



Now that the hockey season is a thing of the past, a word about the senior championship series may not be out of place. The Montreal club are once more the champions, with the proud record of not having lost a match during the whole season. They have met and defeated every club with any championship tendencies whatever. Sometimes the struggle was a hard one, but superior play won in the long run. It seems, though, that the challenge system is somewhat of a hardship on the champion club, because every week it is liable to be called on to defend its title, thus necessitating the players keeping constantly in good trim, and then such a thing is well within the probabilities of a team beating everything all through the season and being defeated in the last match and thus losing a title that was successfully defended for several months, while the club that won the last match might have been defeated in every other. Suppose Montreal had lost the final, it seems difficult to understand that a club with only one win to its credit should claim the championship trophy from a club with seven or eight wins, but such is the fact, and it is the result of the challenge system which gives all the advantage to the challenger. The series would seem to be the fairer method, and when it was in vogue it gave general satisfaction.

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In the description recently of Alcantara jr., through an inadvertency it was neglected to state that the price obtained was the largest ever got for a horse owned in the Province of Quebec and that his former owner was Dr. W. B. McGowan.

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The Windsor Keystone Gun Club are talking of a big shoot, when \$2,000 will be given in prizes. One purse of \$500 will be open to the world. If this tournament materializes it will be the biggest thing for gun men ever held in Western Canada.

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Sport in the Lower Provinces promises to recuperate during the coming season. President Skinner, of the St. John Amateur Athletic Association is an enthusiast, especially as regards cricket, for he says: "After all, cricket is the game. We have lots of good material, and if such men as Messrs. Jones, Starr, Harvey, Knowlton and some others would take the matter in hand the game would boom. In Fredericton the curlers are cricketers too, and they have promised to get up an eleven that will make things lively for St. John. If a good team was had it would be very easy to arrange matches with Halifax, and a professional could be got almost immediately. Hitherto this has been done by private subscription, and there would be no difficulty in doing the same thing again; but the man who would place cricket on its legs must be a good player and show an interest in the sport. With such a man to captain the team, the interest of every man in the club, who has any cricket in him at all, would be awakened." Mr. Skinner is not so enthusiastic about baseball, and is apparently not an admirer of the sort of ball Haligonians put up. He says: "I am not in favour of having much to do with Halifax, if things continue as they have been. They never treated us properly, and the ball played there last summer was not the kind we want. I would not vote for the outlay of a single cent toward professional ball; but, of course, I cannot say what the club will do. If Halifax raises a purely local team, and a respectable one at that, so far as I am concerned I would be willing to overlook the things which have occurred, and meet them in the interest of the sport. If Moncton or Fredericton get up local teams, of course we would be glad to give them games. I like baseball as I like other athletic games, and there is material in our club for as good a team as could be found in the Maritime Provinces. If men like Bell, White, Christie, George and Keltie Jones, Starr, Beer and others enter into the thing a fine amateur team could be made up." Perhaps if a little interest was awakened in lacrosse it would help along athletics generally, even if it would be suggested that it was a better game for spectators than cricket.

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Now that our friends on the other side of the line are beginning to find out that even some extraordinary things

can come out of Canada, and are lionizing our native Sampson, perhaps a few words of his history, which I have not seen in Canadian papers, may be interesting. Louis Cyr is 27 years of age, weighs 318 lbs., and stands 5 ft. 11½ in. in his stockings, but his immense girth detracts from his height. When he was 17 years of age he somewhat resembled Mr. Wardle's fat boy, and weighed a trifle over 240 lbs. This was before Montreal had become acquainted to any great extent with asphalt or other modern pavements, and he discovered a cart loaded with brick stuck in the mud. The unfortunate horse was getting one of his diurnal floggings. Cyr's heart was moved with pity, and he started in to help the horse out. A happy idea struck him, so he got under the waggon and, lifting it with his back, moved it over to solid ground. The horse looked surprised as well as grateful, and evidently appeared to think that Mr. Cyr had missed his vocation. So did the bystanders, and somebody told him that he was a strong man, while the same impression began to dawn on him, too. So he made up his mind to be a Sampson, and like his protonym forgot to cut his hair, which now hangs on his shoulders in yellow ringlets. He varied the monotony of life by becoming a Montreal policeman, and had a painful, if not romantic, experience when he attempted to make an arrest and was interviewed with an axe. Then he went into the Herculean occupation solely, and with a little practice soon appropriated the weight-lifting record. He startled the world by his great feat at Berthierville when he lifted 3,536 lbs. of iron on his back, but a few days ago he managed to get 3,993 lbs. off the floor. During the last few years Cyr has abstained from tobacco and strong liquors, and says that he attributes to this abstinence an increased lifting power of 700 lbs. But he eats about 5 lbs. of meat per day and takes a little wine for his stomach's sake. After the startling reports of the wonderful feats of strength done by Sandow and Sampson in London, efforts were made to bring the Canadian Hercules into competition with them, and from present appearances of matters it is likely that before many weeks the rival strong men will have met and decided what will then be regarded as the world's championship.

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The Manhattan Athletic Club and the New York Athletic Club, two of the finest organizations in the world, never can let each other alone, and the amount of friendliness displayed at every opportunity is about comparable with the active principle of two felines whose caudal appendages have somehow or other got tangled up with a clothes line. This time the trouble is all about the defeat of Mr. Carr for membership on the Central Board of the A. A. U. The Mannhattans to most people would seem to have a right to be represented, but the men who wear the winged foot thought differently, and it is even said openly that they descended to "put up a job," whatever that may mean, whereby the M. A. C. were left on the outside where it is cold. "Mediator" Hughes, who voices the sentiments of his club, says: "The Manhattan Athletic Club can exist independently, unless it is treated with fairness and justice in the A. A. U." That sounds very much like the declaration of another athletic war, such as played the mischief with things generally a couple of years ago.

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But if the Mannhattans were frozen out in the elections there is enough hot water among its own members to make things exceedingly lively for a little while, and it is all over the social question. Everybody knows that the M. A. C. has always been what is known as something of a high roller in social circles. This was evident when the composition of the club was considered. The mere athlete did not have an overpowering influence in club matters. On general principles he was just there to carry the cherry diamond to the front as often as possible and make things as unpleasant as possible for the winged foot. For this he was petted and made a hero of, was taken on expensive excursions, was always provided with a more or less remunerative position if willing to work, and was patronized generally. But he was not supposed to take any particularly active part in the running of the club. It is this fact that has made the late election of the Board of Governors a thorn in the side of some of the club's four hundred. The New York Sun sums the whole thing up in a nutshell, and if it may serve as a sort of warning to Canadian athletic organizations the reproduction of the following portion will not have been wasted space:—

"We have here the most magnificent club house in the world. Its appointments are unexcelled and its membership tremendous. Athletically it is in the front rank, and from every conceivable standpoint except one no flaw can be found. The exception noted is a serious one. The character of the Board of Governors, or rather the social and financial standing of a majority of the members, is referred to. Certainly the club has on its membership rolls a sufficiency of solid men from whom its Governors can be chosen, men of social influence, financial solidity, and business prominence. Surely the club can find enough of such men, who would not only reflect credit on the organization but attract to it. Why is it that men of the character mentioned are unable to secure an election to the Board, and why is it that men who lack all the advantages named are pushed to the front?"

It should not be understood that the Board does not contain many admirable men, but the majority are not fitted to rule the destinies of so great an organization as the Manhattan Athletic Club. The social feature of that club should not be a whit behind the other branches, and the fact is now that it is subordinated to the athletic branch. But there must be a change, or the grand club will surely deteriorate or crumble away. Its Board of Governors is in no sense of the word a representative one, and until it is made so the club will not take its proper position in the realm of clubdom. There will be a bitter struggle between those who are attempting to subordinate the social to the other features of the club, but there can be no doubt as to the outcome. The majority of the members of the Board are altogether too light waisted and cannot withstand the assault sure to be made upon them. There will be a change, and the Manhattan Athletic Club will emerge from its peer socially, as she is in all other respects, of the athletic clubs of the earth."

The name is the Manhattan "Athletic" Club.

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"The more the merrier" has a good deal of truth in it, and particularly so when athletic organizations are referred to. A young country like Canada can stand any amount of athletic clubs, and we can boast of a good deal more sturdy muscle and nerve to the proportion of population than our long drawn out, nervous, pistol firing brethren to the south of us. The latest addition is the Coaticook Amateur Athletic Association, which was organized last week, and the definite organization took place yesterday. The officers elected were: President, B. Austin; vice-president, G. H. St. Pierre; second vice, Dr. Bachand; secretary-treasurer, J. N. McNicholl.

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There are plenty of good cricketers in Bedford, P. Q., and they have at last come to the conclusion that it would be a good idea to get up a club. Bedford has not been particularly brilliant in athletic work recently, and this last has been a move in the right direction.

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We are promised a new junior lacrosse league in Eastern Ontario to consist of the Cornwall Juniors, Alexandrias, Brockvilles, Prescotts, Lancasters and any other junior team in that section of the country that would like to go into the scheme. The new league will be modeled after the Montreal Junior League, and the following is a brief description of the way of working proposed: The clubs of the surrounding districts to send delegates to a central point and hold a convention; the clubs interested to subscribe a certain amount to purchase a trophy. Two matches are to be played on the grounds of each team, the home team paying the expenses of the visiting team in each case, and the team winning the greatest number of matches to hold the trophy for the season. The N. A. L. A. rules are to govern the games.

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The Toronto Argonauts will likely engage Denny Donahue, of Hamilton, as professional trainer for their crew. The idea is to get a Canadian, and certainly in Canada we can hold our own with other oarsmen, for we have plenty of good material to draw from, and a better choice than the Hamilton man could hardly be hit upon.

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If Washington gets the annual regatta for the N. A. A. O. it will have quite a little hustling to do to pay expenses, and the aquatic clubs of the American Capital will have to go down in their pockets a little deeper than on the occasion of a recent athletic meeting, which was not particularly satisfactory from a financial point of view.

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The Hockey teams of the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co. and the Guarantee Company played a match on Tuesday night in the Victoria Rink, which resulted in a victory for the former by four goals to two.

R. O. X.