

LORD DESBOROUGH, EMPIRE SPORTSMAN

Character Sketch of British
Sporting Peer Who is Com-
ing to Canada This Month.

(By Lou E. Marsh.)
Toronto, Sept. 8.—For one day the athletes on the Canadian Olympic team of 1908 were bashful and ill at ease with Lord Desborough, the famous British sporting peer who is to preside over the Ninth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which is to meet in Toronto on September 16th.

After then it was "Dessy, old chap," not quite as familiar-like as it sounds, but toned to indicate a sort of deferential spirit of comradeship which sprang up instantly between the Canucks and the titled sportsman who was head of the British Olympic committee in charge of the games that year.

Today I asked Jack Tait, the Toronto winner, who was on that team, what he thought of Lord Desborough.

"Good fellow! Fine fellow!" he replied instantly.

Today I asked Captain Elwood A. Hughes, manager of sports day at the exhibition, who took Jim Corkery, the Canadian Marathon champion, to England and won the Sporting Life trophy, what he thought of Lord Desborough, who he met at that event.

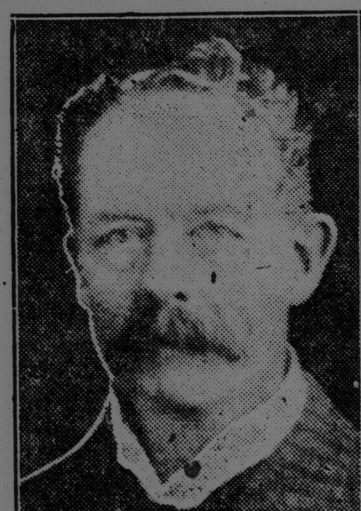
"Good fellow! Fine fellow!" he replied instantly and enthusiastically. "One of the finest sportsmen I ever met," and Hughes has met them from Athens to Stockholm and from New York to Frisco.

Lord Desborough—Good Fellow, would be the caption of this if sporting men in Great Britain and her colonies had anything to say about it, for Lord Desborough is just as popular among South African, Australian and Indian athletes as he is among Canadians and those in the old country. Any man who can make and hold through forty years of active connection with sport a reputation as a "Fine Fellow" can stand on his own two feet in any company.

I know but mightily little about Lord Desborough outside of his sporting activities, but he certainly has now a niche in the Sporting Hall of Fame. I was with the Canadian team at the 1908 Olympic in London, and remember him there.

The first day he came into the training room at the station and the boys were all introduced to him. He was very formal and in at ease with him. The next time he visited us was during training hours. He sauntered in alone and promptly clapped the bare back of the athlete on the rubbing board. The latter, I think, it was Walt Andrews, the cyclist, thinking it was one of the boys, rolled over and whacked his tormentor vigorously with a wet towel. When he found out who it was he sought to apologize, but Lord Desborough entered so heartily into the spirit of the fun that then and there he became "Dessy" to the entire team. In fact only J. G. Merrick and Morton Crow, the managers of the team, called him Lord Desborough around the Canadian training quarters.

And I found it was the same with the rest of the colonial athletes.



Right Hon. Lord Desborough, K. C. V. O., empire builder and noted sportsman who will preside at big convention opening in Toronto September 16. He presented three aeroplanes to Canada during the war.

Lord Desborough was in his day a real athlete. He made his athletic fame in open amateur competition and was an all round sportsman. He could run, ride, drive, row, punt, play cricket, fence, and swim with the best of them. He even swam the Niagara River twice from pure love of adventure. The turbulent water of Canada's mighty gorge attracted him on a visit here away back in the eighties and he peddled off and proceeded to battle his way across.

Lord Desborough is of Cornish descent. He was born on October 30th, 1855, the son of Charles W. Grenfell, who represented Sandwich and Windsor in the British House of Commons.

He sprang into athletic fame at Harrow in 1888. He showed ability as a mile runner and bowled for his college against Eaton two years in succession. In 1874 he went to Mallory College, Oxford, where he took up long distance running and rowing and rowed for Oxford against Cambridge in 1877 and 1878. In 1877 he was in the crew which rowed the famous dead heat with Cambridge. It was a gruelling contest all the way, but young Grenfell, like the rest of the lads, gave his every last ounce in the effort to win. The crew did come back on the row off and rowed Cambridge dizzy.

The unique honor of simultaneously holding the presidency of both the Boat and Athletic Club at Oxford fell to him in his college years and he was subsequently president of the famous Marylebone Cricket Club. Along about this time, while spending a vacation in Switzerland, he ascended in eight days the Little Walterham, the Rothhorn, Monte Rosa, the Matterhorn, the Weisshorn, a superb exhibition of strength, agility and stamina.

After leaving Oxford in 1870 young Grenfell went in for rowing and with his crew heard the finishing gun first in several notable events. Even after he became a member of parliament he continued in regattas and as a member of the famous Leander crew rowed in a Grand Challenge Cup final and held the amateur punting championship while a member of the house. He was fond of engaging in unique feats. Once he stroked an eight oared crew across the turbulent English Channel and with two others sculled from Oxford to London in twenty-two hours. He was one of the founders of both the Queen's Club and Bath Club.

In addition to being president of the British Olympic Committee in 1908 he has always been a pillar of amateur sport in England and is now president of the Lawn Tennis Association, the Croquet Association, and the Amateur Fencing Association.

He has shot big game in India and Canada, angled for lampreys and other big fish, fenced, drives a four-in-hand, and in fact tackled every thing in the sporting line that an English gentleman may engage in from foot racing to elephant shooting and has, since he has left the nine active sporting events to younger blood, had a place in the government of about every sport worth while in the Old Country.

If you want to know anything about Lord Desborough's political, fraternal and social career, you'll have to ask "Politics" and "The Tattler," but I do know that when war broke out his two sons, Captain the Honorable Julian Henry Francis Grenfell, D. S. D., of the Royal Dragons, and the younger son, Honorable Gerald William Grenfell, of the Rifle Brigade, went to the front in the first call, served with distinction and both fell "On Flanders' Fields."



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Lord Desborough himself engaged in war work, was deputy director of the War Office and was responsible for the Upper Thames bridges and the London water supply intakes and was president of the National Motor Volunteers.

No man in England worked more incessantly or usefully during the war than Lord Desborough.

Chicago, Sept. 9.—The fiftieth anniversary of the first professional baseball championship game will be celebrated by the Old Timers' Baseball Association at a banquet here on October 13.

The game was played between the Cincinnati Red Stockings and the Chicago White Stockings on October 13, 1870, at the old Dexter Driving Park in this city.

The Cincinnati aggregation went down to defeat 16 to 8 at the hands of the Chicago team.

This game was practically the beginning of professional baseball, according to Al G. Spink of Chicago, secretary of the old association. The Old Timers' Baseball Association was organized about a year ago. It takes in persons who played in or who saw the game and now has about 1,000 members.

Ton Poley, manager of the old White Stockings team, is a member.

YOUTH RESPONDS TO SONG "KISS ME"

New York, Sept. 9.—(Associated Press.) The prima donna of an up-town burlesque show sang "Come to My Arms and Kiss Me," to Magistrate Simms in the Harlem Court last week.

Whereupon he, without hesitation, fined nineteen-year-old Charles Soiber \$3 for climbing over theatre footlights to answer the same call of the same singer last Monday.

Soiber, charged with disorderly conduct, following an "explosion of emotion" when he mounted the stage from his first row seat after the song had been "sung at him," declared he could not resist the appeal.

Magistrate Simms decided that first hand information was best, and decreed that "Come to My Arms and Kiss Me" be rendered in court.

PLAYS PIANO 105 HOURS.

Christchurch, N. Z., Sept. 8.—Albert Steele played the piano continuously for 105 hours, breaking the world's record by 62 minutes.

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DEVELOPMENT IN OYSTER CULTURE

W. F. Wells Has Conducted
Interesting Experiment in
Hatching Young Shell
Fish.

West Sayville, N. Y., Sept. 8.—Propagation of young oysters all ready to "set out" guaranteed to multiply with proper care into a flourishing brood, may result from experiments just concluded by W. F. Wells, of the New York Conservation Commission, who today reported on his extensive study of oyster breeding.

Mr. Wells, at his laboratory on the shore of the Great South Bay, has succeeded in keeping alive millions of young oysters from the larva to the "set" stage. In his report he said that hat-cheries modeled after his plant can be built wherein the oysters may be incubated until time to set them out in deep waters.

His method for developing oyster "sets" from oyster seed, or spawn, removes one of the chief obstacles in the commercial propagation of oysters, Mr. Wells said.

"The seeds are so small," he explained, "from the time they are laid by the oyster until they are mature enough to attach themselves to a surface in sets, that experimenters have had the greatest difficulty in devising a practicable commercial method of keeping the tiny shellfish supplied with a fresh supply of salt water and food without washing them all down the drain."

"When the oysters reach the set stage, they can safely be put in the beds to fend for themselves. After that time the oyster grows very rapidly for a period of some weeks and gains full maturity within three or four years."

One of the chief obstacles, that of handling the larvae, or tiny eggs, while changing their water, the report says, was overcome by the use of a centrifugal machine, which concentrates the eggs in a small receptacle. The hatching apparatus was made of a series of large inverted glass carboys, fitted with tubes which permitted a fresh supply of salt water and air to percolate so gradually that the development of the eggs was not retarded. Microscopic examination is necessary in following the gradual development of the eggs to the "set" stage.

Mr. Wells declared it is a well-known fact that in the last 10 years the production of oysters has been very much reduced. It was to determine the exact cause of this reduction, he said, that his studies were undertaken. It has been suggested, he said, that pollution of the waters has injured many of the most productive beds in Connecticut and in the vicinity of New York.

FORCE A CONVICT OUT OF SING SING

Charles Ortnor Could Have Gone Free Two Years Ago, But Insisted on Staying.

Ossining, Sept. 8.—Officials of Sing Sing have announced today that they were making preparations to throw Charles Ortnor, a stubborn inmate, out of the prison. He could not be coaxed to leave.

Ortnor was eligible for parole nearly two years ago, but refused to all invitations to sign his parole application and leave. He received an indeterminate sentence of from two to four years in Queens County. He had been charged with assaulting Alexander Gross, a fellow inmate, in a mill in Whitestown, L. I., with an iron weight.

When his minimum sentence expired, nearly two years ago, Warden William H. Moyer tried to induce Ortnor to sign a parole application and leave Sing Sing. He refused to sign anything. Later Warden Edward V. Brophy coaxed him to go home.

"The judge said two to four years," protested Ortnor, "and nothing about signing anything. So I will not sign. I'm perfectly satisfied here."

Major Lewis E. Lawes, the warden, admitted today that Sing Sing officials have given up all hopes of getting rid of Ortnor, and he said the warden said:

"This time is nearly up," said Major Lawes, "and we are going to put him out bodily."

He has been doing hard, laborious work in Sing Sing, but has not prejudiced him against prison life there.

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BIFF! BAFF! BANG!

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