



Last week I remarked that Montreal would come out very much on top in the lacrosse match with the Ottawas, and the prediction was verified very forcibly. Ottawa was to a certain extent the sport of circumstances, as a mistake had been made somewhere and the visitors went on the field like the proverbial daw in borrowed plumage and with borrowed weapons. The strange part of it was that when their own properties arrived they did not get along so well as with the borrowed ones. The match itself was only a mediocre one, much more interesting ones having been played this season, and a much better game will have to be played if Toronto is to be defeated. The score of six to one does not give any idea of what the match was like, for Ottawa, as far as play was concerned, should have scored three games instead of one.

The Leroux protest is now under consideration, and probably some decision will be come to about Christmas time, if the same delays are going to characterize the proceedings that have marked them since the first protest was lodged. It looks as if the intention were to do nothing until the end of the season; then, of course, it will be too late, and matters will dawdle along until next year, when some more legislation will be done and the legislators will feel happy in being such worthy disciples of the sprightly little Barnacles of the Circumlocution Amateur Antediluvian Association.

By the way, what is the senior league playing for this year outside of gate receipts? What trophy will be awarded the successful club? The shield, which is now in possession of the Montreal club, was never intended as a piece of challenge plate, and I think the original agreement made that matter clear. Would it not be well that the executive consider the question, because the members of the winning team will be anxious to know what sort of a present they are going to make to their club.

The Torontos are looking forward with considerable confidence to the coming struggle on the Rosedale grounds with their old-time rivals, the Montrealers. The Western men have not been going into fast training, but they have been keeping themselves in good condition, and when the men in grey go to the Queen City they will have quite a lot of work cut out for them to win. With the moral support of playing on their own grounds and an enthusiastic crowd to cheer them on, together with that splendid home of Toronto, the odds seem to be considerably in favour of the latter.

It is certainly not the fault of the gentlemen who have the management of the Bel-Air track in hand if the general public is not aroused to a full appreciation of the beauties of horse racing. Ever since the organization of the club there has been one continuous outflow of money in making improvements and adopting new suggestions. It has been a losing game for the men who had to put their hands in their pockets; but, like genuine sportsmen, they have held on, and they intend to hold on until the track is made the best and most popular in Canada. If grit and perseverance and generosity go for anything, they will see their anticipations fulfilled in the near future. The trainers who spent this week at the track are loud in their praise of the improvement. "Why, it is like going on velvet," said one of them, and he was not a green hand either. The meetings this year have to a large extent been hindered by bad weather; but, with fine weather to-day (Saturday), there ought to be such a crowd present as will make up in some degree for past backsliding.

Homing pigeons are a comparatively new institution in Canada; but the growth of interest in it has been remarkably rapid. In the West especially is this noticeable. Not much, if anything, has been done in this line in the Province of Quebec; but the Western men are contemplating training East, and this idea will in all probability assume tangible form, if anything like reasonable rates can be made with the express companies. There is more importance than mere sport attached to homing competitions, and if the military authorities would let the matter have some attention, they would give it a great impetus. Telegraph wires may be cut, trains wrecked, and couriers intercepted, but it wants a good shot to bring down a carrier flying high, and he is not so big a mark as a balloon.

Far British Columbia is looking for admission to the C.A.A.O., and Secretary Littlejohn has been communicated with as to receiving the St. James Bay Rowing Club, of Victoria, into the association. The secretary of the club is remarkably innocent and also remarkably honest, for in his application he states that several members of the club are professionals, some having played baseball for money, and one man having rowed for a five dollar money prize once in his life. The wild and woolly West should get a few pointers in amateur ethics from this effete East of ours. How many professionals masquerade as amateurs this side of the Rockies who would be virtuously indignant

if such a thing were suggested. Do they acknowledge anything? Not much. They wait to be found out, and even then step down and out with a very bad grace.

At the Elmira horse show Messrs. Moorehouse & Pepper were remarkably successful; they captured nearly everything before them and are to be congratulated thereon. There was one accident, however, which was to be regretted. Ontario attempted to beat Roseberry's great record for a \$500 purse; but only topped the pole at 5 ft. 9 in. and hurt himself so badly that he will not be able to jump for some time.

The Council of the N. A. L. A. held a meeting on Saturday last at Mr. C. J. Doherty's office, and a few minor matters were discussed, the claimants for a district championship being ordered to play off for it; but the leading question was brought up by Mr. Maguire of Sherbrooke, who claimed that the Capitals, of Ottawa, were not entitled to the intermediate championship on account of having one Mr. O'Brien on the team. Mr. O'Brien was convicted of some criminal offence, but it was not known whether it was the same Mr. O'Brien or not, and the secretary was instructed to make enquiries looking to that end. There seems to be a good deal of unnecessary trimmings about lacrosse laws these days, and when two legal gentlemen cannot make up their minds as to whether an error is criminal or not, it seems a funny thing that the lacrosse laity should take it on themselves to decide.

The Montreal Hunt Club fall meeting is always looked forward to with a good deal of attention. Riding men and civilians and farmers rather like the excursions of the men who follow the chase. There is something dashing and daring about it that recommends itself to the consideration of the man whose idea of sport does not take in any anxiety as to a small header or so forth. A stiff paling, a treacherous water jump, a deceiving stone wall may be taken all nicely in their way, but who is to account for the uncertainties of a country where barbed wire is the unnatural protector. A ride across country where everything that comes in the way is supposed to be negotiable is an entirely different thing from the way of going in the old times, when a hunter could be faced at anything up to five feet and a half. Our hunters now are better if anything than the old style, but instead of taking a stone wall that one faced as if storming a forlorn hope, or a hedge that at its best would only prick the jumper, we have now a barbarous invention called barbed wire. This is not intended as a joke, as many who have gone over ground on the Island of Montreal will recognize. A barbed wire fence is a reminder of Hades or Purgatory or something else to the unfortunate pink-coated gentleman who hankers after a brush to hang over the mantel-piece; he would sooner have rail fences or a low line of stones to mark out his property. Barbed wire is a convenient thing for the farmer, but a most uncomfortable arrangement for the hunter, and if Montreal is intending to support the Hunt Club it might be suggested that the club make some arrangements for its tri-weekly meets where the destructive wire was not a primary consideration. Every man who has ever worn cords will agree with me. It is a difficult thing to persuade Mr. Reynard to run in an obliging line. That contra-minded vulpian will go just where he pleases, and the hunters will have to follow; but the fox is not going to have it quite all his own way. The M. H. C. have decided to make a separate programme for every week's runs. Everything will depend on the country to be gone over and the weather. It seems a better scheme than any hitherto followed, and as the island is pretty well populated with the poultry-stealing rogue there should be comparatively little difficulty in running him to earth one place or the other. The opening of the season takes place to-day, when members will take the initiatory breakfast at 10 o'clock. On Tuesday there will be a run to Pointe-aux-Trembles; on Thursday St. Laurent will be the scene of chase, and on next Saturday there will be an old-time hunting breakfast at Verdun, when that fine old sportsman and master, John Crawford, will do the honours.

Now that the bowling season is about to commence, would it not be a good idea for the Montreal league to try and induce some outside clubs to take part in this muscle-giving sport. The Ottawa team, who played several matches with our city clubs, showed a marked improvement by the end of the season, and I am sure would like to come into the league. I believe there is also a strong bowling contingent in Cornwall, besides other towns not far from Montreal. Our city clubs last year created an interest never before known in the annals of bowling in Canada. Matches were too few and far between last winter, and with the past season's experience and assistance from outside clubs I think the interest would greatly increase. Let Mr. President Forget and his committee get their heads together and see if they cannot prepare a good programme for the lovers of this sport for the winter of 1890-91.

The interest in thoroughbred horses is apparently growing every year in Canada, and the importations by the St. Lawrence route this season will undoubtedly be the largest on record. Almost every steamer brings from 10 to 100 selected animals; but the SS. Amarynthia on her last trip brought a particularly fine bunch, including such horses as Parisian, Bushfield, The Chicken, Old Ireland, Sarah and four unnamed colts, in all nine of the finest animals which

have ever been seen in this city. They are the property of Mr. Gamble Orr, Ormande Cottage Stud, Belfast, Ireland. The horses will be exhibited at the Dominion show at Toronto, and will, no doubt, remain in this country.

The Montreal Hunt Club have put out their programme for the 2nd and 4th of next month. The races will take place at the Blue Bonnets course. The following is the card:

FIRST DAY.

1st. Green steeplechase, for a purse of \$200; \$150 to first horse; \$50 to second; third horse to save entrance fee. For horses that have never won a steeplechase or hurdle race, and that shall have been regularly and fairly hunted by members during the current season, and *bona fide* the property of members of the Montreal Hunt or any other Hunt in the Dominion or the United States on or before the 15th August, 1890. Over two miles of fair hunting country. Welter weights for age. Half-breds allowed seven pounds. Entrance, \$10.

2nd. Half-bred handicap steeplechase, for a purse of \$200; \$150 to first horse; \$50 to second; third horse to save entrance fee. For half-bred horses *bona fide* the property of members of the Montreal Hunt, or any other Hunt in the Dominion or in the United States on or before August 15th, 1890, and have not started for any race except a hunter's race in 1890, and that shall have been regularly and fairly hunted during the current season. Over the green course. Entrance, \$10.

3rd. Members' plate, for a piece of plate value \$100. For half-bred horses that have never won a steeplechase or hurdle race—the Consolation Handicap excepted—and shall have fairly and regularly hunted with the Montreal Hunt by members during the current season. To be ridden by members elected on or before 15th August, 1890. Over green course. Welter weights for age. Entrance, \$10.

4th. Open flat race, 1½ miles. A sweepstake of \$15, half forfeit, with \$150 added, of which \$50 to second, third to save his stake. Horses to be declared out by 30th September, 1890. Light welter weights.

SECOND DAY.

5th. Open handicap steeplechase, for a purse of \$300; \$250 to first horse; \$50 to second; third horse to save entrance fee. Open to all horses. Over cup course. Entrance, \$15.

6th. Hunt cup, for a piece of plate value \$300. For horses that shall have been fairly and regularly hunted by members with the Montreal Hunt during the current season, and have not started for any race except a hunter's race in 1890, and *bona fide* the property of members of the Montreal Hunt on or before August 15th, 1890. To be ridden by members elected on or before the same date. Over three miles of fair hunting country. Weight, 12 stone. Winners of this race once, 10 lbs.; twice or more, 15 lbs. extra. Thoroughbred to carry 10 lbs. Entrance, \$20.

7th. Farmers' race, for a purse of \$400; \$200 to first horse; \$75 to second; \$50 to third; \$40 to fourth; \$35 to fifth. For half-bred horses bred on the Island of Montreal, which have never started in any race except a farmers' race, the Hunt Cup, Queen's Plate or Consolation Handicap, and owned by *bona fide* farmers of the Counties of Hochelaga, Jacques Cartier, Isle Jesus, to be ridden by farmers or farmers' sons of those counties, whose sole occupation is farming. Imported half-bred mares which have dropped a foal on the Island since January 1st, 1884, and being the *bona fide* property of a farmer, are eligible. Winners of this race once, 7 lbs.; twice, 14 lbs.; three times, 21 lbs. extra. Mares that have suckled a foal this year allowed 5 lbs. Over the green course. Welter weights for age. Entrance free.

Consolation handicap steeplechase, for a purse of \$100; \$50 to first horse; \$30 to second; \$20 to third. For horses beaten during the meeting, winners excluded. Over the green course. Entries to close immediately after the farmers' race. Entrance free. R. O. X.

A Rainy Day.

Not piled up massy clouds soft greys on greys,
A score of tints, with rifts of blue between,
Not lovely lights across the shadowed scene,—
As rush of tears a shy smile fitful sways,—
The lowering lift of dull unwavering mien
And drop on drop calm Nature's will betrays!

The morn no joyous look of welcome wears,
To greet the sun close wrapped in misty pall;
The boughs droop dismal; no faint twitters fall
From one to one across this dawn in tears;
Like a wain ghost the waking world appears!

The hours that yesterday were fleet of wing,
Now clad in melancholy steal away;
Their dripping pinions beat no measure gay
Across the air; for haply everything
In sympathy doth acquiescence bring!

No lingering now in path or busy street,
Where straggling bushes of the wild-rose grow,
Or all the world is passing to and fro;
The steady down-fall leaves no wish to greet
A friend; but urges on our hurrying feet!

Yet brightness hath a place where hearts are gay,
Though noon and eve claim drear equality;
In metaphor or stern reality
There still be they life's forfeit will not pay,
Who make their own sunshine on a rainy day!

KAY LIVINGSTONE