



Anybody may call spirits from the vasty deep, but it has always been a matter of grave doubt whether the ghosts would be accommodating enough to come or not; in fact, they generally stayed away. There is a good deal of analogy between this and the action taken by the annual convention of the National Amateur Lacrosse Association on Friday last. The N.A.L.A., partly through bad management and partly through thick-headedness, forced the Cornwall and Toronto clubs out of the ranks, and then by another series of blunders brought lacrosse to such a low point in public estimation that the Shamrocks, the Montrealers and the Ottawas were forced to abandon the parent association, practically if not theoretically. This was absolutely necessary in order to save the game from oblivion or to secure anything like a paying attendance at the matches. For two years what has been known as the Senior League has turned out very successfully and it has gradually dawned on the N.A.L.A. that they lost great opportunities a couple of years ago. It was with a view to partially recover lost authority that the recommendation was made to the Senior League to accept the Capitals to membership. It must be very gratifying, especially to the Torontos and Cornwalls to have the association which they were obliged to leave offer them good advice. Most people who know the facts of the case would be inclined to credit this action to a superfluity of what is vulgarly termed "gall," but the more charitable way of looking at it would be to class its advocates under the heading of "invincible innocents." They meant well, no doubt, but they didn't know. In fact, there were comparatively few delegates present who did know just what they were talking about and just when to talk. But there was a considerable voting delegation who had apparently been primed by the older heads, and who, submitting to superior wisdom and election tactics, just voted the way they were told. The idea was that a recommendation from such an influential governing body as the N.A.L.A. would be bound to carry considerable weight. This seems beautifully absurd when it is considered that two of the clubs to whom the recommendation is in part made have already refused to obey the mandates of the association. Is it likely then that they will pay any attention to a mere recommendation? It is far more probable that it will be treated as a piece of gratuitous interference, and if the request is not acceded to—as will probably be the case—the N.A.L.A. will have placed itself in a decidedly humiliating position. Still the snub may be attended with good results if it teaches folks to mind their own business.

The recommendation was not the strangest part of the business, however. It was a left-handed way of making believe to do the Capitals a good turn and a new charm of unaccountable simplicity is added to the whole thing when it is remembered that the meeting had just recognized the Capitals as eligible for its own senior championship. Does it not look very much like saying: "We are the great lacrosse power of the earth; you may play for our championship if you like; but we recommend you to go over the way, where we won't have any control over you, but you'll make more money." It is supposed that the convention was appointed to look after the interests of the N.A.L.A. Instead of doing so it openly recommends accession to practically a rival organization. Charity covers a multitude of sins and generosity is all very well in its way, but if a charitable man were to give all his substance away and die of starvation himself the coroner would probably think that his charity was tempered with insanity.

The reinstatement of Charles Ellard to the amateur ranks, or a recommendation to that effect, may probably carry a little weight with the powers that be in the Amateur Athletic Association of Canada. The convention, however, probably lost sight of the fact that but a few weeks previous the executive of this association had positively refused to even consider Ellard's application

and it was said that they had come across new evidence that would seriously injure his chances of ever being reinstated. Still, in their good nature any little favour that could be done for anybody was done cheerfully, with neatness and despatch, and a total disregard for ultimate results. But a "fellow feeling makes one wondrous kind," and maybe some of the delegates knew how it was themselves, and perhaps some day might be in the same predicament. The other force at present at work in favour of Ellard will probably carry more weight than two or three recommendations from N.A.L.A. conventions. The morning papers have revealed the fact that a petition is being circulated among the players of the big clubs, which asks the C.A.A.A. for Ellard's reinstatement. The matter was kept very quiet for a considerable time, and it is understood that a great number of players have affixed their names. To tell the truth, this is about as it should be. There are lots of men posing to-day as amateurs and playing on prominent lacrosse teams whose record is hardly a whit more clean than Ellard's. But, unfortunately for the latter, he was found out and, as an example had to be made of somebody, he had to suffer. There is no use disguising the fact that professionalism is very prevalent in lacrosse, and it is not confined to the senior clubs by any means; but the delinquents' long years of experience in such matters have made it as difficult to find proof as it is the proverbial needle, and so they pursue the even tenor of their way, draw their little salaries, exchange bogus rings for good coin of the realm, find mysterious tons of coal in the cellar and cords of maple in the wood-shed, and bob up serenely at the beginning of the season with club uniforms on and lacrosse sticks in their hands. And so it goes.

There has been a noticeable unanimity in the way recognized sporting papers have treated the doings of the convention, and it is not to be wondered at, if one had any experience with former gatherings of the sort. There was one agreeable feature about it: What business (?) was transacted did not occupy an unnecessarily long time, but this was more due to the president's knowledge of parliamentary rules than to perhaps any other cause. Mr. Maguire, of Sherbrooke, again proved himself a very valuable representative and considerable of a diplomatist. If there are any two lacrosse clubs in the world who cordially hate each other they are the Sherbrookes and the Capitals. It was gall and wormwood to the Eastern Townships men to see the Capitals legislated into the intermediate championship after a hard struggle on the field and a more prolonged, if less gory one, in the council chamber. There is no love lost between them, and still that quiet little gentleman in glasses said never a word when new honours and recommendations and things of that sort were being thrust upon the hated rivals. No; he knew better than that; he had been at conventions before, and he just waited until the straw bobbed his way showed the direction of the wind. He was even prepared to metaphorically shake hands with the Capital Club and congratulate it upon its fast accumulating honours. Of course, it would not look well for a Sherbrooke man to actually second any direct motion for the promotion of the Capital Club; but when it came to a vote Sherbrooke forgave its enemy and magnanimously voted for its rival's advancement. Verily, charity covereth a multitude of sins, and diplomacy hath more license than the vernal poet of the springtime.

The Capitals wondered,
Everyone wondered,
And most people thought that the Sherbrookes had blundered,
Until at a later stage
Up bobbed the Township's sage,
With glasses in hand, from proboscis e'en sundered,
"The pennants we claim now,
Will you kindly explain how
Intermediate honours you're going to keep from us?"
Mac's vocal chords thundered:
"This convention has blundered,
And in order to keep yourself from getting into any more trouble of this description you might kindly deem it advisable, on principles general, to keep your rash promise."

This effusion was too much for the convention, and there was a unanimous vote that, as there was nobody else in the field, the Sherbrookes be recognized as the intermediate champions.

One of the sensible things done by the convention was the awarding of trophies for the district championships of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Eastern Quebec. During recent years there has been considerable progress made in the National game in the East and as the N. A. L. A. don't amount to any more than a six-rowed ear of barley in the West, it is, perhaps, just as advisable that they gather in all the new and pliable material that may be raised down by the sea. The regular meeting of the representatives of the Senior League will be held to-day (Friday) and of course it is impossible to predict with certainty just what will be done, but from many conversations with lacrosse men who are usually credited with knowing what they are talking about, I think the only halo likely to encircle the Capitals' headgear will be that reflected from any victory they may gain according to the challenge system. It is not at all probable that even with the N.A.L.A. recommendation the Senior League will see fit to take in a new club. If the Capitals had a team that would beat all the rest of the big fellows then there might be a chance of the force of circumstances obliging their admission. But then again the difficulty remains of none of the league clubs being obliged to challenge the holders of the N.A.L.A. flags and a simple non-recognition on their part would soon have the effect of once more consigning those treasured pennants into a desuetude that is innocuous, so to speak. The real lever, however, will be gate receipts and until that lever is moved one way or the other perhaps it is premature to speak. The officers elected for the ensuing year were:—President, J. L. Dowling; Capitals; first vice-president, T. W. McNulty. Crescent; second vice-president, E. A. Larmonth; secretary-treasurer, W. J. McKenna, Shamrock; council, Messrs. Jos. Kent, Ottawa; D. B. Mulligan, Pembroke; R. Lunny, St. Lawrence; H. McLaughlin, Shamrock; W. Cox, St. Gabriel; J. A. Taylor, Montreal; J. D. Grace, Ottawa University; E. O'Leary, Gladstone (Ottawa); C. W. Young, Cornwall Juniors; T. J. Maguire, Sherbrooke.

Last week a paragraph appeared in these columns in reference to the Lake St. Louis Canoe Club and its proposed amalgamation. So far no real action has been taken in the matter and from present appearances it looks as if the canoeists would be obliged to find independent quarters. It is no secret that for some time past the Lachine Boating Club has not been in the enjoyment of the best of health, and the subscription of the L.S.L.C.C. formed no inconsiderable item in the club's returns. It has also been apparent that membership in both clubs was a continuous strain on the aquatically inclined residents of Lachine, and that a union of both interests would build up a powerful and profitable club. The Boating Club, however, seems inexorable in its conditions and demands that an amalgamation with should really mean the absorption of the identity of the Canoe Club. This is hardly fair, especially as the withdrawal of the canoe men will go a long way towards reducing the status of the Boating Club. Rowing at Lachine has not been anything to feel particularly flattered over for some years; there have been a few enthusiasts, it is true, but even in their training they have not met with any great measure of support, and since the time of the "Big Four" Lachine has practically not been in it. The case is a little different with the Canoe Club, which has fairly managed to hold its own. In case of an entire break and separation, there is no doubt as to which party will suffer most. If the Lake St. Louis Canoe Club finally decides to purchase a site and headquarters of its own the years of the other organization are practically numbered in the wee sma' numbers. Lachine in summer can support one good club and club house, but not two. In the natural course of events the weaker will go to the wall. The Canoe Club will not be the weaker. The annual meeting of the latter club, which was held on Saturday, showed matters to be in a satisfactory shape, and the spirit of the meeting was plainly a belligerent one if matters came to the forks, but there is still hope that some better arrangements will be made. The election of officers resulted as follows: Commodore, A. W. Morris; vice-commodore, George Auldjo; rear commodore, S. P. Howard; secretary-treasurer, A. W. Routh; committee, F. W. Stewart, S. Jackson, C. H. Routh, E. Arnold, H. M. Molson.