

## The Fortnight in Sport.

A Review, with comments, of the leading events in current Canadian Athletics.

By "Cashel Byron"

The great football struggle in Central Canada is now over, so far as the two major leagues are concerned, and the winning clubs are those of Toronto University in the Interecollegiate series, and the "Tigers" of Hamilton in the Rugby Union. "Varsity's" victory has been most signal,—they not having suffered a single defeat, while the Tigers have been beaten but once in six matches.

This result will make the play-off for the Dominion championship extremely interesting. This great match will take place in Hamilton on Nov. 26th, and will no doubt attract an enormous crowd. For many years Hamilton has had a strong team in football, and this year's seems the best of the past decade.

Speaking of crowds, that which witnessed the Queen's-Varsity match at Toronto on Nov. 5 established a record for Toronto football — at least so far as receipts were concerned — the "gate" representing \$2,600. The previous record was \$1,700. These amounts, however, dwarf into insignificance when compared with the big Yale-Harvard and Yale-Princeton annual fixtures, when \$40,000 is not an uncommon total to be received.

Ottawa teams have not won any of the honours this season, although the City XIV have captured the coveted second place in the I.R.U., having tied with the Argos for that position. The Ottawa College team

has had a most disastrous year, not having won a single match. How different a record from that of 15 or 20 years ago, when Father Fallon was wont to coach his team to a Canadian championship, year after year! Exactly 20 years ago the writer witnessed an historic struggle on the College grounds between the latter team and Montreal, when the game ended in a draw, 12-12,—and the College thus retained the championship, unbeaten.

Last year, when Varsity won the championship, and put such a dint into the Ottawa escutcheon, many followers of the game attributed the final victory almost entirely to the splendid work of Smirle Lawson, the university "half." This year this noted player has been on the shelf, and yet Varsity has reached the top place again. It simply goes to show that however good a man may be, some one can usually be found to take his place. And this we see exemplified in other walks of life than athletics.

And now the various hockey leagues throughout Canada are organizing for the fray. The salary question seems to be a live one. The expense question has been to a certain extent simplified by the far distant clubs of Cobalt and Haileybury withdrawing into a little league of their own. The "boom" days of these towns being over, there is hardly sufficient population to warrant them continuing in the big leagues.