

FOOTBALL FOR SPORT'S SAKE

In this issue appears a brief interview with Mr. Shaughnessy on the present situation of Canadian Football. It is the result of a good deal of criticism of the game in which its merits have been compared to the relative merits of English Rugby.

When Mr. Shaughnessy says that Canadian Rugby is played with more fight and spirit of competition than is the English game, we believe that he has struck the fundamental difference between the two games. In other words, the English play more for the sake of the "game;" we play more for the sake of winning.

Now, it is a matter of opinion as to which spirit is the better for the sake of sport, for, we think, everyone will agree that the two games are played primarily for the sake of sport. The fact remains, however, that we in the East and mid-West of Canada have got into the habit of enjoying the latter spirit.

Whether this spirit is the outcome of the game we play, or whether our present game is the outcome of this spirit is hard to say. It is evident, in any case, that what we enjoy in our game are its elaborate scientific methods, its high state of proficiency, and its general tenseness and emotion as a spectacle. Further, we are able to appreciate that much more any individual brain-work and play that is so difficult to "pull off" with this high state of proficiency.

If we are to fall in line with the rest of Canada and, indeed, the rest of the British Empire by taking up the English game, we believe there would have to be a radical change in the minds of the football public as to their ideas of football as a sport.

Mr. Shaughnessy thinks that English Rugby is hardly adaptable to our Eastern climate, that is, of course, allowing as high a standard for it as for our present game. There is no reason why it should not be under slight alterations. We feel, however, that such a change is neither wished by the majority nor considered likely; moreover, we quite agree with Mr. Shaughnessy in wishing for some changes in the present inadequate offensive rules in the Canadian game. With one or two simple changes our game should be one of the greatest sports and spectacles on earth.