

when its XV made the landing of the Canadian championship an almost annual roundup to the season's work.

Among Maritime footballers we have the distinction of being the only ones to have played the game under the Canadian Union's rules, deeming, and rightly so, that the rouge is worthy of merit, and that upon the making of tries and goals alone the result of a game should not hinge. It cannot be denied that the team which forces an opponent to make this play the greater number of times—neither tries nor goals being scored—shows a superiority deserving of recognition upon the score sheet. The Canadian rules governed all matches between the local clubs from the fall of '95 to the spring of '98. Then a return was made to the English Union's rules; and so long as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick footballers refuse to recognize the Canadian solons, Island Rugbeians must perforce fall in line with them.

A defence of the game as it is played in Canada, if it indeed at all requires one, need have no place in this writing. Abler pens than mine stand ready, whenever occasion demands, to sound its praises, and heads now silvered by the flight of years will be found to bob up serenely and proclaim its benefits. Like many another branch of athletics it has its shortcomings, but to chant its requiem they are insufficient. Its limb strengthening, mental developing and manly attributes are too highly prized by the youth of to-day to permit its passing away. So long as old Father Time continues to swing the pendulum to and fro, and a viril and hardy race demands a pastime in harmony with its physical makeup, just so long will the welkin ring with the shouts of the footballer. Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton and Harrow. The Iron Duke knew whereof he spoke when he made the statement, and quite unconsciously he paid a tribute to football more eloquent and effective than chapters specially written to portray its virtues. Each individual man has a toiling, thoughtful task before him in the battles of life. Whether it be in the busy marts of trade or in the learned professions, it is all the same: there is a daily Waterloo to fight. Courage, self-reliance, energy, skill and a strong physique are among the weapons of our equipment for the fray, and I know of no surer way of acquiring them than by a judicious diet of athletics.

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