

The Wind Up of the Hockey Season

THE hockey season is over, or practically so; an odd game or two, perhaps, and Canada's most fascinating—to say nothing of exciting—winter sport will be a thing of the past.

Looking back with a critical eye, one fails to find any startling features, except in a few isolated cases, but the general improvement in the quality of the play, as well as the increased interest in the game, as evidenced by the large number of teams engaged, is very manifest.

Indeed to such a degree of excellence has the game now attained, that we feel justified in saying, that our hockeyists are to-day the best in the world. This may seem high praise, but it is richly deserved.

Of course this condition of things hasn't been brought about without an effort—rather has persistent and well directed practice been responsible for it.

It is not the intention or purpose to go into the details of any of the games, as that has already been done in the columns of the local press, one might say almost *ad nauseam*, but merely to refer briefly to the prominent features in some of them.

That there have been surprises goes without saying. Perhaps the greatest of these was in the game be-

and simple? This is liable to occur in hockey, as out of it, and the recent changes in the position of the teams is probably due more to hard practice than anything else. Let us hope so, at all events, and take this as a guide for the future.

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Edward Payson Weston, the most wonderful walker in the world, is a living example of the benefits of a temperate life (he is a total abstainer) and exercise, as the promoters of health and preservers of physical vigor. He is now engaged in a tramp across the American Continent, and is days ahead of his schedule. He has announced his intention of walking 80 miles on his 72nd birthday—a wonderful feat for a man his age.

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THE Inter-Collegiate hockey season wound up in a bit of a muddle. Toronto Varsity appeared to have the championship won when defeated by Queen's on Toronto ice and McGill in Montreal threw the Toronto students into a tie with Queen's and McGill. At a meeting to arrange the play-off Varsity were ordered to meet McGill at Ottawa and the winners to meet Queen's in Ottawa, Queen's as last year's champions being given the bye. Varsity entered



Queen's University Hockey Team which won the Intercollegiate Championship by defeating McGill University Team at Ottawa on March 5th.

Photograph by J. G. Evans

tween the Kingston Frontenacs and the Prestons, where the former team, after being what was considered hopelessly beaten, seemed all of a sudden to take on a new lease of life, and with that desperation that is said to be born of despair, rose to the occasion, and in their now famous "whirlwind finish," scored 3 goals in 6 minutes, thereby winning the match, and the Junior O. H. A. championship, in the very last minute of the play—in fact they had but 40 seconds to spare!

Another genuine "surprise," and a truly remarkable feat, was that of Fred. Taylor of the Renfrews—the "Millionaire Club"—as they are called, in scoring a goal, by skating backwards, as though, not content with the overwhelming defeat his team was administering to the unfortunate Ottawas (the final score was 17 to 2!), he wished further to add insult to injury.

Other cases might be mentioned where the "unexpected" certainly happened, but not in quite so startling a manner, as those just given.

After all, aren't we sometimes prone to attribute success to luck, or may be fortuitous circumstances, when in reality it is nothing but merit, pure

and vigorous protest against this arrangement and as it passed unheeded they withdrew from the Association. Queen's then met McGill in Ottawa and defeated them for the championship. Queen's afterwards successfully defended the Montagu Allan cup against Ottawa Cliffside, champions of the Inter-Provincial Union

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FROM hockey to baseball is almost a hop-step-and-jump in Canada, with a brief interim of marbles and skipping-ropes. The small boy, however, does not linger so long over his marbles as he used to. He yearns for the corner lot and the padded mitt. Already baseball fever is commencing. The first touch of real green on the grass of either March or April gives the "fan" the tired feeling about hockey. Curling is over. The stones are corraled and the brooms stacked away. The curlers are talking about bowls and speculating on the teams for next summer's tournaments. Spring may be determined so far as women are concerned by the desire for a new hat. But the masculine seasons are marked out by the panorama of the sports.

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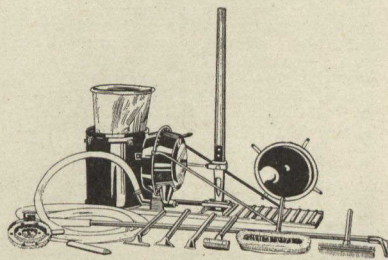
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