

remarkable in either the man or his religious teachings. If it were not for the success of the church in lands beyond Mr. Evans' jurisdiction, we might be tempted to name him as a cause for a measure of the success which Mormonism has made in Canada.

Slight of stature, large black eyes bespeaking hypnotic power, language which betrays the lack of a school education, a command of vocal expression, a marvelous knowledge of the Bible, a sense of humour, and a wide acquaintance with human nature, he has held the undivided attention for hours of a cosmopolitan gathering of Toronto people. He impresses his personality upon his

audience, whether in the assembly hall or to a solitary interviewer.

Some twenty years ago the writer had an opportunity of studying Mr. Evans in a Western Ontario village. His advent was not heralded by press notices. Only small hand-bills served to tell the people that Elder Evans of the Reorganised Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints would preach on Sundays in a small, disused church. But somehow the village paper was not needed. A congregation of twenty grew until it fairly packed the little church, and the other ministers of the village began to wonder what had become of their flocks. They began to take

notice, then to denounce, and even a casual observer could then realise why Elder Evans had not expended his dollars in printers' ink. People flocked to the Mormon Church out of curiosity, and many stayed to become adherents. They were not the riff-raff of the village, but many of them men and women who were commonly supposed to have good ordinary judgment in most of the problems that life presents. The evangelisation of the village had been accomplished in a twelve-month, and Elder Evans left the church in charge of an assistant to pursue elsewhere his work of evangelisation.

AN ARTICLE ON THE ALBERTA MORMONS WILL APPEAR NEXT WEEK.

Rugby Football

From the Past to the Present

By H. I. P. GOOD



Joe Wright.

HERE is no game that in all its essentials is better adapted for the autumnal or fall season in Canada than Rugby football. It is by no means a warm weather game, and for that reason is not played until Dame Nature begins her dainty painting process in the woods and valleys. The love of manly sport and close and exciting contests is inherent in the Saxon nature, and any game which shows these qualities so well as the Rugby game is sure of appreciation in an English-speaking country, even if the spectator does not understand or value the play from the point of an expert. I remember reading somewhere not long ago that a French writer describing his first football match got off the following: "The sides precipitated themselves upon each other; arms and legs were dislocated and collar bones broken. . . . Anon the game (?) was resumed amidst howls and execrations from both sides, and fragments of clothing, torn ruthlessly from the bodies of the rivals, strewn over the field. It was a spectacle terrible and affecting, and I turned away with tears in my eyes." This sort of thing would be delightful reading for a doting mother or solicitous father.

Authorities differ as to the exact age of football, but they all agree that it had a very early beginning. This agreement, it might be remarked in passing, is common with historical writers on all games of ball, and doubtless it is well grounded, for even play, like the human race, probably originated with the monkeys. Without going so far back as the days of ancient Greece, it is certain that there was a game among the Romans called harpastum, which, judging by its name and the description of it, was clearly a somewhat similar sport to the Rugby football of the present day. The Romans may not have introduced the game into Britain—there is no proof that they did so—but there is evidence that at the Roman occupation there was some such game as harpastum in vogue. It is also certain that for several centuries football games were rather sanguinary affairs, a match between two villages not infrequently ending in a riot. Football oftentimes incurred royal displeasure and had a ban put upon it, but it was the game of the people and thrived despite the fact that Edward II. contemptuously referred to it as "hustling over great balls," and James III. of Scotland decreed that four times in every year the game of football should be "utterly cried down." Sir Thomas Elyot, a worthy baronet who flourished in the time of the Tudors, described the game as nothing but beastly fury and extreme violence, whereof proceeded hurt, rancour and malice.

The Puritan Stubbes termed it a "bloody and murdering practice." The citizens of Manchester and other cities passed ordinances for the suppression of the game, but as has been said the game survived all vicissitudes and to-day has no rival as a game for the fall of the year not only in Britain but in all her colonies and in the United States.

The number of players at Rugby School, whence the modern game takes its name, as described by Tom Brown, appears to have varied from 50 to 120 a side, when one house contended against another. Organisation of the Rugby Union came in England as late as 1865 and the first game in Canada of which there is any account was played in the same year at Montreal between the officers stationed there and the civilians. The then seemingly new game met with favour and soon there was not a garrison town, including Quebec, Halifax, Toronto, and Kingston, that could not boast of football clubs.

From 1865 down to the present time the game, except for a few years, during which the association or "Socker" game boasted an ascendancy in public favour, Rugby has gone on and prospered. At first the English style, with its "pack," or rather "scrum," flourished, but something like a quarter of a century ago certain changes were introduced that, at least from a Canadian point of view, considerably improved the game. The scrum was changed to three men and only one quarter-back, instead of two, was used. Three halves and a full-back composed the rear division, while seven forwards made up the attack. This

somewhat radical departure from the old order of things was much deplored by the veterans of the day, but the younger generation grasped at the opportunity to play a game that promised to be more to their liking, besides possessing a degree of individuality that sort of individualised the game and gave it a Canadian character or complexion. It marked an epoch in the game of Rugby in Canada and undoubtedly greatly increased its popularity. At the same period, or in 1883, the Ontario Rugby Union was formed and three years later came the Quebec Union. Nine years later, or in 1892, the Canadian Union was formed and an umpire introduced to assist the referee. The initial honours of the newly organised football dominion rested with Osgoode Hall—a team of giants who beat Montreal in the snow at Rosedale by 45 to 5. The "Limbs of the Law" were undoubtedly a grand aggregation and there are many old followers of the game who declare even to this day that no better team ever stepped on a field, but it is a way in and out of football and in and out of politics that conservatives have of thinking their methods and their side the best. But the Senkler boys, E. C. and J. H., both of whom were ex-captains of Varsity, Parkyn, who could boot the ball from one end of the field to the other, and "Jim" Smellie were undoubtedly Trojans in the field. In passing and tackling the team were exceptionally strong. It is related of J. H. Senkler that in this game he picked up a Montreal player and threw him into a snow-bank at one side of the field.

Queen's, Ottawa College, of which aggrega-



Argonaut Rugby Football Team, 1901—Senior Ontario Champions.

F. H. Thompson, Manager. Wes. Wilson. Geo. Strange. S. G. Langton. C. W. Darling. W. P. D. Hardesty. P. E. Henderson. G. D. A. Chadwick. A. H. E. Kent. C. O. DeLisle. E. P. Reiffenstein. P. E. Boyd. J. A. Wright. Fred. Russell. W. H. Grant. D. M. King. C. F. Hill. I. J. Ardab. R. H. Britton. R. H. Parmenter.