



THE M. A. A. A. is composed of five clubs, viz.: The Montreal Lacrosse Club; The Montreal Snow-shoe Club; The Montreal Bicycle Club; The Montreal Foot-ball Club and the Tuque Bleue Toboggan Club. The first on the list, and the club claiming the honour of originating the association, is THE MONTREAL LACROSSE CLUB, the pioneer and "Alma Mater" club of Canada's national game. It dates its formation as a club back to 1856. In 1859 Dr. Geo. W. Beers, the now honourary president of the club, and very properly styled the "Father of Lacrosse," compiled and published the first code of written laws of the game, the principles of which have been little altered or changed since. In 1860, the club, in conjunction with the Beaver Lacrosse Club, assisted in the public welcome to Montreal of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and played a match of twenty-four whites versus twenty-four Indians in honour of the visit. The year 1867, which saw the birth of the Canadian nationality, in the confederation of the Provinces into the Dominion of Canada, saw also the adoption by the Canadian youth of Lacrosse as "The National Game," and its endorsement by all the leading newspapers in the country. Two celebrated Canadian clubs, the "Shamrock" of Montreal and the "Toronto" club of Toronto, were formed this year. In 1876, the club, accompanied by a team of Caughnawaga Indians, crossed the Atlantic and had the honour of introducing and establishing the game in Great Britain by this visit. After a successful tour of the three kingdoms, the teams, by royal command, visited and played at Windsor Castle, before Her Majesty the Queen—to whom they were individually presented. Again they crossed the ocean in 1883, but half the team were composed of the Toronto Lacrosse Club, whom they asked to accompany them. A record of some sixty matches played, one before H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, again fully exemplified the game to the British public. The brilliant record of the club during the two years 1885 and 1886, winning the Canadian championship both seasons, is still too well remembered to need any extended remarks. In 1886, a Lacrosse team from the various clubs in the North of Ireland, under the cognomen of the "Irish Lacrosse Team," visited Montreal as the guests of the Montreal Lacrosse Club. A pleasant and enjoyable visit of three days was spent in entertaining the Irish pupils of the M. L. C., Montreal's proverbial hospitality being fully sustained at the hands of her Pioneer Lacrosse Club. The M. A. A. A. has not been the first institution that this club has assisted to form. When the war cloud caused by the Trent excitement of 1862 loomed up, the members assisted to organize that famous battalion of Canadian militia (or volunteers as it is popularly called) "The Victoria Rifles of Canada." The Beaver Lacrosse Club, headed by several who were afterward prominent Montreal club men, formed No. 1 Company, the other five companies being formed by the members of the Montreal Lacrosse and the Montreal Snow-shoe clubs. The regiment has now built a \$40,000 armoury, and has always numbered in its rank and file many members of these clubs. During its long existence the club has made few honorary members, those on the role being H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, (dating from 1860), H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught (dating from 1860), the Earl of Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne and the Marquis of Lansdowne.

THE MONTREAL SNOW-SHOE CLUB. The club is better known to visitors to the winter carnivals who have witnessed their snow-shoe races, attended their concerts, or viewed their torchlight processions and attack on the ice palace during the carnivals. To a member of the club, Mr. R. D. McGibbon, can be conceded the honour of proposing and originating those widely celebrated festivals of Canadian sport, "The Montreal Winter Carnivals." The club heartily supported him in the idea and contributed a lion's share to their organization and success. In 1886, when Montreal decided to omit the yearly carnival, 150 members of the Montreal S. S. Club accepted an invitation from the Coasting Club of Burlington, to assist them in holding a winter carnival in their town. A most enjoyable visit was made, and reciprocity, at least in friendship and athletics, firmly established. A well-known feature of the club is its famous head-dress, from whence it derives its equally celebrated cognomen, "Tuque Bleue." This style of head-gear is also Canadian, and is a woollen or knitted cap or "tuque," as it was called by the Normandy French who settled in Canada some hundreds of years ago, and from whose descendants the club adopted it twenty years since.

THE MONTREAL BICYCLE CLUB. Bicycling is a sport of much later years, and the Montreal Bicycle Club cannot claim the antiquity of its sister clubs in the M. A. A. A. 1878 was the year of its organization, although some of its original members wheeled through the city for some four years previously. Even by this date, however, it is the oldest bicycle club in Canada and the second in age on this continent, Boston claiming priority. It has upward of 188 mounted and uniformed riders, and the neighbourhood and island of Montreal, as well as much of the surrounding country, has been often and fully visited by it. Long rides of two and three days' duration are often indulged in, and even Toronto, 330 miles distant, has had a visit from the members of the "winged cycle."

THE TUQUE BLEUE TOBOGGAN CLUB cannot claim any lengthy age like the senior clubs in the association. It dates its formation to the fall of 1883, and takes second place to the Montreal Toboggan Club, founded in 1879. It was organized by some members of the Montreal Snow-shoe Club, who suggested an artificial slide on the Lacrosse Club grounds on Sherbrooke street, on account of its central locality, and has proved itself a rapid and popular institution, having already a larger membership than any of its sister clubs in the association. Being composed largely and formed by the members of the Snow-shoe Club, it adopted the soubriquet of that club for a name. It affiliated the following year, 1884, with the M. A. A. A., and together with other kindred organizations in Montreal, has assisted very much in the success of the winter carnival. It also instituted toboggan races as a new feature in sport. Its artificial slide has proved such a success that hundreds of similar structures have been erected all over Canada and the the Northern and Northwestern States.

THE MONTREAL FOOTBALL CLUB. The last club to amalgamate with the M. A. A. A. was the Montreal Football Club, in the spring of 1885. It is also the pioneer club of its sport in Canada, and dates its organization to the year 1868, when for some years it had many good and exciting matches with the officers of Her Majesty's regiments then in garrison at Montreal. It has ably held its own with the numerous clubs who have been and are in existence since then. Its most active competitor is, however, the "Britannia Football Club," the majority of whom are also members of the M. A. A. A., and sturdy and staunch rivals they have proved themselves. The Montreal Club has held for a number of years the football championship of the Dominion, and has in its possession many valuable trophies won on the field. It has paid frequent visits to the United States, two of them to Boston when they played against Harvard College. In 1881, Harvard returned their visits and were the club's guests in Montreal. The interest in the sport is fast increasing, and the club hopes to have some more of its American rivals as guests the coming year.

In March, 1877, the officers of the Lacrosse and Snow-shoe Clubs, becoming weary of meeting in different places to transact club business, determined to have some fixed habitation for club meetings. A suggestion to lease two rooms in the Montreal Gymnasium was acted upon, alterations were made, and the place made cozy and comfortable by donations and otherwise. This joint occupancy was continued until the end of 1878, when the gymnasium directors finding they were gradually but surely falling in arrears, for they had a heavy mortgage on the building, determined to sell the property. Now was the time to act, the two clubs finding the rooms had been of great benefit to them, made overtures to the Gymnasium authorities to lease the whole building for a term of years. After some considerable trouble this proposition was ultimately concluded in January, 1879, at a rental of one thousand dollars per annum, some of the more cautious members of the clubs giving a very dubious assent to the scheme. In 1880, the clubs offered to assume the mortgage if the shareholders would deed over the property to the clubs, and receive in return therefor a life membership to the building and club house. Some months were occupied by both interested parties in discussing the scheme; but all things have an end, and in April, 1881, the Lacrosse, Snow-shoe and Bicycle clubs (the latter joining in order to assist the scheme) found themselves in possession of a home of their own, and a valuable acquisition toward the promotion of athletic interests. In June, 1881, an act of incorporation was received from the Provincial Parliament at Quebec, under the name of "The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association." In the fall of 1884, the Toboggan Club affiliated, and the Football Club in the spring of 1885.

To thoroughly understand the position of the association and the clubs composing it, it would be well to bear in mind the constitution and the bonds of union which bind them together. In the first place, the several clubs have not lost their individuality in the amalgamated association. The individual autonomy of each is carefully preserved; all the detail of internal arrangement is still under the care of the executive committee of each. Each club holds its annual meeting and elects its own officers—in fact, the association is simply a confederation of clubs and may be justly likened to the Confederation of the Provinces in the Dominion of Canada or the United States of America, the association keeping merely an apparent financial check upon each club. The affairs of the association are under the control of the Board of Directors, which consists of three representatives from each club, one of which must be their president. This board has control of the finances, the internal management of the club-house, all out-door athletics, such as race-meetings, and the leasing and renting of ground for the clubs, etc. By careful management the association which started in June, 1881, with a mortgage of \$13,000, found itself in May, 1886, entirely free from debt, besides having spent during that time the sum of \$4,000 in repairs and additions to the building, rooms, and gymnastic apparatus. The semi-annual statement of November, 1885, showed a surplus in the bank of \$8,000, and a club-house free from debt and valued at \$30,000, this surplus being employed the next spring in purchasing the adjoining house. The revenue for the year ending May, 1888, was, in round figures, \$14,000, and the expenditure, \$10,700, including \$2,000 spent in repairs and additions.

In addition to the five affiliated clubs, whose membership is open, there are six connected clubs, whose mem-

bership is limited to association members only. These clubs are: 1, the M. A. A. A. Dramatic Club; 2, Cinderella Club; 3, Fencing Club; 4, Hockey Club; 5, Baseball Club; and 6, Chess Club. The first two come under the control and are represented on the board by the Chairman of Entertainments, the Fencing Club by the Gymnasium Chairman, the next two by the Chairman of Out-Door Sports, and the last by the Club-room Chairman.

THE DRAMATIC CLUB every winter give several very excellent entertainments in the Gymnasium, a large and well-equipped stage being situated at one end of the hall. A small admittance fee is charged at these performances, and the hall is always well filled.

THE CINDERELLA is a social or dancing club and composed of about one hundred members. It is a source of much enjoyment, and two "At Homes" are held each winter. The apparatus is moved from the Gymnasium, the floor waxed, flowers and flags cover the stage and walls, the former wearing the appearance of a conservatory. The club-rooms are transformed into dressing and supper rooms, and an efficient orchestra supplies the music for dancing, which commences shortly after eight o'clock and ends at twelve—the club, like its namesake of old, retiring as the midnight bell is sounding from the Cathedral spire. This club offers the members an opportunity of giving their lady friends and relatives an active interest in the club-house.

THE HOCKEY AND BASEBALL CLUBS are for out-door sport, and although the active membership of each is small, the members of the association usually turn out in goodly numbers to witness and encourage the boys. THE FENCING CLUB occupies the ground floor in the new addition which was fitted up expressly for fencing and boxing, and the CHESS CLUB, the reading and club rooms. This latter club is fully equipped with a number of inlaid chess and checker tables. Those of the club who enjoy a smoke play on the tables in the club room downstairs, for smoking is prohibited in the reading room up-stairs, but both places are usually found occupied by the devotees of the royal game. Tournaments are held every winter, and prizes given to the winners.

As already mentioned, to facilitate the management, the Association is divided into departments, each under the control of one of the board of directors, who is styled the chairman. These divisions are: The Gymnasium, Reading and Club Room, Bowling, Shooting and Billiard Room, Field Sports, Entertainments, Grounds and Property and Building.

THE GYMNASIUM.—This department is now quite a successful and interesting feature of the association, and proving of much benefit and attraction to the members. A large, square hall, well lighted, with a high and lofty ceiling, and furnished with all the latest and necessary apparatus, including the usual parallel and horizontal bars, swings, trapezes, ladders, barbells, dumbbells, a German horse for vaulting, bicycle trainer, &c. It has also the "pulley weight," or "Harvard system," for those who do not care to join in the regular evening classes. The privilege of an examination by a medical member of the association, either in connection with this pulley-weight system or a preliminary to general work, is allowed to the members, many of whom desiring a less severe course than is offered in the classes, value this system very highly. The classes, in the winter, meet tri-weekly, under the superintendence of an efficient and popular instructor, who has each winter, a roll of pupils, averaging 160, that are a credit to his instruction and to the association. One end of the gymnasium hall has been fitted up with a stage, equipped with a variety of scenery and all the necessary appointments of many a more pretentious place. At each side of the stage are situated dressing-rooms, carpeted and mirrored, and furnished with rows of numbered lockers for the use of members of the gymnasium class. The stage is in request for dramatic performances, snow-shoe, minstrel and other club concerts (for the M. A. A. A. has talent in that line of first class order), annual meetings of the clubs, presentation of prizes and other public club events. The gymnastic apparatus is taken down and put aside in the dressing-rooms and replaced by 500 chairs, the hall being capable of holding about 700, and can accommodate handily 200 dancers at the Cinderella Club's "At Homes." On the same floor as the gymnasium are situated the large double rooms known as the "CLUB ROOMS." These are used for the weekly meetings of the clubs, each one having an evening allotted to them, at which all club business is duly transacted and recorded, and confirmed at the succeeding meeting. Arm-chairs, lounges, tables, desks, &c., are supplied for the comfort of the members. Rep curtains ornament the room, and a piano, which comes into play very frequently on the gymnasium stage, gives amusement to the musically inclined. The walls are embellished with many valuable pictures and photographs of the affiliated clubs and club teams, as well as friendly rival associations. The leading daily papers of Montreal and Toronto are here to be found on file, as well as some of the prominent American dailies. In the basement are situated the billiard room, bowling alleys and shooting gallery. The billiard room has 12 tables, 10 of them for the devotees of three and four ball billiards, the other two being pool tables, one English and one American. Raised seats occupy the sides of the room, pictures and photographs adorn the walls, and the room is as comfortable as possible. No liquors are allowed in the building, so that the evil concomitant of all public billiard rooms is here absent, and parents are thus assured that their sons will acquire no drinking habits in the M. A. A. A. The bowling department has two alleys, and is also much