



# SPORTS AND PASTIMES



THE regatta season comes on one with a rush just about this time of the year, and as they all give more or less of zest to the championship meeting, which will be held at Barrie, they are interesting in their local way. Montreal, or rather the surrounding summer resorts of Montreal, had no less than three regattas on Saturday last—Valois, Ste. Rose and Longueuil. The first mentioned was decidedly the most important from a sporting point of view, that is, in such events as the tandem and four-in-a-canoe, not to speak of the huge craft that go under the misnomer of war canoes. The other two were well enough in their way, but the only ambitious positions competitors could hope to occupy would be of merely local interest to the outside world. In expressing an individual opinion I have always held that Valois has the best aquatic material on the island, not barring even the Lachine boys, but I have also come to the conclusion that the very essential element of taking chances and going in to win or be beaten in an outside contest forms no part of the people of Valois' sporting economy. Lachine has been in hard luck and has suffered many defeats, but to her credit be it said, she has always managed to send some sort of representation to a national meeting. Maybe it was like the publican and the Pharisee, and while Valois laid back in the stern and held the steering strings, she said, "Beat the Lachine fellows! too easy, my boy, give us something harder." Still those same Lachine fellows, in the words of Private Mulvaney, have "bowls" enough to get up a crew of some sort for the championships at Barrie, while the only encouragement got from their lake side brethren is to the effect that they will not be in it. If there was any letting being done and the non-combatants wanted to "bear" the market, this sort of thing would be understandable, but, as I am led to believe, there is not any inclination to wager any more than a copper cent, it looks more Pharisical than ever; it is not a bluff, for the man who bluffs usually puts up something to do it with. It is not the intention to hurt any clubs' feelings. Every club has a perfect right to stay at home and enjoy itself, even if the aquatic reputation of the city it belongs to goes to the "demnition bow-wows." But no club has a right to make nasty remarks about another club which has the pluck to undertake something that the censors are afraid of. If the Lachine crew should happen to win the junior fours they would be overwhelmed with congratulations on their return, and the people who sneered would be the first to recover themselves, so to speak; while a few of the most unreclaimable pessimistic ones would cheer up their diminutive souls by shaking their heads sideways at first, nodding them knowingly afterwards, and ejaculating their synonyms for anything that did not please them in the wisdom of the words "flake" or "put-up job."

Valois, Pointe Claire, St. Lambert, Longueuil, St. Anne, —all have plenty of good racing material, but they all seem afflicted with such a bad attack of inertia that the best local physicians think there is no possibility of recovery unless some well-meaning friend should start off a bunch of fire-crackers under their camp chairs. This measure might seem too heroic and would probably scorch a blazer or two, but the physician who told me this simply threw it out as a hint which he could not find in either Wood's or Naphey's "Materia Medica and Therapeutics." Now, don't put on a supercilious air and laugh at the men who have pluck and endurance enough to attempt what you shrink from. Lachine and the G. T. R. have been the only clubs for some few years past who have had the hardihood to represent Montreal in the face of almost certain defeat, and they should get all the credit possible. The Lachinites, ever since the year of the Big Four, have only been able to put a junior four on the water. The Grand Trunk last year made somewhat a better showing, and were the victims of circumstances on the second day, as far as results were concerned, notwithstanding which they took the advantage of showing what they could do, even after being ruled out. But there is considerably more enthusiasm among the Grand Trunk men than has been developed among the rest of the clubs. At an early stage of the game last fall they recognized the

fact that they were not properly boated. They did not hang their heads and inveigh against hard luck; they did not follow the sublime example of Mr. Micawber and wait for something to turn up; they simply got up and "humped" themselves, and the natural result was that something was necessarily bound to "turn up." They needed boats, and they told their friends and the public the state of the case. Then they put on an energetic working committee, and the latter told the same story with an ardour that would do credit to a prospective missionary in New Guinea. The outcome was what was to have been expected; money flowed into the treasury and was put to the intended use, with the result now that the Grand Trunks are nearly as well boated as any aquatic club in the Dominion. They took advantage of their good fortune, and immediately put several crews on the water, with the ultimate result that Montreal, in the entry list, is making the best showing in the C. A. A. O. regatta, with Toronto excepted. What the outcome will be nobody, of course, can tell, but I am willing to take small chances that a trophy or two will come Montrealwards. As regards the entry list for the Barrie meeting it is decidedly the best ever published in the history of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, and there is hardly a doubt that the results will be looked forward to with more general interests than hitherto. The subjoined list of entries will give some idea of the work being done by our Canadian amphibians, but Monday and Tuesday next will tell the tale:

Senior singles—James Henderson, Catlin Boat club, Chicago, Ill.; A. P. Burritt, Argonaut Rowing club, Toronto; R. McKay, jr., Argonaut Rowing club, Toronto; F. H. Thompson, Argonaut Rowing club, Toronto; M. Shea, Don Amateur Rowing club, Toronto, and J. J. Ryan, Sunnyside Boat club, Toronto.

Junior singles—L. B. Stewart, Argonaut Rowing club, Toronto; F. H. Thompson, Argonaut Rowing club, Toronto; E. A. Thompson, Argonaut Rowing Club, Toronto; John Hurley, Don Amateur Rowing club, Toronto; A. Green, Grand Trunk Rowing club, Montreal; R. F. Turner, Dubuque Boating Association, Dubuque, Iowa; Joseph Wright, Toronto Rowing club, Toronto; F. Nye, Toronto Rowing club, Toronto; D. M. Cameron, Leander Rowing club, Hamilton, and J. A. Russell, Bayside Rowing club, Toronto.

Senior fours—Argonauts, R. McKay, jr., A. D. Crooks, A. A. McKay, R. McKay; spare men, C. H. Luntz and E. A. Thompson; Dons, Toronto, Joseph Sullivan, Fred Liston, Charles Rame, Jas. Hurley; spare men, Jas. Stewart and S. Scholes; Grand Trunk Boat club, Montreal, A. Green, F. Green, R. J. Kell and J. Beattie; Toronto Rowing club, Toronto, P. J. Smith, R. Durnham, James Grandfield, Joseph Wright; spare men, C. D. Lennox and R. Douglas; Wolverine Boat club, Detroit, Thomas Walsh, C. L. Van Damme, John Magerman and Thomas George.

Junior fours—Argonauts No. 1, A. J. Boyd, John Evans, W. A. Smith, H. W. Stewart; spare men, W. R. Johnson and E. R. Vankoughnet; Argonauts No. 2, Frank J. Lightbourne, E. C. Senkler, R. O. McCulloch, A. A. McKay; spare men, A. W. Ridout and R. McKay, jr.; Lachine Rowing club, Lachine, F. Fairbanks, C. Routh, H. Routh, T. Stewart; spare man, C. E. Howard; Wolverine Boat club, Detroit, Mich., Joseph Jemine, F. Herberts, E. Froman and W. Dronhagen; Dons, Toronto, James O'Connor, Alfred Reynolds, Thomas Kenny, P. Kenny; spare men, M. Shea and John Hines; Grand Trunk Boat club, Montreal, J. A. Stewart, R. Starke, W. Nixon, R. McLean; spare men, R. J. Hunt and F. C. Moore; Toronto Rowing club, Toronto, D. M. Stewart, G. S. Ewart, D. B. Burnhardt, W. Payne; spare men, J. Doran and F. Brown; Bayside Rowing club, Toronto, W. S. Park, William Spencer, J. Smyth, Joseph Murphy; spare men, M. J. Roach and J. Bennett.

Senior doubles—Catlin Boat Club, Chicago, Ed. L. Case and James Henderson; Dons, Toronto, M. Shea and S. Scholes; spare men, Jas. Stewart and W. Rame; Bayside, Toronto, A. Cameron and R. Curran; Manhattan Athletic club, New York, Joseph and James Donoghue.

Junior doubles—Argonauts, Toronto, G. H. Muntz and R. G. Muntz; Dons, Toronto, H. Watkins and T. Friend; spare men, Joseph Sullivan and J. Hurley; Grand Trunk, Montreal, J. A. Stewart and J. Beattie; spare man, R. J. Kell; Baysides, Toronto, J. Bennett and W. J. Sheenan.

Pair oars—Argonauts No. 1, L. B. Stewart and G. H. Muntz; Argonauts No. 2, A. C. Macdonnell and A. R. Denison; Toronto Rowing club, Toronto, C. D. Lennox and R. Douglas; Detroit Boat club, Detroit, No. 1, F. D.

Standish and Frank A. Lyon; Detroit Boat club, No. 2, Peacock and Girdley.

Talking about regattas, there is one rule laid down by our local clubs that is harmful. It is the limitation of measurement in skiff races. The object at first was apparently a good one, but it has not served its purpose, for the natural result is the hindrance of making improvements in boats. Races for family skiffs are all very well in their way, although they will never be of any particular advantage in the promotion of regattas, but when limitations are made and a boat built on new lines, but coming within the required limitations, is not allowed to go over the course, then it seems that it is a spirit of pot-hunting rather than a spirit of amateur sport which actuates the men who object to row in the company and the club who refuse to accept the entry. A peculiar instance of this sort was developed at the St. Lambert regatta. The skiff owned by Paradis had been cut down to meet the requirements of the case. The Transpor-tines were evidently in a state of cerulean funk and refused to row. That was well as far as it went, for the conditions of the regatta were—"two to start or no race." Prepared for such an emergency as this, there was another entry at hand willing to go over the course with the objectionable, but, contrary to all precedent in local regattas, a post entry in this particular case could not be entertained. To every fair minded man the spirit of selfishness that masquerades under the alleged name of "amateurism" savours somewhat of the nauseous. The boy between seven and seventeen is about as cruel a specimen as is to be found in the animal kingdom. Later on in life he has the rough edges rubbed off, and force of circumstances renders him more agreeable as far as the ordinary conventionalities are concerned. It is the same way with some aquatic clubs whose milk teeth have still left vacancies. When the Solomonic grinders get into position they will know better and pretend not to a despotism they wot not of. They will recognize that charity is little more than politeness put into practice, and they will be slower to make sporting laws that make for the injury of a neighbour.

I don't know, but most people seem to be in a watery or rather an aquatic state of mind at the present time. When not discussing the probabilities in regattas on the side or the big double scull race in Hamilton, or the championship meeting in Barrie, attention is devoted to the men who dance upon the waters in the frail bark for which we are indebted to the Indians. The meet of the Northern division at Pigeon Lake attracted considerable attention, and from all accounts, with the exception of a couple of spells of bad weather, there was nothing left to be desired in the heart of the most enthusiastic canoeist. The opening was not a cheerful one. The otherwise placid lake worked itself up into a series of aggressive looking billows; the campers esconced themselves in their canvas habitation and laced up the aper-tures; the wind whistled about and made itself generally disagreeable, at the same time imparting a sort of earthquaky sensation to the campers, and then the rain came down in straight lines and condescendingly put out the camp fires just when everything seemed in good working order. The elements effectually dampened the clothes and the tents and the ardour of the campers, but canoeists are made of sterner stuff than can be influenced by little things like thunder showers, so that when the time for the races came round a considerable amount of bottled-up liveliness found vent. It would occupy too much space to give an account of the different races, but the winners of the principal events are to be congratulated. The record of the meet was captured by C. E. Archbald, than whom a better sailor never navigated a canoe, and there are few better ones than the Mah, while that pride of Canadian canoeists, the Orillia cup, fell to the lot of Mr. Jacques, of Toronto. McKendrick, as usual, was a leading figure in the struggle, although the result was not quite so good as in previous years. The meet of the Northern Division was a good preparatory effort for the central meet on Lake Champlain, which began on Thursday.

The trotting meeting which took place last week at the Woodbine was apparently worthy of every support. The only pity is that here in Canada we should be under the authority of different racing associations. The National Trotting Association recognizes fines, expulsions, etc., from the American, but the latter, who have recently reinstated Nelson, to the disgust of all honest horsemen, run their own little sideshow all to themselves. It is a little hard for proprietors in the Province of Quebec, who are struggling for perfectly square racing, to see really attractive stock, who have offended and therefore cannot start under N. T. A. rules, go west and enter with impunity and no danger of old fines being collected. Drastic measures are needed in such cases, and the sooner they are applied the better. In Montreal, during the present season, there has been a very marked movement in progress looking to the reformation of the trotting turf, and more than could have been expected has been accomplished, but it will go for comparatively little if the tracks under the American association open the back door and wink at wrong doing for the sake of having attractive entries at their meetings. A little more of the spirit which was shown at the Blue Bonnets opening meeting would go a long way to leaven the whole lump. Let us hope for the best, because in Canada we are naturally a trotter raising people, and it would be a pity if bad judgment at the start spoiled years of hard and honest work.

R. O. X.