

O.A.A.G.

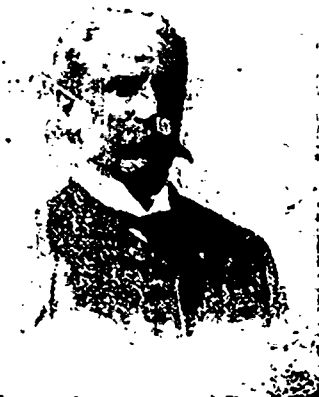
Its first ten years history sketched by an ex-President.

SOME time in the "middle eighties," not so very far back in point of years, but a long time seemingly when we consider the vast changes in the Capital since that day, a few public-spirited and far-seeing gentlemen laid the foundation stone, metaphorically speaking, of the finest athletic club house in the Dominion, and formed the nucleus of a club, second only, in respect of numbers, to the veteran M.A.A.A.

It was during the year 1885 that the idea of forming an association which should be the centre of amateur athletic sport in the city took definite shape, and in the fall of that year, these gentlemen to whom the young men of Ottawa, and it is not too much to say the citizens generally, owe a deep debt of gratitude met in a little room on Kent St., and by the establishment of the Ottawa Amateur Athletic

interest in the shares of the former which is a joint stock company and owns the club house of which the club are the lessees. The difficulties which beset the promoters of the association were many, but pluck and perseverance, and a resolute confidence in the future triumphed over all discouragements and finally the fall of 1889 saw the completion of the building and the formation, as a separate body, of the club which was inaugurated on the 20th Sept. in that year. On the 1st of Nov. the new club took possession of the Club House and on the 20th. of the same month in the presence of a large and representative gathering of invited guests, it was formally opened by the late Sir John Macdonald.

The first directors of the Club were: Messrs. P. D. Ross, E. Blakeney, C. W. Badgley, E. F. Burritt, B. F. W. Hurdman, M.D.,



Mr. G. A. Mothersill,
President, 1885.



Mr. J. W. McRae,
President, 1892.

Association, made possible the club which has its home in the splendid building forming the north-west corner of Elgin and Maria streets. The chief promoters of the undertaking were: Messrs. G. A. Mothersill, who was elected president, W. C. Cousens, M. D., W. J. Johnstone, A. Robinson, A. F. May, Jno. I. MacCracken, A. P. Sherwood, J. Duffus and P. B. Taylor. The ultimate outcome of their labours, as will have been gathered from the foregoing, was two distinct bodies, the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Association, and the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Club, though the two are closely allied, the latter having a controlling

A. F. May, T. G. Brigham, J. D. Holbrook, E. A. Black, P. B. Taylor, W. T. Lawless and J. R. Quain. Of these Mr. Ross was elected president, Mr. Blakeney, vice-president, Mr. Black, auditor, and Mr. Taylor, secretary-treasurer and other directors each assuming charge of a special branch of club work. Looking back the prospect at the outset scarcely appears to have been very encouraging, only some thirty-five having signed the first membership roll, but in a short time the number was increased beyond all expectation and by the end of the first year, the directors were able to report a total membership of 433, comprising 380 active, 7 life, 21 privileged, and, it is worthy of note, 25 lady members.

The affairs of the club were divided into the following departments, viz: gymnasium, boxing and fencing, bowling, billiards, field sports, reading and club rooms, property and building and entertainments, and a system was adopted by which outside clubs in the several lines of sport could become connected or affiliated, the first to take advantage of this rule being the Ottawa



Mr. G. P. Brophy,
President, 1894.

Hockey Club. In the same year in order to enable the club to hold field sports and to afford training and practising facilities to its members, a lease of the Metropolitan Athletic grounds was secured. The second year saw the formation of the snowshoe club and the baseball club from amongst the regular members, and two football clubs, Rugby and Association were affiliated. The Hockey Club gained distinction by winning both the Ontario and the city championships.



Mr. J. D. Fraser,
President, 1896.

In this year also occurred the first annual subscription dance. In the next year in accordance with a provision of the Constitution which limits the continuous tenure of the

presidency by any one member, to two years, Mr. Ross, to whom then as now, so much of the success of the Club is due, retired and was succeeded by Mr. J. W. McRae, always one of its warmest and most generous supporters. Another prosperous season ensued, noticeable features of which were the winning of the Dominion Championship by the Hockey Club with an unbroken series of victories, and the subsequent loss of that honor in the final match (games being then played under the challenge system) to the M.A.A.A. after a struggle which is yet remembered as one of the most exciting on record, only one goal being scored. The team however retained the provincial championship.

The Baseball Club in this year captured the City League Championship and also a handsome trophy given by the Trades and Labor Demonstration Committee. Another interesting feature was the establishment and application of of the Ottawa (Intermediate) La-



Lieut.-Col. Sherwood,
President, 1897.

crosse Club. In the next succeeding year, the most important event according to the annual report, was the affiliation of the Ottawa Bicycle Club, the first public exhibition of boxing and a gymnastic exhibition, the latter being held in the Grand Opera House. The billiard and Bowling teams were not so successful as before, but the individual billiard trophy for the highest average was taken by one of our members who has always played on our teams since 1892 and who now holds the balk-line championship of Canada, Mr. J. M. McDougall, Q. C., the present vice-president of the Club. In the fifth year when Mr. G. P. Brophy, another of the Club's most valued and popular member, was elected president, the first move was made