



The championship of the Quebec Rugby Football Union has been decided in a satisfactory manner, at least to the Montreal club, who once more hold the proud title not only of senior but also of intermediate champions, while the junior honours are still held by McGill, the Britannias being left without a title, although their defeat of McGill promised very favourably for better results. The football season in Quebec is such a short one that but a very few words are required to make a synopsis. The season opened with the McGills champions, and the first match played was with Bishop's College. The latter were easily defeated, and when during the following week the Collegians easily beat the Montrealers, it looked as if the title would rest another year with old McGill. Then the Britannias came along, and after a most brilliant game that surprised even some of the Brits' most sanguine friends, the tables were turned. So superior did the blue jersey appear, that few could understand the Montrealers, who had been defeated easily by the college men, having any chance at all, with such a powerful combination against them. But this time the personnel of the Montreal team was considerably changed and the team strengthened, the forward division being almost impregnable. This, together with the fact that the latest English wrinkle of swinging round in the scrimmage was adopted, was in a large measure accountable for their success. Then there was a dispute as to whether the Britannias or McGills had the right to play in the final match; this was decided in favour of the college men, and on Saturday last the best match of the season was played on the M. A. A. A. grounds, the result being a decided victory for Montreal, the score being: Montreal, 33; McGill, 9.

In the beginning the college men were considerably handicapped by having to play in the teeth of a very strong wind, that would have spoiled the best punting in the world. Bad luck seemed to follow them, for when the second half was begun the wind had considerably moderated and was not nearly as advantageous to the college as it had been to their opponents in the first half time. There was scarcely a weak spot on either team, but the Montreal forwards and wings had a shade the best of it. It was impossible for McGill to wedge a way through the line, and as every time the ball was passed back it was nearly useless to kick against such a wind, their only chance was in running, but the tackling of the Montreal wings was so prompt and decisive that notwithstanding really good play the college could not force a solitary point in the first half, while Montreal got together just two dozen. The back division of McGill worked like Trojans, while the wind gave the Montreal backs a comparatively easy time. Referee Arnton was decidedly lenient in the way of off-sides, but his decisions all gave satisfaction. The following were the teams:—

Montreal—Miller, Claxton, Taylor, Campbell, Fairbanks, Fry, Smith, Mitchell, Jamieson, Higginson, James, R. Campbell, Black, Bell, Reford.
McGill—Donohue, Goulet, Robinson, Mathewson, Smart, Elder, King, Taylor, McDougall, McFarland, Hamilton, Primrose, Whyte, Yates, Guthrie.

The game opened with a rush, and the weight of the Montreal forwards was too much for the college men. A pass from Smith to Campbell resulted in a try, but it was not converted into a goal. A few minutes later on Campbell made another rattling run and secured a try, but no goal was secured. A third try failed to result in anything more than four points. Next McGill was forced to rouge, and the fourth try, again made by Campbell, brought the score up to 17 to 0 in favour of Montreal. McGill, so to speak, was not in it, for after five minutes' play Campbell kicked the ball

over the line and Bell secured another try—24 points to zero in favour of Montreal. This seemed too big a lead to be overcome, still the collegians settled down with the grim determination of the average football man. But the best they could do was to make things even for the second half's play. Both teams scored nine points each, which brought the score up to 33 to 9. The wind was in favour of McGill in the second half but it was not nearly so strong, and although the McGills had what advantage there was, the strength of the Montrealers was apparent. But McGill played a plucky, up-hill game, and they never quit until the referee's whistle blew.

More than usual interest will be taken all through the athletic world in the new sensation served up for its delectation by Mr. Frederick W. Janssen, of the Staten Island Athletic club. Since the break-up of the N. A. A. A., and the formation of the Amateur Athletic Union, although things have been supposed to run smoothly, there has never really been that *esprit du corps* which is absolutely necessary to make large associations successful. The abuses which had crept in during the regime of the N. A. A. A. were partially corrected under the rule of the A. A. U., but only after a bitter and long continued quarrel, while the enmity between the two leading clubs has never been half concealed, the winged foot and the cherry diamond being practically engaged in open warfare up to the present time. The A. A. U. at its formation looked for numbers; and the benefits of one vast organization, where every club would be represented, were held out in such an alluring light that the numbers came more rapidly than even was expected, and like many another organization the affair has grown unwieldy; while what may be looked upon as the small fry have considerably more than a balance of power in athletics. This fact sits heavily on the shoulders of the wealthier clubs, and Mr. Janssen's idea is to get rid of the incubus by the formation of a sort of close corporation between the richer clubs, while those organizations which have nothing but mere athletics to recommend them and who cannot afford to import crack athletes from over the water will be left to look after themselves as best they can. The scheme, however, which Mr. Janssen puts forth is carefully masked by the suggestion of forming an athletic freemasonry for social purposes only. He proposes to call this new venture "The United States League of Athletic Clubs," and says in the introductory paragraph:

"The principal object for which this league is formed is the establishment and maintenance of a fraternal alliance or freemasonry between the representative athletic clubs, and the individual members thereof, of both this country and Canada. The largest percentage of members in our leading athletic clubs of to-day form a strictly social class in themselves, and although taking a lively interest in all that pertains to sport, do not engage in it actively. It is to this class that we desire principally to appeal. The athletic class, by reason of its prominence and conspicuity, gain an entree in whatever city they may be called to defend their laurels, and therefore have no need of special introduction, but the social class require a passport by which they can secure equal advantages while visiting in distant cities."

The prospectus then continues:

"It is also the intention of the league to foster and promote all sports, games and pastimes of every description, to the particular advantage of its own members, independent of all other organizations in the United States and Canada, at the same time not being antagonistic to any association enjoying a national jurisdiction."

This clause means practically open warfare with the A. A. U., as it intends to foster sport to the advantage of its own members primarily, although cloaking the true inwardness by expressing a desire not to be antagonistic. The jurisdiction which the new league intends to claim is very far-reaching, and embraces archery, baseball, billiards, boating, bowling, boxing, canoeing, cards, court tennis, cricket, croquet, cross-country running, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, hammer throwing, handball, ice boating, jumping, lacrosse, lawn tennis, polo, pool, quoits, racquets, riding, running, shooting, shot putting, shuffle-board, skating, swimming, tugs-of-war, vaulting, walking, weight throwing, wrestling and yachting. No club numbering less than four hundred members, with property worth less than \$30,000, is eligible, and

Mr. Janssen submits a list of twenty-eight clubs whose aggregate finances reach over \$3,000,000. Out of this number he says he has received favourable responses from over fifty per cent. It is a very nice Utopian scheme for rich athletic clubs who would like to own the athletic earth and the social fulness thereof; but to the democratic athletic mind, whose ideas of athletics are not predominated by social ones, the scheme is misty and fraught with failure. If Mr. Janssen wants to make a social freemasonry there are several ways to accomplish that end; but it is a little rough on the honest, brawny athlete who makes his reputation in the field or on the cinder path to be used for the purpose of having certain wealthy young men, who pose as patrons of athletics, assume dudesque attitudes, wear the club's badge and say to on-lookers:—"We are the blue square, or the cherry rhombus; in fact, you know, we just patronize these athletic fellows; will you have a cigarette?"

Tobogganing used to be one of our good old Canadian sports that went happily along in a quiet and conservative way for many years until an epidemic of Carnival bacilli struck it. Then came an exaggeration of the pleasant disease. The exaggeration came like everything else that that nation of marked exaggerations, the United States, ever took hold of. They came to the winter carnival; they liked tobogganing, because it only took a short time to get from one place to another; and with the aid of obliging Canadian steersmen they tobogganed most of the time. They demanded more toboggan, and each succeeding carnival supplied the demand. There was a boom in tobogganing that flared up with a burst of flame, then flickered and next almost went out, though not quite; for there are some smouldering embers of the pine torches left. But the injury done to the sport will last for some time to come. Pie is a very good thing in its way; so is tobogganing. And too much of a good thing is always liable to cause difficulties. Montrealers, with the exception of an enthusiastic few hundreds, have been satiated with too much tobogganing. The American demand caused the formation of too many clubs, the building of too many slides, and the ultimate financial loss of all concerned. Last year the Montreal Tobogganing Club practically suspended its existence and devoted its attention to skating, a move that was happy in its results. This year they have done likewise, and once more the M. A. A. A. grounds will be converted into a mammoth rink with a racing track seven laps to the mile. The only toboggan club showing any signs of life and energy is the Park, and even this one is not sure of a prolonged existence unless there is marked revival in the sport. It would be a pity if, even for a single season, the sport should be altogether done away with, but that is just what is likely to happen if the advocates of the slide do not combine their forces and send in enough subscriptions to enable the officials of the Park club to run the slide without financial loss. And there is no time to be lost.

R.O.X.

The Halifax *Critic* thus refers to a practice that is extensively indulged in by a number of Canadian newspapers:—

"Some so called Canadian newspapers are in the habit of publishing the portraits of men of greater or less (generally less) importance in the United States, and taking up their supposedly 'valuable space' by telling what these worthies have done to be so honoured. The practice has been carried out without comment for a long time, and people have continued to skip these most uninteresting articles with regularity and faint protests against having such 'stuff' published in Canadian papers. The Dominion Illustrated has seen the opportunity for a take-off of this practice and is publishing skits that will probably do more towards shutting off the supply of Yankee biography than any other process. Ridicule is a powerful weapon, and we hope the Dominion Illustrated will succeed in checking the invasion of foreign faces in our newspapers."