

Lacrosse.

Secretaries of Clubs will please forward short concise reports of their Meetings and Games, as soon as possible after the events happen. Write on one side of the paper only. Address all correspondence or questions on this subject to the Lacrosse Editor, TOWN AND COUNTRY, Toronto, Ont.

WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS SAY.

We clip the following from the *Spirit of the Times* as shewing how the action of the National Lacrosse Association in reference to the Amateur question is regarded by those who are competent to judge of such things. The remarks are timely and encouraging, and coming as they do from such an undoubted authority, will go a long way towards strengthening the hands of the Association in its crusade against professionalism:—

"The Amateur standing of lacrosse clubs has always been a matter of uncertainty, and this doubt has been much deepened by the questionable acts of many prominent players. At their Convention in Toronto, June 4, the National Association took such healthy action as will, if properly supported by the Associate Clubs, effectually stop all further trouble, and admit Canadian lacrosse players to full fellowship with Amateur athletes.

The Convention so amended the constitution that certain portions of it now read as follows:—

Article VI.—1. Clubs in this Association must be composed exclusively of Amateurs. 2. An Amateur is any person who has not, since June 4, 1880, competed in any open competition, or for a stake, public or admission money or entrance fee, or competed with or against professionals, for a prize. Who has never at any period of his life taught or assisted in the pursuit of any athletic exercise or sport as a means of livelihood; whose membership of any lacrosse club was not brought about or does not continue because of any mutual agreement or understanding whereby his becoming or continuing a member of such lacrosse club would be of any pecuniary benefit to him, either directly or indirectly, received any payment in lieu of loss of time while playing as a member of any lacrosse club, or any money consideration whatever for any services rendered as a player, except his actual travelling and hotel expenses. 3. Any club convicted of having in its membership professionals of any kind, shall forfeit its membership in this Association. 4. No club shall be admitted to membership in this Association unless it adopts in its club constitution the words or sentiments contained in this article.

Article IX.—1. No club in this Association shall play for a money challenge or money prize under any circumstances whatever. 2. Any club playing for a money challenge or money prize shall forfeit its membership in this Association. 3. Clubs in this Association shall be allowed to employ Indians, who shall hereafter rank as professionals, either as trainers, or for the purpose of playing exhibition matches.

This is a compromise which is creditable to all. It means amnesty for the past, strict obedience for the future, and will, no doubt, prove entirely satisfactory to all parties interested."

PLAYING FOR MONEY.

We are sorry to observe a disposition on the part of some of the lacrosse clubs in the country to play matches for money prizes or stakes. In our last issue we noticed the fact that the Brant Club of Paris (a club that certainly should have known better) played Gibson's team of Indians on Dominion Day, for the magnificent sum of \$25, and got beaten six straight games. This kind of play may be all well enough for Indian clubs who are professionals, and play for a living, but it is hard to understand how any white organization, supposed to be composed of gentlemen, could, in its sober senses, throw away its right to be considered an amateur club for the paltry sum of \$25. We do not wish to be understood as belittling professionals, for we are strongly of the opinion that the professional element, if properly defined and kept aloof from the amateur, will act as a strong incentive to the latter,

and the rivalry thus created must ultimately be productive of a higher standard of development. But we do wish to enter our protest against this miserable, grovelling, catch penny policy that will allow a team of gentlemen players to sell their right to be considered amateurs for the paltry sum of \$2 per head. We hardly think that this action has been caused through ignorance of the consequences; on the other hand it seems hard to believe that for such a small pecuniary consideration any club would thus lower its social standing as this club has done. The only way we can account for it is the light way in which playing for money is regarded by clubs and athletes in many places. Many of our young fellows throughout Canada seem to have the idea that they can compete for a money prize or in an open competition and still be considered as amateurs. This idea has been materially strengthened and fostered through the action of our Caledonian societies (who are generally recognised as patrons of all kinds of athletic sports), in giving money prizes at their games instead of prizes in kind. This system is a most vicious and demoralizing one to our young and rising athletes, and does all the more injury because it comes from such a respectable source. If our Caledonian Societies are wise, or will take a little disinterested advice, they will see that in the future their prizes consist of cups, medals, and other prizes in kind, instead of sums of from \$1 to \$5, which, though paltry, are sufficient to cause those competing for them (even as is often the case for pure love of victory), to lose their status as amateur athletes. We say this kind of competition has a bad moral effect on those competing, and such prizes should be left exclusively to professionals who make a living by their winnings. We venture to say that there is scarcely an athlete of ordinary intelligence in this country who would not prefer a neat medal or cup with an inscription upon it setting forth his achievement, to a money prize of double the value. The time has now come in Canada when the line between professionals and amateurs must not only be strictly defined, but rigidly enforced. If people will compete for money, they must make up their minds to rank in the class to which they have elected to belong, and not blame amateur organizations if they find they are summarily excluded from their competitions. An organization to look after the standing of athletes is badly wanted in Canada, and the sooner it comes into existence the better for athletic sports generally. As far as lacrosse clubs are concerned, they may rest assured that the National Association will permit no violation of its rules in regard to playing for money challenges or money prizes, and any club doing so will be at once expelled from its membership. The club referred to above happens to be outside of the Association, and therefore is beyond its jurisdiction, but it will rank hereafter as a professional club and have to be treated as such by clubs belonging to the Association.

This playing for money seems to be a habit of the Brant Club of Paris, as we find that they subsequently played the Shamrocks of Hamilton for a money prize, and again succeeded in scoring a defeat. One of the Hamilton papers in commenting on the match says, that the "Shamrocks, together with the glory, got the very practical token of \$10!" We thought \$2 per head a low estimate to set on a lacrosse team's status, but this last transaction at 84 cents a head far transcends it from a mercantile point of view. If this account be true, Ontario can now boast of two professional white lacrosse clubs, who would appear, however, [to make but an indifferent living by the game. The Shamrock Club was anxious to join the National Association some time ago, but was unable to do so on account of lack of funds. Now that their treasury has been so amply replenished, they will find that they are disqualified by their late action from competing with Amateur Clubs belonging to this Association.

"THE GLOBE" ON THE GAME.

Last week the *Globe* came out with a column editorial on the beauties of our National game, in which it expressed the view that lacrosse was a field sport, calculated to improve the mind, wind and limbs. We are glad to find that a political organ of such dimensions as the *Globe* can unbend long enough from the affairs of state to direct its powerful mind to such inferior topics as the National game, and that it has been pleased to take such a correct view of lacrosse and its possibilities. When papers like the *Globe* and *Mail* lend their advocacy to such a manly sport as lacrosse undoubtedly is, it must have a great effect in adding to its popularity, and overcoming the prejudice that exists against the introduction of any new game, especially if it be of domestic invention.

OUR MONTREAL LETTERS.

To-day Saturday, the International match between the Brooklyn and Shamrock Lacrosse Clubs came off on the grounds of the latter, and attracted quite a large attendance. Great preparations had been made for the reception of the visitors, and they were escorted to the St. Lawrence Hall, their temporary quarters. The Shamrocks are unceasing in their attention, and most lavish in their hospitality to their guests. The game had been well advertised, large streamers floating across St. James Street, and the teams went up to the grounds to-day in carriages with the champion flag, Union Jack and Stars and Stripes floating to the breeze. The match all though advertised for 3 o'clock did not begin until 4 o'clock, the patience of the spectators being nearly exhausted and finding vent too by constant stamping.

The Brooklynites looked well in their shirts (a la Montreal) and blue knickerbockers.

Their team was, C Creble, goal; J.W. Daniels, point; Whitaker, cover-point; W.H. Journey, W. Bulmer, D. Field, J.H. Crow, centre; A. Darling, A.D. Ritchie, J.C. Hewson, field; J.S. Voorhes, J.C. Garmot and A. Barber, home.

The Shamrocks were the same as last Saturday, with the exception of Maguire, who was replaced by Talbert.

Mr. H. W. Becket (Montreal) was appointed referee.

On the draw Farmer allowed Journey to get the ball, and very little effort was made by the champions to check, until it came to Lally, when back it was sent to the other end of the field. The Brooklyn defence did some fair playing, but it was no use, and game was called for the Shamrocks in 18 minutes.

The second game was started after the usual wait. The ball went down the field, but Lally returned it with such force that it bounced over the fence and there was another wait. After the ball was got it hovered about midfield, and then went to the Shamrock goal. The home team, however, could not keep (?) the ball on their sticks, and when Brennan and Oluir, frightened at the rush of the Brooklynians got out of the road lest they be struck, the ball went through their goals, as they might have known had they been more accustomed to hot work. Time, 18 minutes.

The third game was a repetition of the former, and some very pretty playing and dodging was indulged in by Farmer, Horton and Butler. After 18 minutes more the game was a thing of the past for the Shamrocks.

The fourth, however, I think was a surprise for the Shamrocks, who were taking things coolly when a grounder escaped Lally and secured second game for the Americans in 19 minutes.

The fifth game was too near the end to allow of any more nonsense, so the Shamrocks went to work, and but once did the ball pass centre field, when game was called after seven minutes play.

It is difficult to say how the Shamrocks were playing, for they were never pressed, but I think they were just a little too generous, and rather wanted the spectators by spinning out the game over two hours. There is a limit, but as before remarked, I think the fourth game was not intended.

As to the Brooklyn club, they did not evince much