clubs will undoubtedly bring upon them a heavy day of reckoning.

This feeling when spoken of, is attributed by a portion of the Toronto press, to a sense of jealousy entertained against the Queen City by the other towns of the Province, but this is altogether a mistaken idea, and unless it is done with the deliberate intention of drawing a herring across the trail, is but misleading.

There can be no doubt that a certain portion of the sporting community of Toronto is imbued with a porcine proclivity for endeavouring to centralize everything it is possible to obtain in their midst, irrespective of the feelings of the remainder of the Province, and it is very desirable, in the general interests of athletics throughout the Province, that a more generous spirit in this respect should be introduced.

It is to be hoped the new athletic association may do good work in this respect, and thus be the means of encouraging sport not only among themselves but throughout the Province.

The example set by the "Queen's Own" ought at once to be followed by sister corps throughout the Dominion. Some such bond of union as a well organized athletic association is becoming a necessity to bring together a desirable class of recruits, who will maintain the high standard of efficiency our militia attained some years ago, but which from lack of encouragement, or rather from continued discouragement from quarters where it ought least to be expected, it is rapidly deteriorating from.

At the present moment there is but one inducement for a man to remain in the militia—boys may still be readily obtained—and that is the rifle.

Hundreds of the best members of the