



SPORTS AND PASTIMES

The programme which has been arranged for the coming season by the St. Lawrence Yacht Club is bound to meet the approval of all interested in this glorious branch of sport. On May 23rd and 24th the club sweepstake cruising race will be held, open to all classes. The big fellows in class A have June 20th, 27th, July 1st and 11th set apart. The 29 footers have an opening race on June 13th, and then the same dates as class A with the exception of the 20th. The 24 footers will be out on the 13th and 27th of June as well as the 1st and 18th of July. June 20th, 27th, July 1st and 18th fall to the lot of 21 feet boats, while the 18 footers have four consecutive dates, beginning with June 20th. The club is to be congratulated on the rapidity of movement of its hard-working committee, to whose efforts are mainly due the possession of a permanent home for the club. A handsome and commodious structure is now in course of erection, and will, in all probability, be ready for occupation by the middle of next month. Among the attractions of this new institution will be a fully equipped workshop and ways, as well as all the necessary storage room for yachts, small boats and canoes, not to speak of sleeping accommodation for the members. It is likely, too, that the club will extend its line of operations during the coming summer, and half a dozen owners have made known their intention of taking part in the races of the Quebec Yacht Club. To meet the increased expenditure necessitated by the above mentioned improvements it has been deemed necessary to slightly increase the fees, which will hereafter be as follows:—

Senior resident members, entrance fee, \$5, (not enforced until 1st May); annual subscription, \$5. Junior resident members, under eighteen years of age, entrance fee (not enforced until 1st May) \$3; annual subscription, \$2. Non-resident members, residing 20 miles from the Dorval boat house, no entrance fee; annual subscription, \$2.

There was quite a lively time at the annual meeting of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club on Saturday last; the attendance of members was the largest in the history of the club, and excitement ran very high over the election for commodore. Mr. Boswell, Q.C., who filled the position last year, had for an opponent Vice-Commodore Thos. McGaw. For some days previous the friends of both parties had pursued an active canvass, and it was only at midnight that the polls were closed, with the result that Mr. Boswell got the coveted honour. It is such contests as these that keep the members alive and stir up a good healthy interest in the welfare of a club. Some of Montreal's clubs in other branches of sport, at whose annual meetings it is hard work to drum up a quorum, might take a lesson with advantage.

When it became necessary to the minds of several wealthy sportsmen that Montreal should have a first-class jockey club and track, there were many who, seeing the elaborate preparations and the money being spent, said that it would never pay, that it would never be a success, that it was too far out, that there were not horses good enough in Canada to make any kind of a decent race, that if there were such they would not come to Bel-Air because the purses were not large enough to tempt them, that it was no good anyhow, and that settled it to their own satisfaction. Then, when during the first season the beastly weather necessitated a sparse attendance, these croakers chuckled a quiet croak and said, "I told you so."

But the gentlemen at the head of the club were made of sterner stuff than that, and kept at the good work in the face of many difficulties. The expense was great, but they had confidence in themselves and in the public. The latter is bound to put confidence in such a club when it is seen that the owners of horses, those most interested, have every faith in it. This was never better exemplified than in the magnificent entries which have been received for the stake races—the Carslake, the El Padre and the Walker. The gentlemen whose generosity has thus enabled the club to add rich purses to their meeting deserve the thanks of all sportsmen, and the country could get along very well with a few more of like sort. Not counting the entrance fees or the forfeits, nearly \$6,000 in purses and added money will be run for in the three days' meeting. The programme which has just been issued by the secretary is an elaborate one and would do credit to any jockey club. In fact a look over the bill of fare will be sufficient to prove that anybody with a thorough-

bred worth mentioning at all can here find something to his liking. The first day's programme gives us an opening scramble for all ages for a purse of \$275. The second race is the Queen's plate. A \$300 purse for a mile and a sixteenth follows this classic event. The Merchants' purse for \$500, for three year olds and upwards, comes next, and the day's racing will be brought to a close by the "Walker's Club" handicap steeplechase, over two and a half miles. The second day in brief is as follows:—Purse \$275, same conditions as opening race, six furlongs; Canadian Derby, for which there are twelve entries; El Padre handicap, \$1,000, the richest stake of the meeting; Brokers' purse, \$400, and handicap steeplechase, \$350. The Carslake stakes will be the event of the closing day, besides which there will be a six furlong dash, a two mile steeplechase, an open handicap, a mile and a quarter, and a consolation purse of \$200 for the unlucky ones. With such an attractive card as that and the improvements that are being constantly made at the track, where nothing will be left undone to conduce to the comfort of the public, it will be strange indeed if the summer meeting of the B. A. J. C. is not the most successful in the history of racing in Montreal.

But to turn from the thoroughbred to the trotter—the lovers of the latter animal will have ample opportunity to enjoy their favourite sport during the coming summer. Two meetings will be held very close together in the beginning of June, and this will be decidedly convenient for owners by saving travelling expenses. The opening meeting will last three days and will take place at the much improved Fashion Course, Blue Bonnets. A new management has leased the track and they have started out with a will. New pipe drains have been put in, so that the track will not be wet or heavy for any appreciable time. Box stalls of the most comfortable kind are in course of construction, the road leading from the Railway station to the track will be newly macadamized and a broad plank sidewalk laid all the way to the grand stand. If a lavish expenditure of money on sensible improvements goes for anything a new era of prosperity is about to dawn on Blue Bonnets.

If there is a thoroughly mean and despicable personage in the eyes of a horseman it is that bane of the trotting turf, the ringer. There is not anything microscopically small enough to escape him, and he would sooner filch the coppers from defunct parental optics than leave them there. Under these circumstances, when anything can be done to curtail his little operations it is hailed with delight by honest horsemen, and Mr. Sol. White, of Windsor, has merited the thanks of the latter class for introducing a bill into the Ontario Legislature that should help considerably in the good work of suppressing rascality. The bill provides against entering a horse under false name or pedigree, against changing the name of a horse, except under the recognized conditions, against entering an animal in any class to which he is not eligible; and provides "that any person violating any of the provisions contained in this act, shall be guilty of an offence thereunder, and shall, on conviction before any justice of the peace, forfeit and pay a sum not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for each offence, together with costs, and in case of non-payment shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months." A couple of half yearly sentences would do a lot of good, even more than expulsion from a trotting association.

Speaking of trotting, the biggest event in the annals for many years was the organization of the Breeders' Registry Association. During recent years the trouble between "old man" Wallace, who owned the "Register," and the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders gradually grew worse, and at last it was found necessary that something should be done. This resulted in the great convention held in Chicago last week, when the association was formed and the Wallace Registry plant bought in for \$130,000.

The baseball war has fairly taken hold of our brethren on the other side of the line, and the Italian question and even the Ripper have lapsed into comparative obscurity, while the multitudinous crank pores over the score in the morning papers. The infection, though, is not confined to the United States, for even in Canada we have our cranks. Toronto has several clubs that can put up a very fair game of ball and several other western cities can do likewise. In Montreal there is also to be an amateur league, consisting of five clubs: the Crescents, Clippers, Hawthornes, Beavers or Comets, and one more whose identity is not yet decided

on. These clubs are of the junior type, but for all that on off Saturdays they can depend on having a considerable audience.

The Manhattan Athletic Club had their little laugh at their brethren of the winged foot when the latter openly announced that they would pay professionals for giving boxing exhibitions before the members of their club. But Manhattan would not condescend to encourage professionalism of any sort—oh, dear no; the idea was too horrible. So they got up a little boxing match by all genuine, unimpeachable amateurs. The prizes were to be gold watches, but by some strange freak of nature these gold watches were suddenly transmogrified into cheques. Then a couple of the watches were taken to expert jewellers, who pronounced them worth \$50 apiece. The laws of the A.A.U. distinctly provide that no trophy or prize shall be of greater monetary value than \$35. When brought face to face with this fact, what do you think was the excuse given? Secretary Hughes, of the M.A.C., who runs an athletic bureau at the palatial club house, actually did not know there was any such law, and neither did Captain Cornell. Such innocent people as these two ought soon to expect to find wings sprouting.

The action taken by the delegates to the Senior League has resulted lamentably, and a blow has been dealt the national game that will not be recovered from for many a day. The pursuance of a short-sighted policy that can possibly be of benefit to only one club in the league as it now stands—and even that is a very doubtful quality—has made many of the older heads wonder why clubs should not send men to represent them with an average amount of common sense. However, the business is done now and cannot readily be undone, but there will be great weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth when the books are gone over at the end of the season; and the galling part of the thing will be that the clubs forced out will not be the losers. It is quite likely that before the playing season begins there will be another club which, if not entitled to seniority after the manner of the N.A.L.A., will be able to play well enough to make it very interesting for either Toronto or Montreal, and with home and home matches between such a trio, there would be no danger of particularly poor gates. The scheme is not matured yet, but it is well under way.

The action of the board of directors in admitting the Montreal Cricket Club to its ranks without enforcing membership in the whole association was a good one as far as the interests of the game were concerned. By that means the fees are considerably reduced and a largely increased membership may confidently be looked for. The ground in a few days will be in fairly good condition, and very shortly an excellent wicket will be had. Montreal has been strangely backward in the old game for some time past, and visiting clubs from the United States or across the water have been obliged to give us the go-by and play at such comparatively insignificant places as Napanee. Several American clubs are making preparations for a summer tour in Canada, and if our local club is materially strengthened there is every reason to believe that they might be induced to prolong their stay and pay a visit to the metropolis. The Germantown Club, of Philadelphia, have already fixed three dates for Toronto, July 16, 17 and 18. In the meantime the lady cricketers have not been idle, the Stanley club, of St. Thomas, Ont., having organized for the season with the following officers: Hon. president, Miss Finlay; president, Miss T. Parker; vice-president, Miss M. Reynolds; secretary, Miss A. Walker; treasurer, Miss L. Nelles; committee, Misses A. Frew, W. McKinnon, M. Campbell, M. Jones, E. Adams; captain, Miss Lenore Cullen.

Ottawa is going ahead in the way of organizing new clubs, the latest addition being the Ottawa Golf Club and the Ottawa Riding Club. The former had 50 members on the roll the first evening, and a very suitable ground has been secured. Obtaining the services of an experienced player is the next matter to be attended to. The following are the first year's officers:—President, Hon. Edgar Dewdney; vice-president, Charles Magee; committee, Col. J. MacPherson, Col. Irwin, Dr. Thorburn, J. L. Pierce and W. L. Muller; secretary-treasurer, Alexander Simpson. The Riding club's officers are:—Hon. president, Sir Adolphe Caron; president, Robert Gill; vice-president, T. C. Bate; secretary-treasurer, A. H. H. Powell; committee, Capt. Gourdeau, Neil Stewart, C. D. Graham, R. Brown, D. B. Gordon and C. J. Jones.