

when returning thanks for the LL.D., to speak warningly of the *Dreadnought* panic which has recently taken possession of the British public. Lord Beresford, himself, has pointed out the naval unreadiness of the country, but he expressed his belief in the willingness of the investigating Cabinet Committee to remedy the state of affairs. In other words, Lord Beresford said "Steady!" to the perturbed public and bade the agitated citizens remember that nervous prostration in the face of danger is not "the British way."

There is a somewhat amusing aspect in the advice offered so opportunely. Lord Beresford is Irish in descent, with all the fervour of the Celtic race, and the spectacle of this impetuous son of Erin telling John Bull to keep cool and not cry for *Dreadnoughts* is one to amuse the Saxon public, if it takes thought for the incongruity of the situation.

There is no doubt that the war scare has reached an unhealthy point, when the respectable British householder is ready to start at every sound and imagine it is the Kaiser. This is contrary to the British temper and decidedly discomfiting to the Empire, and no man can do more towards restoring the public to a merely healthy degree of vigilance than Lord Charles Beresford, now LL.D., who is the wisest sea-dog of them all. The Liverpool speech should go farther towards restoring serenity than a brace of *Dreadnoughts*.



#### SPORTING SEASON OF 1909

WITH the baseball season under way, "soccer" football kicking its way to the top, lacrosse teams at practice and semi-clad Marathoners braving the chilly spring breezes on every street, side-road and concession, the sporting season of 1909 may be said to have fairly started. And it gives promise of being a very busy season and to present the usual number of questions to be answered.

One of the principal of these questions is, "Will the Marathon craze stand the competition of legitimate sport?" The Marathon has during the winter months had the sporting field almost to himself. To be sure, in Canada it has had hockey as a rival. But the prestige it has been given by the American press has helped its dreariness to draw against the attractions of the Canadian national winter sport. It has now to give place to baseball in New York and it remains to be seen whether it can live with baseball, lacrosse and football in Canada. Of course it must be remembered that the Marathon has drawn its support largely from other than the regular followers of sport. The Italians have flocked to the track to cheer for Dorando, the Frenchmen to lift up their voices for St. Yves, the Englishmen to give more power to Shrubbs, and the Canadian who never took any particular interest in sport before has had a certain national pride or prejudice aroused that drew him out to root for Longboat.

Consequently legitimate sports may not have as much influence over the craze as some people expect. It is a rivalry of races rather than a sport and must find its funeral in the death of that rivalry.

As for baseball, it is a popular-priced amusement and will be always with us. So long as a baseball team can buy its equipment for as many cents as it costs dollars to buy a lacrosse outfit, it will remain the sport of the masses of the population.

Lacrosse is like the times, sometimes good and sometimes bad, and working always towards the one extreme or the other. At the present time it has nearly reached the bottom of the down grade and a revival may be looked for. The number of amateur teams playing the game will not be as large this season as last. But the turning point is near. Lacrosse is like the Canadian thistle. Once it takes root in a community it is almost impossible to kill it. It may be blotted out for a time but it will come again.

"Soccer," or association football, has taken a fresh lease of life from the immigration from Britain and now occupies a large place in Canadian summer life and more especially in the cities. It is the sport of the common people in Scotland and England and if it had not of baseball to compete with in Canada, ought to do as well here. As it is it is here to stay and will become a strong competitor with Rugby for sport spectators in the summer months.

These with track athletics are the strenuous sports of Canada for the coming season. And they promise to keep the young Canuck from that taint of effeminacy that is said to be the first symptom of national weakness.

#### THE IDEAL AND THE REAL

THE PUGSLEY CASE AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Ottawa, April 15.—The Hon. Wm. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, rose in his seat to-day and drew attention to the report of

the New Brunswick Commission which had been investigating the affairs of the New Brunswick Central Railway. He stated that he had not been able to satisfy himself that the report was not more political than otherwise, but as it would take some time to get at the facts and to prepare a reply to the findings, he had decided to temporarily relinquish his position as minister. For this purpose, his resignation had been placed in the hands of the Premier who had been good enough to say that he would not accept it until he (Mr. Pugsley) had the fullest opportunity to make his explanation.

Mr. Pugsley further asked the indulgence of the House, to allow him to retain his seat in the House for a few weeks on the understanding that if his explanations were not forthcoming and were not satisfactory to both sides, he would resign in due course. He admitted that by the Report, he was apparently guilty of considerable carelessness, but he could assure the House that the honourable commissioners had been misled, and that he would do his best to show that personally he was not guilty of any avoidable irregularity or misdemeanour.

The House was quite disturbed by Mr. Pugsley's announcement which, however, was not unexpected. Sir Wilfrid Laurier followed and confirmed Mr. Pugsley's reported resignation. He stated that he was willing to withhold judgment until Mr. Pugsley had time to prepare the fullest explanation and he hoped that the House would do the same.

When Mr. Borden, leader of the Opposition, rose to reply, the excitement was tense. He congratulated Mr. Pugsley upon his action and expressed the hope that he would be able to clear himself of the charges which had been made against him. While the New Brunswick Commission's report did not concern the Dominion Parliament, being a purely local report, he felt that Mr. Pugsley had acted wisely in taking notice of it. He also believed that the country desired that no member, under suspicion of any kind, should continue to hold his seat, much less a portfolio. Every public man should be sensitive of his political honour, and Mr. Pugsley had shown that he was no exception to the rule. On behalf of the Opposition, he promised to withhold judgment until such time as further investigation by Mr. Pugsley would enable him to present a final and adequate explanation to the House. He assured Mr. Pugsley that the Opposition would be pleased if he could clear himself of the imputation which had been made against him.

Mr. Borden's speech was well received by both sides, and there the incident closed for the time being.

#### THE PUGSLEY CASE—WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED.

Ottawa, May 8th.—This week, the House was the scene of a fierce conflict over the report of the New Brunswick Commission, which was appointed to consider the affairs of the New Brunswick Central Railway Company. Mr. T. W. Crothers, member for West Elgin, brought in a resolution which read as follows:

"That persons occupying high offices of state as constitutional advisors of His Excellency ought to be free from the least reproach and from reasonable suspicion in respect of their public character and reputation. That to this end the said findings in so far as they impugn the public acts or conduct of said Hon. William Pugsley, deserve the consideration of this House and demand such action thereupon as may be necessary to enforce worthy and proper standards of public duty."

He charged that the report of this commission stood as the verdict of a court, and until that verdict was changed Parliament must accept its findings as true.

Mr. Pugsley replied by stating that this was a purely provincial matter, and could not properly engage the attention of the Dominion House. He denied the charges in full, and characterised the report of the Commission as discreditable, partisan and unreliable. This so-called judicial tribunal had been influenced in preparing its report by a partisan counsel. Moreover, nowhere in the report was it charged that he had personally profited to the extent of a single dollar. The Commission had plainly been influenced by a reckless desire to injure him and the Government of which he was a member. He also defended the Hon. Mr. Tweedie for having, while a cabinet minister, taken one per cent. commission on a sale of government-guaranteed bonds, by stating that owing to the low salaries paid ministers in New Brunswick, they all continued their private business while in office.

After several speeches pro and con, much recrimination and much specious defence, a sudden vote was taken and Mr. Crothers' resolution was defeated by a small majority. A number of Liberal members who intended to be present at the vote, but who did not expect it so soon, have since passed a resolution affirming their belief in Mr. Pugsley's innocence, hoping thus to overcome the bad effect of the collapse of the debate and the small majority.

The whole debate was on a low plane. It showed that the Conservatives were anxious only to make political capital out of the situation, and that the Liberals were anxious only to whitewash Mr. Pugsley, New Brunswick's representative in the cabinet. There was little if any generous and patriotic desire on either side to get at the truth or to deal with the situation in a businesslike and statesmanlike manner. Party advantage seems to be of supreme importance to both sides.