



# SPORTS AND PASTIMES



THE meeting of the delegates of the Ontario and Quebec Rugby Football Unions took place in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on Saturday last. In a previous issue of the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED I endeavoured to point out the advantages of both unions being governed by a uniform system of playing rules, and I am glad to note that there are only very slight differences between the unions now when they play their own matches, but when they play the Canadian championship, whether it be in Ontario or Quebec or the Maritime Provinces or in the far-off Manitoba or British Columbia the rules will be the same. In politics a good many people do not believe in centralization of government, but in athletic sports federalism is a good thing, and a mild form of paternal despotism is much more advancing than the unthinking clamour of democracy. There must be a guiding hand somewhere, and a strong, mailed hand at that; there must be a thinking head somewhere and it must be a very level and determined one—if good results are to be looked for. Perhaps in no games are these conditions more necessary than in Rugby football. Take for instance the American game of baseball. Would it ever have attained its present popularity had there not been an iron-clad set of rules that none might vary? Here all the rules were uniform, whether the game was played in New Mexico or Maine, and all the people knew the rules. There was no possibility of dispute when a reference to the rules was made, and if there was the supreme power lay in the hands of the president of the league or the association. How different it has been in Canada! Here we have never had anything like uniformity worth mentioning. Even the national game of lacrosse has been supposed to be played under rules and regulations that were a sad misnomer. One end of the country played two hours, while the other end played the best three in five games. At other times reinstatement of professionals made one association the back door to the other, and so it worked, keeping matters at sixes and sevens all the time. In hockey it is much the same way. The Maritime Province men do not think our rules worth considering—and the feeling is mutual—for we play entirely different games. In football the difference, up to last season, was even more marked, and it was next to an impossibility for an Ontario man to keep tabs when a match was played in Quebec. But all this has been changed for the better, at least as far as football is concerned, and in future the inter-provincial championship matches will be played under rules that everybody will understand.

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There were two points of difference between the Ontario and Quebec men, but they were overcome without much difficulty. In the rule regarding the ball being "fairly held" the Ontario Union calls for "more than two hands," while the Quebec rule reads as follows:—

"When a player having possession of the ball is tackled, the ball is fairly held (a) when the player possessing it calls 'held,' (b), when it is not moving, (c) when two or more hands on the opposite side are on the ball."

In this instance to my mind the Quebec rule fulfils all the conditions, for if one tackle gets both hands on the ball something is going to happen, while if two men tackle the possessor there is no doubt but the latter will go down and the ball will be motionless anyhow. In this point the Ontario men were brought around to think like the Quebec delegates and the Canadian Union rule is now synonymous with the one just quoted. The other point of dispute was in relation to the appointment of a new official, designated as umpire. This office had been created at the annual meeting of the Ontario Union, but the latter body had considerably left a definition of its duties open until there had been time to consult with the Quebec Union. As it stands it seems, so far as can be yet judged, that an umpire, or rather as I would call him, a second referee, was a very much needed institution in our Canadian game. In England, where the game is an old institution, where it is, so to speak, traditional for every well developed boy to play Rugby, the case is different, and the spirit of the game that

permeates the players prevents many of the violations of the rules that are met with on this side of the water. Under our style of play it is impossible for one man in the position of referee to watch the work of the wings. The wings are slippery individuals at the best of times and when a referee is busy with a scrimmage it would take several pairs of eyes to watch the blocking and off-side play that is indulged in, sometimes with very good effect, too. Some of the Montreal delegates did not agree with this idea, notably Mr. Yates, of McGill, the only man who finally voted against the new institution. And so the whole matter resolves itself into this:—In provincial matches Quebec will read her own rules; in championship matches the same rules hold good with the exception of the umpire clause. The Ontario men in championship matches will work under their old rules with the exception of not requiring more than two hands on the ball to have it "held." We have got so near uniformity that there seems but very little in the way to keep us away from one Dominion rule to which all clubs and all associations must bow. Next year will probably settle this little difficulty. The meeting this year accomplished more than might reasonably have been expected of it, and after one season's trial of the compended rules there will be an easy road for the Canadian Rugby Union to travel over.

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The constitution of the new Canadian Rugby Union covers about all the necessary points. It reads as follows:—

1. The name of the union shall be the Canadian Rugby Union.

2. Any district union in the Dominion willing to comply with the rules of the union may be elected to membership on application to the secretary, and on payment of an annual fee of ten dollars in advance. Exclusive of the officers of the union, a district union, with a membership of three organized clubs, shall be entitled to representation at all meetings by three delegates; a union with a smaller membership shall be entitled to representation by one delegate.

3. The annual meeting to be held on the third Saturday of December, at such place as the union may decide. Ten days' notice of all meetings shall be given by the secretary to the members of the union and to all delegates entitled to attend, and shall contain a summary of the business to come before the meeting. At all meetings four shall form a quorum.

4. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. They shall consist of a president, vice-president and a secretary treasurer—and shall constitute the executive of the union. Ex-officers of the union shall be entitled to be present at all meetings and may speak or make a motion but may not vote. During their term of office the executive shall have full control and responsibility of the finances of the union, the details of championship matches in accordance with the regulations for the same, and other ordinary business of the union, subject to the approval of the union at the following general meeting. The executive of the union may call a general meeting at any time, and must do so at the written request of three delegates.

5. Any of the officers may call a meeting of the executive at any time on three days' notice. Two shall form a quorum.

6. Questions referred to the union may be settled by correspondence, or if considered expedient by the executive may be held over till the next general meeting.

7. Alterations to the rules of the game and the constitution of the union shall be made only at annual meetings and by a two-thirds' vote of those present at the meeting. Notice of the proposed alterations shall be sent to the secretary at least two weeks before the annual meeting and shall at once be forwarded by him to the members of the union and to all delegates entitled to be present.

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The regulations for championship matches will also meet with the approval of most football men, while the laws of the game, with the exception of the two rules referred to above, stand as they were before. The regulations for championship matches are as follows:—

1. The championship of the union shall be contested for annually (as the union may from year to year decide), under the rules of the game as adopted by the union, and at such places and dates as the executive union may appoint.

2. The executive of the union shall provide grounds and attend to other details of the championship matches. The expenses of travelling teams shall, when possible, be paid, *pro rata*, out of the gate receipts.

3. Matches shall last for one and one-half hours actual play, with an intermission of five minutes, and in case of a draw extra time shall be played, if, in the opinion of the referee, it is practicable. No delay shall exceed five minutes.

4. In the event of the competing teams failing to agree, the referee shall be appointed by the president. The referee shall not be a member of either of the competing clubs.

5. The secretary shall give one month's notice of the date of championship matches to the secretaries of the district unions. The championship match shall be played, when practicable, on Thanksgiving day.

6. All protests in connection with championship matches shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$25, which sum shall be forfeited to the union if the protest is not allowed.

7. Alterations to these regulations shall be made only at a general meeting of the union. Notice of the proposed alterations shall be sent to the secretary at least two weeks before the annual meeting, and shall at once be forwarded by him to the members of the union and to all the delegates entitled to attend.

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How times will keep on changing! Last week there was every possibility for a comparatively early curling and hockey season. This week all hopes have been dashed to the ground and we are moping round with the dismal recollection of just how bad a "green Christmas and a fresh churchyard" may be. Nobody likes a mild Christmas; it seems against the natural order of things, and in Canada it is particularly disappointing. A wet Christmas here even makes one begrudge the toys and things that will fill expectant stockings on the morn of the great natal day. The little ones, God bless them, don't care whether it hails, rains or shines. The delightful fabrication of Santa Claus would give old St. Nicholas a new cause for happiness were he still mundane. Of course the babies will get the toys, the picture books, the candies and other pardonable fallacies of very early youth, and with eager ears will listen while papa talks up the chimney and tells Santa Claus just how good or how naughty we have been, and what rocking horses or drums or pictures would be calculated to make us better next year; and the good old man with the fur cap and white whiskers and big boots, with a pack on his back, usually finds something to suit all necessities. Christmas is Christmas anyhow; but it looks more like what we have been led to expect if the weather is crisp and cold, the snow white, not muddy, and the atmosphere such as one may enjoy a brisk walk in. Christmas without cold is a delusion. One feels that he has been imposed upon when he looks at the calendar and murmurs a requiem on the dying year. We buy Christmas presents and all that sort of thing; we make the little ones happy and then, when it is all over, we wonder why we can't have a little fun on our own account, even if we are getting old. But the weather won't let us. We cannot skate with any degree of satisfaction, hockey is out of the question, snowshoeing has to be done in sleighs, and curling seems just a reminiscence of last year. If the thermometer, to use a vulgarism, would only "take a tumble," things would be different, but the thermometer is unconscionable. I would like to say something about our winter sports, but the conditions have been so unfavourable as to make this impossible at the time of writing. Months may come and months may go and times may change, but let us hope that our good Canadian sports that should be in their zenith at this time of year, will never have a green Christmas and may for decades to come preserve their pristine vigour and be the manly characteristic of the sons of the Anglo-Saxon or the descendants of the North Land. Vale!

R.O.X.

## Wedding Veils.

A new kind of wedding veil was worn by Lady Sarah Spencer Churchill in her recent marriage ceremony. Mrs. Mason, the well-known and deservedly celebrated London modiste, had conceived the idea of utilizing crêpe lisse instead of the more conventional tulle, which is generally employed when a lace shawl does not form part of the bride's *corbeille*. This crêpe lisse that, as every one knows, is beautiful in its manner of draping, and takes lovely folds, was bordered with pearls, which carried out the trimming on the wedding dress. It is cause for wonder that other diaphanous fabrics are not more often employed. For instance very thin silk gauze, if it was obtainable in a wide width, or one of those lovely nets that are sprinkled over with little tiny glass beads, so that it looks more like a powdering of hoar frost than any other thing. Chiffon also, with its softly falling draperies, would be extremely pretty. And besides these there are innumerable tulle that are spangled with white jet, silver or gold, which would advantageously enhance a bride's general appearance, and relieve the mass of dead white with which the bridal costume generally surrounds her.