

**Wanted: Some
Change
in Football.**

So there must be another year of interminable scrimmages and pile-ups, of disgusted spectators and not over-enthusiastic players! Popular expectations received a rude shock when the C.I.R.F.U. rejected the Burnside Rules last month; the time seemed ripe for a change. However, it is only a matter of time. The change is bound to come; and when it does, Canadian football will take on a new form—become English, as it once was and as it still is outside Ontario and Quebec, or advance another step towards Americanization. We fear that a recantation and a return to our old, simple football faith is not among the probabilities. We know the English game. We know its virtues—that it ensures an open and less precise style of play, because of the uncertainty attaching to possession of the ball; and that both players and spectators are able to enjoy it. But our national character seems to be developing along other lines. Precision we must have in football as in everything else. We demand open play, but, at the same time, what is antagonistic to it—scientific play. We abandoned the uncertainty of the English scrimmage for the comparative certainty of the Canadian scrimmage, and now, in the Burnside Rules, we have the American centre-rush and certain possession of the ball—nothing, that is, to upset scientific calculations. If the English game is not to be, then the sooner the Burnside Rules are brought in the better. They may not prove the panacea that admirers protest they will. When the new conditions become familiar, new manoeuvres will be devised which will change the Burnside game just as the Canadian game was changed by the introduction of American tactics. But nevertheless Burnside Rules are an improvement, and for a few years, at any rate, they will defy the machinations of the wildest tacticians. Every member of the "Big Four" regards them with favour. In response to enquiries made by THE TIMES, the President of the Ridley team, while unable "to speak definitely yet with regard to their adoption in the schools," expresses the opinion that they have advantages over the old game. St. Andrew's will "most heartily co-operate with the other Colleges." Trinity College School will "give the matter the most serious consideration." Is there not some hope of an understanding being reached before the next football season? We can see no reason why the matter should be left in abeyance until one or other of the big senior organizations sees fit to act. Let the schools show the way.