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# The Grand Bank Version.

REPLY TO M. CLAIREAUX

Grand Bank, Nfld.,  
October 18, 1921.  
Dear Sir—We have the pleasure of replying to the letter of the G.B.A.A. which was published in the issue of the 14th inst. in connection with an official report of the match between Grand Bank and the St. Pierre football team, which was published in your issue of Oct. 14th, and which was heartily endorsed by the President of our Association, which we heartily endorse.

Yours truly,  
JAMES M. HOWELL, President.  
A. MACDONALD,  
THOMAS STOODLEY,  
GEORGE FOOTE, Captain.

The Football Executive of the G.B.A.A. request the publication of the report of Monsieur Claireaux, acting President of the Association St. Pierreaise, who also gives what is purported to be a true and sincere report of the match between Grand Bank and the St. Pierre football team, which was published in your issue of August 22nd, 1921, which report is also supported by the committee of the Sportive Association St. Pierreaise who were also members of the French football team and who appeared in your esteemed paper on the 1st inst. in dealing with this report of Monsieur Claireaux's. We would like to say first, for the benefit of our local football fans and those who may be interested, that it is an honor to be the President of the G.B.A.A. and also that I am referred to by Monsieur Claireaux in his official report.

"Upon arriving on the 17th inst. I noticed first, that same was in a very poor condition; second, that the regulation goal posts were not in place, although they are compulsory in international matches; third, that the whole length of the worst side of the field the limit line (was) was not marked (the touch line) which might be the cause of trouble any time of throwings. I called the attention of the captain of the team on the very poor condition of the field and then informed the captain of the St. Pierre team of my observations. Regarding the first measure of playing a friendly game of football with the French team on the 17th inst. during this past three years 1917, 1918, 1919, and the field was never in better condition than we played the French team on the 22nd inst. of this year. Our field was very soft and also very slippery as a result of there being no rain for several weeks and our field consequently was as hard and as dry as the ground. Good drainage could make it so. We have never had goal posts on our own ground, with the exception of any other team. This, no doubt, is compulsory in an international football game but the Grand Bank team did not presume to bring an international game much to be professional international players. Our not having goal posts never been brought to my attention as a reason for playing a friendly game, and their refusal to do so was the only reason I had that such was not to be. I will admit that a touch line was in doubt as to whether it was in the touch line; there was a small trench along the touch line, there were lines on the field; his, the referee's, kicked the ball and the referee's.

The referee's further that Grand Bank was punished up by playing a friendly game. This is amusing and one considers the personnel of the teams, for with two exceptions, the St. Pierre team were very much younger and less experienced than the Grand Bank team. The French team were men of mature years, while all one or two of the Grand Bank team were boys yet in their teens. Monsieur Claireaux makes reference to the rough playing of the French team and says that they did not heed his whistle to his repeated observations but kept up their rough and hard way of playing with the ball. It is quite evident from the above clause of the report that the Grand Bank team played hard and fast, and finally after the ball went out of limits then whistled. I have no doubt whatever of the veracity of the referee's report for at the time the penalty was given he was down on the field and could not possibly see what had occurred; as a matter of fact to save his face, one of the French full backs struck his face with his two hands as striking the ball with his hands some outward and inside the goal line. Any player or players seeing this would quite naturally cry out 'Penalty' and a good sportsman would have admitted that the referee was right with his two hands instead of his head. The referee's report was confident that if the penalty would result in a goal No. 2. The right wing first demanded a penalty and also advised the referee to talk to the captain of the Grand Bank team who would not take his decision and advised the captain to ask me if I would give the penalty, (as he was playing full back consequently could not see), and answered Yes, but advised that we did not want to win the game unless it could be called a clean fair game. The referee's report was that the captain goal was won honestly or not, but advised him to be sporty and let the penalty to pass. The captain let me tell the referee to continue the game by kicking the ball into play from the touch line.

Monsieur Claireaux says that he showed great indulgence to the Grand Bank players for the following reasons:—  
1st—French by birth I was referred

in a foreign country.  
2nd—I knew that the French team was by far superior, especially in science to the Grand Bank team; being proved by the results of the different matches played during the last three years.  
3rd—I was afraid that by putting a stop to the match at a moment when the public of Grand Bank were shouting themselves anything but sympathetic to the St. Pierre team, it would have been the cause of a very unpleasant incident.  
The first reason counts for nothing, as Monsieur Claireaux knows, for he referred there before and knew the temper of the Grand Bank boys when they were losing; they lost cheerfully and gracefully and entertained the referee as well as his fellow countrymen really. The second reason, he knew the French were superior

as results of past three years. The facts are these that in 1918 Grand Bank played in St. Pierre and won by 3 to 1; a return was played in Grand Bank the same season and Grand Bank again won by 2 to 0. In 1920 however, Grand Bank had a weaker team than the year previous and as a result lost both games to the French. The first game this season was played in St. Pierre on July 1st, and Grand Bank had, during the day before sailing for St. Pierre, substituted four players which weakened our team considerably and as a result we lost. The return game was played with our team at its full strength, first time for two years; and although we lost the three games previous to August 22nd, while playing the same team from St. Pierre, some of whom were rated as professionals, who had played the game in France as members of the League teams, were not down-

hearted.  
The French on the other hand, came in determined on a clean walk over, but they were beaten and some of them evidently felt pretty badly about it, as is obvious by a perusal of Monsieur Claireaux's official report. On more than one occasion the President of the Sportive Association St. Pierre, Monsieur Hagan, in testifying the Grand Bank team, complimented them on being able to play a real good thoroughly clean game and lose, and to be able to lose cheerfully and manly and has made particular mention, as Monsieur Claireaux has also done, of the efforts of the right wing, and when the same player played centre as well, to play the game fair and clean and above all friendly. We have always found the French team very nice, but also very jealous of their rights. We have always regarded it an honor to play with the

French team from St. Pierre, professional footballers, and descendants of those gallant Frenchmen, who in days past have covered their names and the name of their country with immortal glory, and comrades in arms with those gallant Frenchmen who at the gates of Verdun have made the world resound with their clash of arms and their immortal battle cry, "They shall not pass."  
Grand Bank team regards the references to their left and right wings in the closing paragraph of the referee's official report, disqualifying them forever from participating in any game where a French team shall be in action, as uncomplimentary and unsportsmanlike, coming as it does from an impulsive and hasty decision on the part of the referee and his fellow committeemen, because they lost the game; and because these two men played exceptionally good games, and the right wing scored against

them and have always scored against them whenever and wherever a goal has been scored against the French team in their games against the Grand Bankers. The Grand Bank team is prepared to play the St. Pierre team again another season, and if the game is to be taken seriously then, as to consider it an international game, Grand Bank will provide a cup to be played for, and special rules governing the game to be agreed upon, the game refereed by a capable man, who will referee the game square and not referee for his own home team and then be vindictive because he loses.  
Regarding the language used while the game was in progress, need may have been things said to and about the referee but nothing, absolutely nothing, was said by the Grand Bank players that any person could take exception to; once the referee was on the extreme right side of the field,

when a question was shouted out to him by some spectator as to the action of a certain player on the extreme left. It was then, and only then, that the right wing shouted into the referee's ear (as he was only a few feet away) to play ball as the referee could not see anything over on that side anyway.  
Monsieur Claireaux says that a few minutes later the right wing made the following remark: "Never mind the referee's reprisals; and keep play," and again I showed myself tolerant toward this other no less uncivil and referee's reprisals; and keep play, never made by the right wing and the referee's whistle has never been blown against this player during the three years that he has played on the Grand Bank team against St. Pierre, except once, and that was as is reported by the referee; the French left wing was kicking a corner; kick, and the referee blew his whistle three times before



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he kicked the ball, because the right wing ran towards the player before he kicked the ball; this then was the only occasion which Monsieur Claireaux or any other French or Grand Bank referee had to blow his whistle for any breach of the rules in any game played by the French and Grand Bank either at St. Pierre or Grand Bank by this right wing.

Their claim that the game was between St. Pierre and an all Newfoundland team, representing as it does, that it was an international game, and played against representatives from all over Newfoundland, is absolutely false. Ten of the eleven men who played on the team were born and bred in Grand Bank; the other has been a resident of Grand Bank for four years and is a Grand Banker by adoption.  
The game as has been reported already and was also mentioned by the referee in his report was a very exciting game. It was fast at times very fast, and the Grand Bankers kept the ball in their opponents' territory during the whole game, but as has also been reported the French goal tender was a wonder. It was impossible to get beyond him. The ball would be shot to the goal, caught by this invincible goal tender, and tossed out with his hands and kicked back again and caught and tossed out again. Repeatedly the spectators cheered him and some of the Grand Bank team themselves shouted out more than once, "Atta boy, Frenchie!"  
This reply is made to show that the official report is neither sincere or true in every respect, that the concluding paragraph of the report is an injustice to the left and right wing players, and that the words "uncivil and rude" come with poor grace from some of the members of that committee whom we consider gentlemen, while others are just vindictive because they lost. They are good sports while winning, but poor losers, and that gentlemen of St. Pierre, is the test of good sportsmen, for good sportsmen make no excuse for losing but lose cheerfully and manly, and not like conceited, beaten schoolboys, who whimper when beaten, but rather prepare for the next contest and come back smiling and confident of victory.

JAMES M. HOWELL,  
President G.B.A.A.

### "'Twas in Trafalgar's Bay."

The battle of Trafalgar, in 1805, was the last and most fatal blow inflicted on the naval power of Napoleonic France. It destroyed the chance of Napoleon's invasion of England, which was a very real terror that had been hanging over the heads of the British for some time. Indeed, on one occasion, the inhabitants on the south coast retreated inland with little valour and much indiscretion because a rumour arose that the French fleet was bearing down upon Portsmouth at full speed. On Lord Nelson hearing that the French and Spanish fleets had successfully entered Cadiz he offered his services to the Admiralty, and they were accepted. On arriving off Cadiz, Nelson, in concert with Admiral Collingwood, completed his plan of action, and at daybreak on Monday, October 21, when the British fleet was about seven leagues off Cape Trafalgar, the enemy was discovered. The signal was given to bear down upon them in two lines. Collingwood, in the "Royal Sovereign," leading one line, and Nelson, in the "Victory," the other. When they got nearer to the enemy, Nelson hoisted his last signal—"England expects that every man will do his duty." Nelson had twenty-seven ships of the line to meet the thirty-three of the French and Spaniards. The fire on the "Victory" was terrible, and the battle raged with the greatest violence around her. Nelson had proudly refused to remove his decorations, and to put on a plain dress. "No, what he had won he would wear," he said. While walking the quarter deck, with a carelessness about his own safety which was chivalrous, however unwise, as he was turning round, a musket ball from the mizzen top of the French "Redoubtable" struck him down. He was carried below, covering his face and staying with his handkerchief, that his crew might not know who had fallen. He lingered for some three hours in great agony, and a minute or two before he expired, the last words which were uttered in the dying agony were heard. His last words were: "Thank God, I have done my duty!" Of the combined fleet nine French and nine Spanish were taken or burnt. The British lost in killed and wounded 1890 men. A most interesting collection of pictures of Nelson's life was published in the "United Service Gazette" Nelson Centenary number in 1905. A few copies may be had from the publisher, 4, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C., at 1s. 3d. post free. The issue is now very scarce.

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