

before being translated to the happy hunting grounds, still it is without doubt its rightful and lineal descendant. The fact is that Lacrosse as originally played by the red men simply gave the white players the idea which has since been developed by them into a game suited to their own physical condition and surroundings. Lacrosse was first introduced, or rather adopted by the whites in Canada, by the organization of a club in Montreal some forty years ago. The club was small and uninfluential, and the game remained almost dormant for nearly twenty years. In the year 1860, in the City of Montreal, there was an Exhibition Match of the Indian game of Lacrosse, which was played between picked teams of Indians and whites, twenty-five playing on each side. This publicity was the making of the game, so far as Canada was concerned. From that time a more energetic class of young men took it up, and the result was that in Montreal, at least, it became a very popular field game. In the year 1867, the Montreal Club, which must be accorded the honour of being the pioneer white club of Canada, and the "Alma Mater" of the game, framed the first laws of Lacrosse, and shortly afterward a convention of clubs was held in Montreal, to organize an association for the government of clubs and the guidance of the game. The result of this Convention was the formation of "*The National Lacrosse Association of Canada*," which organization has ever since done good work in popularizing the game by eliminating the rougher elements and encouraging its more scientific practice.

Shortly after the formation of the National Association the game received a further impetus from the generosity of Mr. T. J. Claxton, a prominent merchant of Montreal, who showed a practical appreciation of healthy athletic sport, by offering for competition amongst the clubs of that city, a challenge trophy consisting of a set of handsomely embroidered silk flags with silver-mounted poles, valued at \$250. The preliminary contests for the "Claxton Flags," as this trophy was called, resulted in favour of the Montreal Club, who subsequently succeeded in holding them against all comers, until under the conditions of the gift they became their absolute property.