



Montreal (7) and Hamilton (9) Match, Montreal, October 26th. This was one of the hardest matches of the year. The quarter-back has just passed the ball to the full-back.

Photograph by R. F. Smith.

tion Eddie Gleason, then only 19 years of age, was captain and the bright particular star, 'Varsity, for which J. L. Counsell shone brightly out and Rev. A. Forsythe Barr, "Biddy" of the olden days, but now a much respected clergyman of Whitby, was captain, were champions of Canada in the next three years. Many were the memorable contests these three competed in. Curtis was the justly renowned captain of Queen's of the time, and they were hot times, too. In fact, I am inclined to think that just about this period and a trifle later, Rugby football in Canada reached its zenith in popularity if not also in play. No spectator of the great and glorious struggle at Rosedale in '96, when Ottawa College won the final for the championship from 'Varsity, will forget the kicking duel in which Gleason and Counsell were the principals. Ottawa had the weight and 'Varsity the speed, but the ice-covered field prevented the blue and white utilising their activity and rapidity on this particular occasion. Counsell saved the day, time and time again, once carrying the ball out from behind his own line when surrounded by half a dozen easterners and following it up with a kick into touch at midfield. Despite the heroic efforts of 'Varsity's great half-back Ottawa won by 12 to 8, the victory being primarily due to the head-work of Gleason, who managed his team in a masterly way and invariably punted into unoccupied territory. As a matter of fact the supremacy of Ottawa in the Rugby arena for some four or five years was attributable in a great measure to one man, and that man was "Eddie" Gleason. Of seemingly frail physique, weighing somewhere around 135 or 140 lbs., although 5 feet 9 inches or 5 feet 10 inches in height, he was utterly fearless and could always be depended upon to stand up under the most severe punishment. Gleason played in Toronto in after years, but his old-time brilliancy had evidently departed.

The two Ottawa teams divided the national honours in Rugby football for seven years, until 1903, but they were hard pushed for it in 1901 by the Argonauts of Toronto, champions that year of the Ontario Rugby Union. Ottawa College won the Quebec championship and qualified to meet the oarsmen; but before this the Argos won twice from the redoubtable Rough Riders, both at home and abroad. The last game was probably one of the most strenuous ever played. Ottawa had never been beaten on their own grounds and it was deemed an impossibility that they would be made to bite the dust on this occasion. A win would mean a tie for first place and a play-off on neutral grounds. Nothing dismayed by defeat at Rosedale, the supporters of Ottawa offered odds of 100 to 65 and in several cases 2 to 1 on their chances. At that time the Argonauts had Ardagh at full back, Henderson, Darling and Hardisty as half-backs and Britton at quarter. "Joe" Wright, the grand old man of the game, "Banty" Russell, the little giant, and Phil Boyd formed the scrum. Ottawa as usual excelled in weight but in no other particular. Unlike that of the present declining months of the year, the weather was inclement and snow was on the ground. At first Ottawa had the best of the fray but in the second half the play was all in Ottawa

territory. It was a hard-fought match and the victors long afterwards showed signs of wear and tear. A week later the Argos and Ottawa College met in Montreal for the Dominion championship and the result was a tie at 12 to 12, but the oarsmen bitterly complained that they had been unjustly treated. Hardisty for the Argos made a run which culminated in a try and an apparent win of the game, but the touch-line judge claimed that Hardisty in clearing had run into touch and the afore-mentioned tie was the result. In the play-off a week later Ottawa won by 18 to 3, but it was a battered-up team that the fleece-hunters were represented by.

No matches were played for the Dominion championship in 1903 and 1904 and then 'Varsity again came out uppermost, beating Ottawa City by 11 to 9. Last year the peerless Hamilton Tigers showed up in old-time form and beat McGill, the Inter-Collegiate champions, by 29 to 3.

Many alterations in the rules have been introduced during the last five years. The O.R.F.U. took up the snap-back game, Hamilton going through without a defeat. Neither the Quebec nor College Unions were idle in the meantime, both organisations practically adopting the same rules. Team were reduced from 15 to 14 men, the 10 yard rule was adopted and the regulations regarding the scrum were made more drastic. All the changes were intended to make the

game cleaner and more open and they certainly have had the desired effect. The past season saw the formation and the first games played of the Inter-Provincial League, comprising teams from Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, and the Argonauts of Toronto. Montreal managed to beat out Hamilton for the first championship of the new organisation by a narrow margin. Despite the defection of the Argos and Hamilton the O.R.F.U. passed a successful season, Peterboro winning premier honours from Westmount by 25 to 8.

Many incidents worth noting have occurred on the football field. Varsity once lost a close contest by the ball striking the uprights and falling back into the field, putting all their forwards off-side when a sure try was imminent. At Hamilton Burns of Osgoode Hall kicked a wet soggy ball on a field deep in mud, and in a tropical down-pour, clean from centre on the kick-off to the opposing goal, the pigskin just clearing the posts. Under the circumstances it was a wonderful kick. Hardisty, the crack half-back, saved two games for the Argonauts by overhauling Powers of Ottawa, after a long chase, when the latter had 20 yards start and a clear field. As a sprinter-punter Hardisty had no equal in his day.

Last season the Argos lost the championship to Hamilton when they had the game within their grasp. There was only two minutes to score and the Argonauts were in possession 20 yards out on the third down. The signal for a kick was given but Flett at centre-half hesitated momentarily, thinking that a drop-kick was intended and was tackled in his tracks. Had he kicked, at least one point would have been scored, but he failed and Hamilton subsequently won.

This year's football was not of exceptional quality, but Montreal's team, which won the Senior Championship of Ontario and Quebec was a strong team. In their match with the Peterboro team, senior O.R.F.U. champions, last Saturday, they won by the remarkable score of 72 to 10, probably a record for Canadian Rugby. Chaucer Elliott, their manager, will be remembered as a Queen's rugby and hockey star.

On the same day, the Parkdale Canoe Club won what is called the Junior Championship of Canada by defeating the Varsity Juniors by 16 to 0. They had previously won Ontario honours by defeating Hamilton III.

In the Intercollegiate Union, Ottawa College showed superiority over other college teams and won easily.

Few changes in the rules are being talked of as a result of the season's play with one exception. All the Unions are likely to reduce the value of goals from the field, a considerable number of these having been secured this year in a somewhat hollow fashion. The Intercollegiate Union has already moved in this direction and the Ontario Rugby Union is expected to follow at their annual meeting which takes place next week.



Toronto Football Club—winners of the O.R.F.U. Challenge Cup, 1883.

T. W. Thomas	J. A. McAndrew	A. H. Collins (Umpire)	W. R. Currie	V. Harris	P. Barton
R. C. C. Long	Hume Blake	A. H. Campbell, Jr. (Captain)	C. H. Duggan	L. Aldwell	A. G. Boyd
Oliver Morphy	V. Armstrong	H. P. Torrance	A. H. S. VanKoughnet		