

Canada's Soldier Athletes

By A. P. Garvey



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"CARRY ON" has been the great slogan of the war. It originated in the trenches. An officer, falling as he went over the top with his men, would cry "Carry on!" to the man next in command. At such a time, tradition would have the stricken man attended by the chaplain and gasping out farewells to his dear ones at home. But that is not the spirit of this war. The cause is all in all; it is greater than all personal considerations. To "carry on" is the one central thought of those who lead and those who follow.

Like so many other phrases of military origin, "Carry on" has been taken over by the sportsman. It applies behind the lines and in the security of our homes as at the front. Everywhere they are carrying on and it is particularly fitting that the sportsmen of this vast Dominion should be carrying on at present in view of the loyalty and gallantry of the thousands of athletes of Canada who have been fighting valiantly for liberty and justice, the overthrow of Prussianism, and a lasting peace.

Out of those millions who went "somewhere in Europe" to face the Prussian horde, there are thousands from Canada, and, in the ranks of the many units that have crossed the Atlantic to battle on the fields of Flanders, are hundreds of young men who prepared for the sterner game of war on the athletic fields at

home, and who, in their athletic careers, were guided and inspired by the one thought, "play the game."

August 4th, 1914, found the sportsmen of Canada following their peaceful vocations. To-day finds thousands of them, thousands of miles from home and friends, engaged in a death struggle with a ruthless foe, some paying the supreme sacrifice, others maimed for life, but all playing the game, sacrificing their all in the hope that to this world will come a lasting peace. And, while the battle rages, those remaining at home are "carrying on." Athletes, by their magnificent response to the call to arms, have carved the way for generations to come and, by carrying on to-day, the sportsmen are doing a good work not only for themselves, but in the interests of the whole nation.

The role played by sportsmen in the world-wide struggle will furnish many bright pages in history in years to come. The loyal response to the call to arms, their whole-hearted desire to help in the hour of need, and their gallant conduct on the field of battle redound to the credit of sportsmen to-day. From all corners of the globe they went, fitted for the big drive as a result of their athletic training, and, when historians pen the review of this, the greatest of all wars, it will be found that athletic training proved one of the potent factors in the success of the Allied armies.

Not one but all branches of athletics are represented in the fighting units at the front. Practically every club in Canada boasts a lengthy honor roll. Footballers, oarsmen, yachtsmen, tennis stars, in fact adherents of every known sport, took their places in the ranks when Canada's first army was mobilized and their brave deeds on the battlefields will always be remembered. Following the rush to the colors there was necessarily a curtailment of athletics, but the remnants of the once great athletic institutions have since pursued a "carry on" policy, encouraging the younger element, and with the end of the war athletics will again come into their own.

Pacific Coast Rugby football organizations were among the first to turn all their attention to the war following the outbreak of hostilities. Both in Vancouver and in Victoria the Rugby officials decided to suspend for the duration of the war and immediately turned