



The spring meeting of the Ontario Jockey club gave every promise of being the success that the generous efforts of the club deserve. It must also be a source of pleasure to the men who contributed their abundance to see how owners flocked in with their entries. The numbers for the Carlslake stake beat the record, so to speak, and the entries for the others were all well up. The Bel-Air club's races give equal promise, and a visit to the track at the present time is an agreeable surprise to the person who has not seen it since the Fall races. The track proper has been gone over again and loamed, while the jumps on the steeplechase course have been rebuilt and hedged and the take-offs strengthened. In fact, there has been considerable improvement all round, and it is the intention of the management to keep on making improvements until there will not be its equal in Canada or its superior on the continent.

The sporting season opened with a rush on Saturday and Monday last, and the number of events which were crowded into these two days permits of scarcely more than a passing mention in these columns. The most important was the spring meeting of the Ontario Jockey Club, the success of which far surpassed anything hitherto undertaken by a Canadian jockey club. Fifteen thousand people on the opening day and nearly twenty thousand on the second day makes a record of which the citizens of Toronto may well feel proud. If something like the same sort of encouragement were meted out to the Bel-Air club on race days things would be much improved. Without hearty popular support, no track—no matter how well managed—can exist, for it is a very serious and a very costly business to run a race track; but if such results can be achieved in Toronto it is difficult to understand why such should not be the case in Montreal also. The wealth and fashion of the Queen City all flocked to the Woodbine; Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton, London, and a great many other Canadian cities were well represented, not to speak of our cousins from over the way, who wanted to get an inkling as to how running meetings are managed in this Canada of ours. And nothing but praise could be found for the management. Although not by any means the most valuable of the meeting the race for the Guineas is generally looked on as the most important event on the card and is certainly the one about which there is most speculation. A first class field of twelve faced the starter in the race, and a good deal of guessing was permissible when it comes to be remembered that there was but a shade of difference in the odds between the first five. The Terror colt, which, after the race, was so happily named Victorious by the Governor-General, was a little bit of a surprise, not in the winning of the race, but in the way he won it. A couple of lengths to spare from La Blanche and a good deal still left in the gelding will help to popularize Terror blood. Victorious is not a particularly good looking animal; he is one of those long-striding slashing big fellows, but he comes of stock hard to beat, being by Terror—Bonnie Vic. The Queen's Plate was his first race, but if he keeps up to anything like the promise given on Saturday he will be a very uncomfortable antagonist for province bred. In the first race M. J. Daley's Salisbury was a strong favourite, and popular opinion was justified by the result. In the steeplechase on the first day the favourite, Mackenzie, finished third, a fall helping to let Lochiel into the place, and quite a lot of money went with the fall. The Toronto Cup was a moral for My Fellow, and the race was consequently somewhat uninteresting. Mr. Higgins' chestnut happened to be in good humour, so he just galloped away from his field. Hercules, who has already put many dollars in his owner's pockets this season kept up his winning gait, and added another bracket to his name in the hurdle race, but he had his work cut out for him for all that, and Gladiator gave him all he could do at the finish, only half a length separating them. The last race of the day was the Free Welter Handicap, which turned out to be an easy mark for Lord of the Harem. Although a fairly good day for favourites there were a few things to be learned. The season had been backward in Montreal, and it was natural to suppose that the Dawes' string would hardly be fit. Zea, however, went a long way towards dispelling that illusion, and her backers took in considerable money at 8 to 1 for a place. This led a good many

to suppose that Redfellow might have some chance for a place, but the big horse was too slow. Congratulations were showered on Mr. Seagram at the end of the race, and he deserved them all. His victory for the Plate was a popular one, because he is one of the genuine sportsmen who like sport for its own sake.

The sensation of the second day was the winning of the Woodstock Plate by Addie, a filly very much neglected in the books, against whom 40 to 1 was offered to win and 20 to 1 for the place. The race was a mile and a furlong, and even then it proved that there is such a thing as waiting too long. Nobody ever thought that the filly could be dangerous, so that when she was sent along for all that she was worth at the fall of the flag, the rest of the field thought she had shot her bolt and would soon come back to them. But she did not. She lasted out just long enough to win by a neck from Versatile and land a pot of money. And then everybody said, "It might have been different," etc. Undoubtedly it might; but that comes from underrating an opponent. Mr. Daly has a money-maker in Salisbury, and the sprinter carried off the Club House purse with apparent ease. But decidedly the best horse at the meeting, and perhaps in Canada, is Mr. Higgins' chestnut My Fellow. The way in which he cantered off with the Carlslake handicap and left such horses behind as Mirabeau, Marauder, Redfellow and Bohemian, was a caution; and then he looked as fresh as if he had just come in from a practice gallop. In the Piper Heidsieck steeplechase Mackenzie was again a hot favourite, but he seems to be playing with Fortune against him. A tumble at the rails and the backers' money vanished into thin air, Repeater again capturing the purse. The Walker Cup fell to the Queen City stables, the only horses really in it being Sam Wood and Ely, although Pericles showed well for three-quarters and Calgary made a big effort in the last stretch. The hurdle race, which wound up the card on the second day, was the most uninteresting of the meeting. There was nothing in it but Lochiel, and from all appearances it would have been just as enjoyable if he had walked over the course. At the time of writing there are still two days of the meeting to finish. If they are anything like as successful as the opening ones then the Ontario Jockey Club have every reason to congratulate themselves on having given the best race meeting ever held in Canada.

The opening of the lacrosse season was watched with more or less interest on Monday last. The matches might be put down as preliminary canterers in the race for superiority, and something of the probabilities might be gleaned from the form shown on the field. In Montreal the Shamrocks and Cornwalls played an exhibition match. It was of just that sort which may be expected at the beginning of the season, when the players are only in about half condition. At the beginning things went along with a rush, and the Shamrock home were doing very promising work indeed, but the spark soon faded and they were at the mercy of their longer-winded opponents. The two first games were fairly fast and the Shamrocks had somewhat the best of it, obliging Cornwall to act on the defensive most of the time. Then play gradually got ragged and there was a tincture of roughness that the referee might have paid a little more attention to. Much better lacrosse will have to be played if the standard of the last few years is to be kept up. Both homes are strong; both defences are markedly weak.

In Toronto the case was different. The season, of course, is earlier in the West, and more time has been had for practice. The Torontos, however, were not over-confident and took no laying-off chances, so they beat the visitors after a close match, and one in which very creditable play was shown for so early in the season. Both teams will be considerably strengthened before the next match, on the 13th ult., and when the games begin for the cup there will be some lacrosse that will be surprising.

The first match for the C. L. A. championship has been played, and the Athletics have beaten the Torontos four straight games. This was to be expected, considering that the best part of Toronto's team was engaged on the same day with the Montreals. In Ottawa there were two matches, in both of which the visitors were played fox and goose with, the Ottawa Capitals defeating the Indians and the Ottawas beating the Toronto Capitals.

An item has been going the rounds of the press to the effect that the Quebec Government have decided to take active steps for the preservation of fish and game in the pro-

vince. Everybody long ago was perfectly well aware of the destruction of our finny and feathered game except the Government. If the latter have at last had some of the scales lifted from their eyes,—well, let us all be profoundly thankful, and hope for the best.

The football players of the Ottawa Athletic Association are putting in some good hard practice for their match with the United States International team on June 6th, the latter team staying over at Ottawa on their way to England. The Vankees will also be heard the football lions in their dens at Berlin and Toronto, where they will find their work cut out for them, but judging from the experience of the Canadians in New England last year the Yankees will likely come out on top again.

The annual tournament of the Canadian Lawn Tennis association is always an event looked forward to with much interest by lovers of the graceful pastime. This year it will be held on the Toronto club's grounds on July 14th, the principal competitions being:—

1. Gentlemen's single for the all-comers' prize. The winner of this event will be called on to play Mr. E. E. Tanner, of Buffalo, for the challenge cup of the Association, which has to be won three years in succession by the player before it becomes his property.

2. Gentlemen's doubles. This year it is proposed to give two cups to be played for on the same terms as the challenge cup, the winners to be entitled to be called "Champions of Canada." Prizes will also be given.

The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association has always merited so much of the public confidence and been managed in such a business-like way that if by any chance an unfavourable statement of the year's work had been made there would be consternation in many quarters. As it is, however, the association is becoming wealthier, more powerful, and is doing more good every season. The figures of last year's treasurer's statement may be condensed as follows:—The total revenue of the Association and its affiliated clubs was \$18,387 and the total expenditure \$11,860. Their assets amount to \$108,450 and exceed the liabilities by \$73,504, which sum represents the present capital of the M. A. A. A. The Board of Directors is composed of three members from each club, and the election resulted as follows:—Lacrosse—C. W. Hager, E. H. Brown, T. L. Paton. Snowshoe—F. C. A. McIndoe, W. L. Maltby, W. A. H. Dodds. Bicycle—A. T. Lane, G. Kingham, D. J. Watson. Toboggan—J. F. Scriver, J. A. Taylor, M. Freeman. Football—W. C. Hodgson, P. Barton, F. W. Taylor. The new board will meet shortly to elect a president.

The lines of the professional oarsman do not seem to be falling in particularly pleasant places just now, and Mr. Teemer says there will be very little interest taken in professional sculling until some of the Australians cross the Pacific. The championship of America, which Messrs. Teemer and O'Connor patriotically offered to row at Lachine for, if the well-known generosity of our citizens would put up a trifle in the shape of a \$5,000 purse, does not seem to be so important an event after all, for the generous citizen did not come forward to any great extent, and even the Exhibition committee thought they had enough to do to attend to their own business. Now the talk is of a double scull race in which Gaudaur and McKay will be pitted against Hanlan and O'Connor. Perhaps this scheme will have better luck, but I doubt it, although one end has signed articles.

The Royal Canadian Yacht club has a busy and brilliant season before it, and a new interest will be added to its sailing programme by the competition for the Queen's Cup, which will take place on Dominion Day. The sailing committee have divided the fleet into the following classes for the season:—First class, yachts over 46 feet, corrected length; 46-foot class, over 30 and up to and including 46 feet, corrected length; 30-foot class, over 25 feet and up to 30 feet; 25-foot class, between 21 and 25 feet; 21-foot class, yachts 21 feet and under. Skiff; must not be more than 19 feet l.w.l., beam not more than 5 feet nor less than three. A programme of three events in each of these classes has been arranged as follows:—May 30, 21 foot class; June 6, 25-foot class; June 13, skiff class; June 20, cruising race, first and 46 foot classes; June 27, 30-foot class; July 1, Queen's Cup, value 500 sovereigns; July 4, 21-foot class; July 11, 25-foot class; July 16, Murray Cup, to be given to the first R.C.Y.C. boat in the 46-foot class; August 1, skiff class, Lansdowne Cup, yachts over