



SPORTS AND PASTIMES

The Canadian skating championships have come and gone and not a solitary American was seen on the track. But it seems hard to blame Americans when Canadians do not come. The only places represented were Montreal, Pictou and Dartmouth, N.S. To judge from the reports in the sporting columns of the daily press, Toronto possesses some skaters that ought to be able to hold their own in any company; at least they play hockey well enough, and hockey is good enough training for anybody. Ottawa, too, thinks highly of her skaters, but neither of these cities had an entry for the championship. This is not taking into account such places as Cornwall, Brockville or Quebec, or many other towns where there is skating material enough to at least make an entry; but they came not, and the natural conclusion is that there is some such word in their lexicon as fear. As far as the American end of the story is concerned, it is much more easily described. That was simply a case of funk, pure, unadulterated funk, and Mr. Joseph Donoghue is the most remarkable example of it that has appeared in amateur sporting circles for some time. Long ago I pointed out in this column the alleged reason why Americans did not come to Canada for championship skating honors, and at the same time attention was called to the fact that the skating association would make use of the largest rink available in Canada, so that there would be little or no excuse for skaters from across the line not coming. Now, we all know the United States has the most absorptive faculty in the world, and they claim anything worth having. Like the celebrated despatch of Mr. Blaine when Cleveland was elected, the motto is "claim everything." The result is that Joseph Donoghue is heralded abroad as the champion skater of the world, when anybody with sporting intelligence enough not to be an American knows just how the case stands. There is hardly a doubt in the world that the New York papers will continue to call the Newburg man the champion; they will forget that his challenge for five miles with a twenty second allowance was simply a symptom of exaggerated blue funk; they will do all sorts of things to have a champion, just as they did when Hanlan could beat any man that could sit in a boat; as long as he won he was the American champion, as soon as he was beaten he was simply a Canadian. Donoghue, of whom we have heard so much and whom none deny being a phenomenal skater, was afraid to come to Montreal. He has been almost a continuous winner and he hated to take the chance of a defeat. I do not say that had Donoghue come here he would not have won, for I believe he would, although he would have been pushed, but I believe he is essentially lacking in one very important particular and that is what is termed "heart." Canadians have gone to the United States and skated when there was an opportunity, or rather ice, but Americans will not come for distance work. Why? The complaint is the same,—heart too small and liver inclined to be white. So much for the great one among the skaters of the States. Were the white plumes of the Tattooed Man any sign of distinguished honor, then Mr. Donoghue's white feathers might wave in envious contrast with those of the man from Maine.

But to the races. The great majority of people thought that the weather would have made it impossible to skate. In this they were mistaken, for although rain fell all the morning the ice, with a slight covering of a quarter of an inch of water, was faster than had the weather been cold. Such at least was the verdict of all those who skated. The surface was like a sheet of glass, and the time made, when a push for a finish was necessary, made this plainly evident. There was one record badly fractured, and that was the half mile, which was done by Gordon in 1.21 3-5. The record hitherto was held by Norseng, 1.22 2-5, and was made in Holland. The other marks do not come near it, and had Irwin not fallen the time would have been faster still. In the 220 yards race the time really beat See's record, because the latter skated with the wind at his back. The time made on Saturday was 21 3-5 secs. See's time was 19 3/4 secs. The mile race will bear a lot of looking into, because as records go there have been many sized

tracks used. Gordon's time was 3 06 2 5, but that is hardly a criterion of his speed, because he only went to the front for the last two laps, and he had no difficulty in keeping his advantage to the tape. Tim Donoghue carries the supposed record of 2.12 3-5, made on a straightaway course with wind at his back. Joe Donoghue's time for the distance on a three-lap track was 2.59 1-5. Van Panschin covered the distance in 2.58 3-5; Grunden, the Swedish professional, is credited with 2.55 2-5, made on a five-lap track; McCormick has a mark of 3.26 2-6 on a fourteen-lap track; the best English amateur time is 3 12 2-5, made by L. Tebbutt two years ago. In the 220 yards hurdle race it is simply superfluous to speak of anybody but Irwin. His speed and method of getting over the obstacles will outclass many a more pretentious skater. The five mile race was a decided disappointment, although the time was not bad. It was expected to be the race of the day, and from the previous form shown by the starters nobody would have been surprised if a record had been smashed. But it was very soon made evident that it was going to be a waiting race. There were the three Nova Scotians and only one Montrealer in the struggle, and to the spectator it looked very much as if Gordon was going to have a hard row to hoe. It would take too much space to describe the race in its various changes, but one thing was very apparent, Gordon was to be tired out or forced to make the pace, and the programme was carried out to the letter. The only trouble was that Gordon could skate too fast; he saw the way the game was working, and he kept his head well enough never to get better than third until the real time for sprinting came in. It was not a case for record breaking. It was an attempt to win the five mile championship, pure and simple. An analysis of the race would show that until the last two laps of the thirty-five Gordon never went better than third, while the Pattersons and Carroll took the lead alternately and made a very slow pace at that. When Gordon did go to the front, however, he simply skated away from the other three, and showed the spectators that if his opponents had put on anything like pace, with what there was still left in him, he could have easily reduced the time considerably. Following are the officials of the day and the summary of the races:—

Referee, Col. F. C. Henshaw; judges, H. Montagu Allan, W. G. Ross, Major Freeman; starter, Norman Fletcher; time keepers, J. A. Taylor, T. L. Paton, D. D. McTaggart; scorers, D. J. Watson, Louis Rubenstein; measurers, Messrs. S. Howard, W. McNab and Brant; clerk of the course, L. W. Barlow.

Two hundred and twenty yards.—F. P. Carroll, Pictou, N.S., 1st; E. D. Irwin, Montreal, 2nd; C. Gordon, Montreal, 3rd; A. Patterson, Dartmouth, N.S., 4th; J. Gauthier, Montreal, 5th. Time, 21 3-5 secs.

Half mile.—C. Gordon, Montreal, 1st; F. P. Carroll, Pictou, N.S., 2nd; E. D. Irwin, Montreal, 3rd; G. S. Lowe, Montreal, 4th. Time, 1.21 3-5.

Half mile junior.—H. Smith, 1st; G. Ross, 2nd. Time, 2.08.

One mile.—C. Gordon, 1st; C. Patterson, 2nd; F. P. Carroll, 3rd; E. D. Irwin, 4th; G. S. Lowe, 5th. Time, half mile, 1.33; mile, 3.06 2-5.

Half mile backward.—F. Scott, 1st; J. Clavelle, 2nd; E. W. Barlow, 3rd; J. Mullarky, 4th. Time, 1.37.

Two hundred and twenty yards hurdle, 27 inches high.—E. D. Irwin, 1st; C. Patterson, 2nd; W. Irwin, 3rd. Time, 25 1-5 secs.

Junior mile.—G. Skinner, Pictou, N.S., 1st; P. McBurney, 2nd; — Brown, 3rd; W. O'Donoghue, 4th. A. Maltby, 5th; W. Turton, 6th. Time, 3.35 3/4.

Five miles.—C. Gordon, Montreal, 1st; C. Patterson, Dartmouth, N.S., 2nd; F. P. Carroll, Pictou, N.S., 3rd; A. Patterson, Dartmouth, N.S., 4th. Time, 17.36.

In the figure skating contest for the championship of the United States, which, after many postponements, was held in Albany on Monday last, the decision given was that the result was a tie between Phillips and Rubenstein. The latter offered to skate off the tie but the New York man would not hear of it. In vulgar parlance, it looks as if the Canadian was getting the "razzle," and that at the best of it Phillips was afraid of another try.

The Rosedale Cricket Club (Toronto), is composed of enthusiasts who do not wait for the departure of the snow to begin the practice of their favourite pastime. They secured a rink and already last week wickets were pitched and the club's crack trundlers and bats have been busy at work. The club will make a tour through the cricketing cities of the United States in July, for which arrangements have been almost completed. A good sign of the times, as

far as football is concerned in Toronto, is the fact that during last season fifty Toronto Church school boys joined the club. The officers for the coming year are:—Hon. president, C. H. Nelson; president, J. M. Macdonald; first vice-president, G. S. Lyon; second vice-president, J. E. Martin; secretary, J. H. Forrester; assistant secretary, H. L. Howard; treasurer, J. E. Hulett; committee, Petman, Hardy, Gimson, Clement, Duncan, Massey.

Recently I called attention to the proposed trip of Canadian Association football players to the old country, and now it appears that we are to have an exchange of international courtesies with our neighbours from across the line. There are some good Canadian cricketers in the Windy City that is to have the World's Fair next year; there are also some good football men, and they have proposed a Canadian tour, which will be heartily welcomed by all our association men on this side. A team will be organized and leave Chicago on May 22nd, playing its first match in Toronto on the Queen's birthday. Other games are scheduled for Detroit and Berlin, and it is altogether likely that dates will be made with most of the leading clubs. Mr. Davis, who is secretary of the cricket club, will look after the travellers during their visit. The team will probably consist of the following gentlemen:—J. Balinghal, goal; A. T. Webb (captain), J. McLuckie, F. Kelly, T. Gibson, O. Balster and A. C. Goodyear, forwards; J. Hendry, A. McFarland, full backs; W. McLuckie, W. Ramsey and J. G. Davis, half backs.

With the continuous and nearly always justifiable outcry against the crookedness of everybody connected with the trotting horse ringing in our ears, it is refreshing once in a while to hear of judges who have manhood enough to make honest rulings and nerve enough to see that they are carried out. The recent meeting in Ottawa was not a model of trotting morality, taken all the way through, and from what I know from some of my friends, the judges, although with the best of intentions, did not quite reach all the offenders. They asserted their authority in excellent shape, however, in the free-for-all, which was for a purse of \$325, but that stake would not have been a circumstance to the amount reaped had everything gone right in the pool box and had the judges' eyes been closed. When the first change of drivers was ordered the suspected mare won the heat nicely, but when the second attempt at a change was made, matters were getting too close for the syndicate, and it was apparent that the dummy in the race could never win under these unlooked for circumstances. In preference to a change of drivers the owner of the second horse withdrew his entry. That settled it in the judges' minds; it was palpably a put-up job, and the race was declared off after four heats had been trotted. It was the best thing possibly that the judges could have done, but it might have been a little bit of a lesson if only the two horses left in were allowed to start. Then the public who had put their shekels in the first place on Sheridan would probably have doubled it at the expense of the "talent."

The Ottawa Hockey Club were not particularly successful in their efforts after the championship, but still they had nerve enough to come and try for it, which is saying a great deal, when all the circumstances are taken into consideration. Never mind, better luck next time. The Rideau Colts, too, were heard from on Saturday last when they tackled the Maples, and although defeated by five goals to one still were no unworthy opponents.

In curling proverbial good fortune, coupled with skilful play, leaves the Montreal Club in the lead. First they won the Branch tankard, then they captured the Governor-General's prize, and, lastly, the Caledonia medal from the Ottawas. A record to be proud of.

Montreal horse breeders have lost a valuable animal when Alcantara, jr., was allowed to go from their midst. The trouble was, if the truth must be told, that he was too good to be appreciated, but our cousins on the other side know a good thing in horse flesh when they see it, and, of course, the son of Alcantara was bought up for over \$8,000.