

FOOTBALL.

Again the 'Varsity Club closes the football season with an unbroken record, holders of the Ontario Challenge Cup and Champions of Canada. The Ontario teams this year were, on the whole, much stronger than those of last year. Ottawa City never before put as strong a team on the field as the one that played Ottawa College on Nov. 3rd, and the Hamilton men acknowledged that they had high hopes of wresting the much-coveted championship emblem from the boys in garnet and gray. That they were disappointed we are all pleased to admit; but also that they gave Ottawa College a very hard tussle those who saw the game cannot deny. The following were the teams as they lined out:

Hamilton—Back, Harvey; $\frac{1}{2}$ backs, Martin and G. Watson; $\frac{1}{4}$ backs, R. Watson and Ferrie.

Forwards—Logie, Mackay, Martin, Stewart, Briggs, Hendrie, Dewar, McGiverin, Gordon, Gillies.

Ottawa College—Back, Devine; $\frac{1}{2}$ backs, Cormier and Murphy; $\frac{1}{4}$ backs, Kehoe and Guillet. Forwards—McCauley, Labrecque, Fitzpatrick, O'Brien, A. McDonald, D. McDonald, Curran, Chatelaine, Macdonald, Hillman.

Mr. P. D. Ross acted as referee. Inside of five minutes Hamilton was forced to rouge and a mighty cheer went up from 'Varsity's friends, as all thought then that the game would be a purely defence one for Hamilton, and that the champions would roll up a high score. The western men, however, seemed to brace up after this momentary check, and for the remainder of the first half gave almost as much as they received. The boys were evidently sleeping, as they had not yet demonstrated to Hamilton the utter absurdity of thinking that the championship could leave Ottawa College. But the awaking soon came, and it was a rude shock. Scarcely had the ball been kicked off when Hamilton forced it within the College 25 yds. line. A smart kick sent it across the line and the third and last point scored against Ottawa College this year resulted. Then blazed forth some of the old-time fire, and with a rush the forwards carried the leather right up to the Hamilton goal line where it remained during the rest of the match, save when it was driven across and the College score thereby increased. Four tries were made and claimed in the next twenty minutes, but owing to doubts existing as to their legality only rouges were allowed. Time was called with the blackboard registering Ottawa College 10, Opponents 1, and the cup remains another winter with old 'Varsity.

Thursday, Nov. 15th, Thanksgiving Day, gave

lovers of football a full programme. The two College fifteens played Montrealers and McGill Medicals respectively, while the two Ottawa fifteens played Britannias and Second Montrealers. The two Ottawa teams were defeated, and the College Second met a reverse at the hands of the Medicos. When we reflect that the McGill boys had ten of their first team, among whom was Hughes of last year's champions, the score of 16 to 1 is by no means discreditable. Hughes made 10 points by a touchdown and a goal from the field, and he aided very materially towards getting the other six.

The great event, however, was the game between Montreal and Ottawa College for the Canadian Championship. Montreal was represented by—back J. D. Campbell, $\frac{1}{2}$ backs Abbott and Hodgson, $\frac{1}{4}$ backs Cleghorn and Brown; forwards—Louson, R. Campbell, Mathewson, Drummond, A. D. Fry, G. Fry, Black, Barton, Taylor, and Baird. The College team was the same as played Hamilton on the previous Saturday.

Mr. W. H. Rankin acted as referee, and his his decisions gave general satisfaction. However the game in itself was not one to raise enthusiasm. The first dash of the College forwards, who stopped Montreal's kick off, and had the ball within their twenty-five in less than a minute, decided the visitots that a close scrimmage game would best suit them, and a succession of close, heavy, tedious scrimmages filled up the greater part of the hour and a half. Only three or four times throughout the game did the ball get loose, and then the covering was so sure and close that no ground could be gained. The College team proved themselves much superior to their opponents, and for the last twenty minutes the ball was within ten yards of Montreal goal-line. A little judicious coaching might have resulted in a score, but it is very doubtful, as both teams exhibited a decided tendency to keep the ball in the scrimmage. On the whole the play was unscientific, and, to parties not intimately concerned in the result, uninteresting. However Ottawa College scored the victory and retained the championship of Canada, though the score was 0 to 0. There is one thing that the game should prove to promoters of Rugby in Canada, and that is, that there must be something done to render such scrimmaging impossible. What this something may be would form matter for discussion, but football will never become a popular game until the rules are radically amended. Over two thousand persons witnessed the game on Thanksgiving Day; at least nineteen hundred and fifty were dissatisfied with the exhibition. Only the united action of the leading football clubs of Canada can bring about the desired result—the elevation of football to its proper place in public appreciation.