

REVIEW OF C.R.O. SPORT.

By G. F. Low.

In so far as it concerns the C.R.O., sport, during the past year has at least had "a place in the sun." Up to the beginning of 1918 there was very little doing in the way of any organized form of athletic recreation, but it soon became manifest that there was not only a keenness amongst the boys for any kind of sport that was going but also there was a heap of athletic ability lying idle, merely waiting for the opportunity of developing itself to bring it up to first-class form.

Before reviewing what has been done in the way of sport, it is only fair to state that the men in this office have been very severely handicapped by the nature of work on which they are engaged, work which is directly affected by happenings in the field.

Naturally the work they are here to do has had to take first place, with the result that it has been very difficult in some directions to carry out any scheduled plans or organization of sport, or even of training, with results detrimental both to the enthusiasm of would-be athletes, and—in some directions—to the quality of sport turned out. At the same time it is only just to say that—whenever it has been found possible to do so—every facility has been given for the various teams to get away to take part in matches, etc., as is evidenced by the fact that the Cricket, Rowing, and Swimming teams were able to keep all their engagements throughout the season, and in addition got in sufficient training to enable them to make a really excellent show on all occasions.

In spite of the drawbacks various matches were played, regattas held, and representatives from this office took part in most of the Sports' Meetings held under the auspices of the C.M.A.A., thus proving that "the sporting instinct beat beneath their savage breasts."

Apart from the enthusiasm shown by all ranks, if not to take part in, then "to look on," the C.R.O. may easily be proud of their achievements in the field of sport and, taking it on the average, the results obtained. One outstanding feature at the beginning of the year was the creation of an O.C. Sports, in the person of Lieut. C. R. Gilpin, M.C.

Lieut. Gilpin worked hard at the commencement of the season on the formation of a Baseball Team, which, for some reason or other was not supported to the extent it might have been, and baseball, above all other games, requires all the support it can get to help the game along.

Therefore, after a few games in the Anglo-American League, baseball died a natural death.

An attempt was also made to arouse our tennis enthusiasts with only a small amount of success. A handful of players came forward and entered as competitors in the London Area Knock-out Tournament, with a view to choosing competitors for the Overseas Forces of Canada Championship of the British Isles, but our Tennisites dropped out after a few games at the Norbury grounds, and tennis, too, died a natural death.

So far as the Cricket team is concerned a word of praise should be said in favour of Lieut. R. H. W. Clowes, who supported the team right throughout the season and *scored every game*. At the end of the season Lieut. Clowes presented a bat each to the Captain of the team, Pte. H. R. Orr (highest batting average), and to S.Q.M.S. Jamieson (highest bowling average).

Pte. H. R. Orr, who captained the team throughout the season, is well known in this country in cricket circles, having captained Bedfordshire County Team from 1900 to 1912, and has no less than four centuries to his credit. Later he was Captain of the Vancouver Island Team, in Canada. At 53 years of age, he proved a pillar of support to the C.R.O. Cricket XI.

At this stage I cannot do better than give you the following details, for which I am indebted to Lieut. Clowes:—

"Those members of the C.R.O. who took up cricket as their sport during the summer may congratulate themselves on a highly successful season.

For a first season the result, ten wins out of twenty-one matches, for the first eleven, shows that there is no lack of talent. We had the good luck to be well captained and an excellent *esprit de corps*. We were unfortunate in having to start the season with two league matches with no idea of who could play a decent game, but after three reverses got going and always gave our opponents a good game.

Our strength lay in the bowling and fielding. The skipper was undoubtedly our best batsman, his average per match working out at 24.84 runs. Other consistent were Randall (R.I. E.), Stewart (R.2.A.), Parkins (A.M.S.), Charman (late R.2.B.5), and Fowler (R.I.A.). S.Q.M.S. Slade on one or two occasions did some brilliant batting but was unfortunate as a rule.

The bowling generally was shared by Fowler,