



It is the unexpected that happens, wrote somebody a long time ago; but anything more unexpected than the ending to last Saturday's lacrosse match between the Cornwalls and Shamrocks is not put down in the records of sport. If the match had been a drawn one, everybody would have known exactly what was to be done; but it was not, and the question naturally arises—What is going to be done about it? Dr. Shanks, the referee, made an error in computation, and that error is responsible for all the trouble. This should be a lesson to field captains to keep check of the time themselves. If Mr. Maguire had done this and disputed the decision immediately after the match was supposed to be closed, there is no doubt but that the mistake would have been rectified and the match won or lost on its merits. And just here I would suggest that when next the executive committee of the Senior Lacrosse League meets, some provision will be made for an official time-keeper to work in conjunction with the referee. The latter official has quite enough to occupy his mind for two hours by attending to the way the game is played and not bothering his head about splitting minutes. The way lacrosse is played these days, a very few seconds are full of meaning to a team, especially when there is only one goal in the way of being either victor or vanquished. I can call to mind two matches when less than a quarter of a minute considerably changed the complexion of affairs. One was when Montreal played in Toronto last year; the other when the Shamrocks played in Cornwall at the beginning of the present season. In this last game, if I remember aright, two games were fought and won inside of a minute; and certainly, when the Shamrocks scored the eighth game, tying the score with the Cornwalls, there was only fifteen seconds left to play, and they had practically pulled the game out of the fire. They did not win eventually, the ninth and deciding game being scored by the Factory Town; but the chances were even and it was like beginning the match over again. It was fortunate for both parties that on this occasion Mr. Pollock (who by the way has become quite a favourite referee) was careful in his timekeeping. If he had made a rough calculation of minutes alone, the result would have been the same; but an injustice would have been done the visiting team. Still it is not to be expected that everybody who referees will keep as cool and watch time so closely as he did, and the natural inference is that playing under the present system an experienced time-keeper should be on the field. Even a second may win or lose a match in the fast games of to-day, and the time-keeper should attach just as much importance to his watch as if he were catching the gait for a hundred yard sprint or watching a horse's nose come under the wire. There will be this difference: The time-keeper in a modern lacrosse match, where he will calculate for fouls, faces, rests, and all the other circumstances that delay the game, for ever so short a time may be, will have a much more difficult task than the man in the judge's stand who times a mile with a split-second fly-back.

Now, as to the match. Is it to be considered played and Cornwall the winner? or is it to be put down as a drawn match, to be played over again? or is it to be put out of nominal existence, and be spoken of as no match at all? The official answer to these questions is of considerable importance to a great many. Take, in the first place, the Cornwall players who left the field under the impression that they had won the match, and with it (practically) the championship. It was no fault of theirs that they should have been led to understand that the play was over. They had the lead as it was, and no doubt would have been better pleased to go on the field and play out that nine minutes than go home under the cloud of uncertainty. With an advantage such as the visitors had, all the captain need have done was to strengthen his wonderful defence, and render it morally impassable: to play a holding game to save time and the match would be won anyhow. Short odds, of course, but all the probabilities in their favour. It may be said that if Cornwall closed back its field into the defence territory the Shamrocks would have moved in a home man or two to equalize things, but this is not probable, as it would tend to draw out their defence and leave an opening for another game for the visitors, a course which would have put the home club entirely out of the race. Now, if Hughes and Leroux were ordered to move back a little on their flags, without crowding, it seems a moral certainty to every lacrosse man that the game could be played from a defence point of view for an indefinite time, as there was no necessity, under the circumstances, to become aggressive. That simply meant a win for Cornwall.

Now, to look at the other side of the case. In the fifth game the Shamrocks had decidedly the best of the play, and they scored. This game occupied 11½ minutes. In the previous game the chances were in favour of Cornwall, who had much the best of it, but in this the tables were turned and the wearers of the green seemed a different set of men, and did much better work. Under these circumstances, and playing as they were at this stage, it is not un-

reasonable to suppose that they might have succeeded in winning another game in the nine minutes left to play. That would have left the match a tie on time, and the seventh game would have decided it one way or the other. To the Cornwalls it seems an injustice that when they had the game in their hands and were supposed to have won that the laurel of victory should have been snatched from them through an error which was not of their own making. To the Shamrocks it will also appear an injustice, since they can claim rightly that all the opportunities of time to which they were entitled were not given them.

There is yet another large number to whom the result of this match is of considerable importance. I refer to the gentlemen who were financially interested. It was a wise thing for pool settlers to hold bets, and it was a thoughtful thing to telephone these holders to that effect. Under the circumstances, it is a very mixed up case, and I cannot recollect any of the rules of betting which covers it. In professional sporting bets go with the decision of the referee, umpire or judges, as the case may be, but this rule is usually not taken into consideration in amateur sports. Many people claim that the match should be called a draw, and that money with odds should be divided equally; others claim that original bets should be drawn, while still others who had their shekels on Cornwall are of the opinion that they have won their wagers. To my mind none of these conclusions are correct. The case is without a precedent, and nobody can settle it but the committee of the league. It may be claimed that the match was over when both teams left the field, and it may be claimed that the referee's decision once given cannot be rescinded, and that bets go accordingly. But the referee's decision was altered, and bets evidently should not be paid on any but the official report, and the absolute result of the match is still in doubt. Then, again, it cannot be considered a match at all, because it was not completed. Under these circumstances it would appear that no bets have been made. It can hardly be considered a drawn match either, because one team was a game to the goal when the teams left the field; therefore, the bets cannot be considered as drawn. What the ultimate result should be, I think, should be left to the two clubs interested, and the bets should go this wise: A match has been partially played and not completed. If it is decided to play out the nine minutes yet wanting, and no more, then money should go with the match, as it will simply be the deciding of the winning team, and there will be no draw in question; but if it is decided to play the whole thing over then bets should be considered a draw, as the first match will not count and will be considered as not having been played. Of course, mutual consent between betters may let the wagers go with the second match, which will have to be decided one way or the other.

Dr. Shanks might have settled all these difficulties by ignoring all protests and letting the match go according to his original decision, when he remarked that time was up; but he took the manlier course, acknowledged he had made a mistake and did all in his power to repair the error. He has got himself into a heap of trouble, so to speak, and he probably recognizes by this time that the lot of a referee, under certain circumstances, is anything but a happy one. Following is the Doctor's report to the secretaries of both clubs. It speaks for itself, and shows how easily a clerical error may be made:—

September 1, 1890.		
First game won by Shamrock. Began 3.37, ended 3.56; time.....	21	(19)
First rest 10 min. (2 min extra delay).....	10	
Second game won by Cornwall. Began 4.08, ended 4.25; time.....	17	
Second rest, 10 min.....	10	
Third game won by Cornwall. Began 4.35, ended 4.37; time.....	2½	
Third rest, 10 min.....	10	
Fourth game won by Cornwall. Began 4.47½, ended 5.04½; time.....	27	(17)
Fourth rest, 10 min. (1 min. extra delay).....	10	
Fifth game won by Shamrock. Began 5.15½, ended 5.27; time.....	11½	
Fifth rest, 10 min.....	10	
	129	
Delay for fouls, stoppages, etc.....	6	
Net time.....	123	min

The score card as above shows that the two hours had a little more than elapsed, so I said to the captains, "Time is up." The teams then left the grounds. A few moments later, on being questioned as to the correctness of my time, I examined my figures and found that an error in the first game of two minutes and one in the fourth game of ten minutes, amounting in all to twelve minutes, had been made. (The corrected time is placed in brackets after the first and fourth games, as above.) These twelve minutes being deducted now show the correct time to be, not 123 minutes, but (111) one hundred and eleven minutes.

Thus it is seen that nine (9) minutes more of play are needed to complete the necessary two hours.

This report is respectfully submitted.

A. L. SHANKS, M.D.,
Referee Cornwall vs. Shamrock lacrosse match August 30.
1890.

Montreal, September 1, 1890.

The course taken by the executive committee since the foregoing was written is decidedly unexpected and, as far as the public is concerned, unsatisfactory. The match has been awarded to Cornwall on the ground that a referee cannot change his decision. It would have been much better if some amicable agreement had been come to. Now the Leroux protest will be a very material constituent in the make up of lacrosse championships this season.

The Orients have gone to the benighted East to show the Bluesnoses how to play lacrosse, and they are succeeding beyond their expectations. These trips are a feature that might well be imitated by other lacrosse clubs. Men who play for the love of the game and inconvenience themselves considerably to turn out for practice, may be helped along through the hot summer months if they see at the end a pleasant excursion. It is a much better way of holding players together than the sale of brass rings, tons of coal, and notes for value received, not to speak of buying a ten cent glass of lemonade in some well known sporting saloon with a dollar bill and getting back \$9.90 in change. These things have been done to save players from being known as professionals; but an excursion, where there is no direct profit, is an easier, honester, and not so costly a way, because the trip usually pays for itself if there is any business management at the head of the club.

To-day the Ottawas and Montrealers meet, and there is every probability of a most excellent match. It might be thought that the Ottawas, being defeated so easily by the Shamrocks, and the latter whitewashed by the Montreal club, that the latter would have comparatively a very easy thing of it; but past lacrosse experience has proved that form is about as erratic a guide post in lacrosse as any that could be got. Still, with all this staring us in the face, I cannot help thinking that Montreal will come out very much on the top in this particular match, and, for that matter, pretty near the head of the list in the rest of the matches to be played this season. But lacrosse is a strange game anyhow, and the best laid plans of humans and rodents forget themselves sometimes.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Bicycle Club, notwithstanding that there were a great number of outside attractions, can be put down as a success. In the open events the Canadians were, to use a vulgarism, not in it, and the Yankees captured everything worth having that way. There was one satisfaction, however, and that was, that some new records were established for Canada, and now, from the half mile up to the five mile mark, the times stand as follows:

Half mile—W. Windle, Woodstock...	1.16½
One mile—F. Foster, Toronto.....	2.42 1-5
Two miles—F. Foster, Toronto.....	5-45
Three miles—A. B. Rich, N.Y.A.C....	8-45
Five miles—W. Windle, Woodstock..	14.40 4-5

Outside of the open events the Montreal contingent managed to win seven firsts. The half mile open was a foregone conclusion, and the Montreal man was a poor third to the N.Y.A.C. representatives. In the half mile foot race, one of the M.A.A.A. men, who is a good runner, was taught a lesson in judgment, and it was—never let an opponent get too long a lead, because, even for the man who depends on his sprinting powers to make a finish, it is not by any means certain that the other man cannot go and do likewise. It was this that put Paris first and Johnson second. In the five mile open there were only the New York entries, and Rich succeeded in smashing the record for the three miles, although he did not reach the best mark for the five miles. Still, it was a great pace he rode at, and, had it not been for a misunderstanding, more of the figures would have gone under. The 220 yard sprint brought out a couple of men that Montreal will depend on in the championship games; but if they want to be in it with the visitors who will be here on the 27th, they will have to do better than 24 1-5 seconds. In the three mile race Clark, of the N.Y.A.C., was handicapped out of it, and A. F. Mussen, of the M.B.C., with a two minute allowance finished first. Heavy handicaps, by the way, are not the best things in the world to entice foreign wheelmen to come to our race meetings.

The great event of the year in the bicycle world—the L. A. W. meet at Niagara Falls—was not an unalloyed success, and the audience took it into their heads to express an opinion by way of hissing, which was deserved. This occurred in the two mile championship safety, when no attempt was made to race until the last quarter. If there is anything monotonous to a crowd of spectators it is to watch a waiting race. A certain amount of loafing is permissible, but at Niagara it was very much overdone. All the flyers from the United States and some from England were there; in fact, never before had such a large number of fast men been brought together, and Canada, metaphorically speaking, was left out in the cold.

The Western men are profiting by their experience gained at the recent gun tournament in Toronto. On that occasion the Canadians were practically not in it with their American brethren. There were seventeen of the latter at the shoot, and they managed to capture two-thirds of the prizes. It is this fact which is agitating the London Gun Club just now, and they have decided to permit none but Canadians