



The M. A. C. has secured a remarkably successful young athlete to do honor to its cherry diamond at home and abroad. Joe Donoghue has been almost phenomenally successful and has won about everything in the skating line that he started in to win in his last European tour. The Dutch and Norwegian champions have succumbed to the American's prowess, and his success is the more remarkable when it is considered that even at Newburg the facilities for skating can hardly compare with those we have in any Canadian city of moderate size. The result of his work in London will be anxiously looked forward to, more especially in regard to the coming championship meeting of the American and Canadian Skating Associations. There is hardly any doubt that the American champion will compete in the former series of events, and in all probability he will have a comparatively easy thing of it, for his reputation is alone liable to scare off some good men who would otherwise be able, perhaps, to give him a very hard turn. In the Canadian races the case will be somewhat different. There are several men in the Dominion who will not scare to any great extent, and who think, in fact, that they will not only be able to hold their own, but that they will be able to administer a defeat to the crack man of the Stars and Stripes. It may be said, "Why did not these men meet Donoghue before?" The answer to that is easily given. Few skaters can afford to spend much time away from home, especially in an expensive city like New York, waiting from day to day for suitable ice, and in Canada we have had no organization sufficiently wealthy to pay the necessary expenses. In this column I have previously advocated the idea of Montreal being represented on the ice, under the ægis of the M.A.A.A. or the Amateur Skating Association, but with one exception the matter does not seem to have received favourable consideration. There is now a possibility that this may be changed. It will be remembered that, at the annual meeting of the Skating Association, a formal application was made by Mr. Jas. A. Taylor on behalf of the Montreal Toboggan (Skating) Club for the privilege of having the championship skating races held under their auspices, on the open air rink at Cote St. Antoine. The idea was a good one, but it also gave rise to another idea, a better one even than the first. Some of the shrewd business men in the Skating Association reasoned that if the M.A.A.A. could afford to give the meeting and put up the necessary medals and trophies, there was no reason in the world why the A.S.A.C. could not do the same thing. Accordingly it was decided to hire the rink for the day from the M.A.A.A., and for the first time in the history of the association give the meeting directly under the control of the A.S.A.C. It is also understood that, with a view to encouraging the work of the association, the M.A.A.A. will rent the rink at a merely nominal sum, a piece of generosity for which they are justly to be commended. Under these circumstances there will be some likelihood of having our skating cousins from across the line compete. In the past the principal objection has been to the small size of the rink, but with a quarter of a mile track this can hardly hold, and as the Manhattan Athletic Club will now be looking for new worlds to conquer, it may be expected that their crack representative, Donoghue, will be seen on Canadian ice this winter. There is still another side worth considering in this matter. The A.S.A.C. will probably make some money on its championship meeting, and to what better use could it be put than in sending away a few of our flyers to take part in the American championships. There are enough good men, and fast ones at that, to worthily uphold the honour of Canada, and what money would be spent would be bread cast upon the waters, which would return next year or the year after.

The National Skating Association's sixth annual championship will be held some place within 75 miles of New York city on January 30th and 31st. The events opened to all amateurs in the world are: Quarter mile, 1 mile, 5 miles and 10 miles. Entries should be made to S. J. Montgomery, secretary National Amateur Skating Association, P. O. box 938, New York.

The effort of the Manhattan Athletic Club to have a skating rink on top of their magnificent club house has been a partial success, but the least bit of warm weather plays havoc with the ice, and altogether it is not such an unqualified blessing as was expected.

For many years there has been no such drawback in amateur sports as the question of doubtful standing in regard to professionalism. The temptations that have been put in the way of any good man in his class have, in many cases, been too powerful to be overcome by the ordinary mortal, especially when there appears to be a perfect cloak of safety to cover any underhand work that may be attempted. In no branch of sport has this been made more apparent than in aquatics, and some of the ways adopted would give pointers to the reptile of wisdom. For instance, within my own personal knowledge, I know of a case where an amateur, to all outside appearances, during his training season, used to go to a certain saloon regularly every morning and demand sherry and egg. He invariably presented a dollar bill in payment, and just as invariably received \$9.85 in change. In other words, he received \$10 a day, but as nobody could accuse him of receiving money for his work he remained an "amateur" for many years, until at last, with his natural bent, he drifted into the ranks of professionalism, where he remains yet, although he does not seem to have made any great fortune at the business. This is only one case in the many I could mention, but it is a typical one, one of those which it is almost impossible to guard against, and one of those which has succeeded, in a measure, in driving genuine amateurs out of the ranks of contestants. In this connection the recent action of the New England Rowing Association is of more than usual interest. The difficulty has been recognized, and, as far as legislation can go, steps have been taken, in their new definition of the amateur rule, which will go as near as it appears possible to go, to eradicate disguised professionalism. The new definition of an amateur is one of which the gist might be adopted with advantage by other athletic organizations. It is as follows:—

"One who does not enter into an open competition or for either a stake, public, or admission money or entrance fee, or compete with or against a professional for any prize; who has never taught, pursued, or assisted in the pursuit of athletic exercises as a means of livelihood; whose membership of any rowing or athletic club was not brought about or does not continue because of any mutual agreement or understanding, express or implied, whereby his becoming a member of such club would be of any pecuniary advantage to him whatever, direct or indirect, and who has never been employed in any occupation involving any use of the oar or paddle; one who rows for pleasure or recreation only and during his leisure hours, and does not abandon or neglect his usual business or occupation for the purpose of training, and who shall otherwise conform to the rules of this association."

The following section gives the executive committee the power to sit in judgment on a man whose amateur standing has been questioned, and if it is found that anybody has been disqualified by any other athletic organization whatever, the question of his eligibility to the New England Association's regattas shall not be considered until the case is referred back to the disqualifying association. If the "suspect" is not under the ban of any other association the matter will be left in the hands of the executive committee. The adoption of this code will make the New England Association in a measure more independent of the national amateurs. The old system whereby the New Englanders, although many times more numerous than the oarsmen from any other section, were allowed but one delegate in the National Association, was not satisfactory, and the revision of the rules will be found to have met more nearly the demands of amateur oarsmen. It is not to be understood, however, that there is a conflict with the National Association. On the contrary, the best of feeling prevails between the two organizations.

The season for steeplechases is now in full swing, but it cannot be said that any startling amount of interest is being taken in the sport. The Emeralds were unfortunate in the date for their green steeplechase. It was snowshoeing with a vengeance, and the amount of the beautiful sandy material that had to be got over or ploughed through was sufficient to satisfy anybody. Consequently time was slow. Following is the score:—1. E. McMahon, 29m. 32s.; 2. H. Kearns, 29.36; 3. M. M. Malone, 33.04; 4. E. Kearns, 55 min.

The Argyles were much more fortunate, that is as far as time was concerned, but then it should be remembered that there was not the same difficulties to be overcome. Mr. Steele was the victor in this case, as will be seen from the following score:—1. R. Steele, 19m. 18s.; 2. W. J. Reid, 20.40; 3. J. Cuthbert, 21.25; 4. W. A. Booth, 23.07; 5. J. A. Hayes, 27.27.

The snowshoers seem to be recognizing the necessity of making some effort to stir up the lagging spirits of the knights of the gutted shoe. There are always a certain number of enthusiasts, who follow their ideal of sport through thick and thin, but unfortunately their number is not legion. It is with the idea of remedying this incipient evil and attracting popular attention that the snowshoers have settled on the plan of holding a general snowshoe entertainment, which will take place on the 28th inst. Just what shape the entertainment will take is left in the hands of a committee, and from its composition one thing may be calculated on, and that is that if the public are not satisfied, then they must be hard to please.

Outside of the absolute pleasure of tramping over the snow in the aboriginal fashion, what is there that will add zest to the sport in comparison with the presence of the fair sex, and this is the reason that the ladies' nights held so far this season have been remarkably successful. No effort is left untried, and the ladies are delighted. The result is obvious. The attraction is too great for the boys to resist.

The Stoney Creek and Ormstown Curling clubs are as strong as ever in their healthy rivalry at the fine old game. The last match saw the Stoney Creekers get a most unmitigated whipping, but they are not the least bit discouraged, and will be heard from again before the dust flies. The following score tells the tale of their last match:—

Ormstown.		Stoney Creek.	
		RINK NO. 1.	
H. Smith		W. Rice	
J. B. Walsh		J. Reid	
J. H. Smith		P. Reid	
C. H. McNee	—skip 14	T. Winter	—skip 4
		RINK NO. 2.	
J. Cottingham		J. Mills	
F. Kee		R. Mills	
J. Darby		J. M. G. Winter	
R. J. Walsh	—skip 10	W. Lindsay	—skip 5
Total	24	Total	9
Majority for Ormstown, 15 shots.			

The Thistle Club were not particularly successful during their trip to St. Johns, P.Q., the local club defeating them by a score of 37 to 17. In the friendly match between the Montreal and Caledonian clubs there was somewhat of a surprise for the former, and at the time of writing, with only one rink to play, the lead of 26, which the Caledonians possess, is not likely to be overcome.

The Ottawa Bowling team made amends for their defeat in Montreal by beating the M.A.A.A. team on Saturday last with the comfortable majority of 227 points, the scores being:—Ottawa, 2760; M.A.A.A., 2533. H. Morrison, captain of the Ottawa team, made an excellent average of 180 $\frac{2}{3}$ . This was the fifth competition in the regular schedule.

The visit of a curtailed team of the Montreal Lacrosse Club, accompanied by another team of Caughnawaga Indians, to New York appears to have been a very enjoyable one even if very brief. The crack teams of the United States fell easy victims to the prowess of the Canadians, to whom it must have been a novelty to play under the strictures of space necessary. There is no doubt but that the people who attended the competitions thoroughly enjoyed themselves, but the representatives of the M.A.A.A. could hardly do themselves justice under the circumstances. However, the boys came back well pleased with their trip. The *Week's Sport* has made some strictures on the question of the amateurism of these exhibitions, but they seem more influenced by spleen than by any genuine desire for the good of amateurism. The Indian contingent did not cover itself with glory, but the noble red man seems an uncertain quantity at the best of times.