

Some have attempted to find a similarity between Lacrosse and the old Irish game of Coman, and argue therefrom that the Indian tribes have an identity of origin with the Irish race.

Possibly the game may have derived its origin from the noble old Irish game above referred to, but we rather think that the subtle minds that first invented the snow-shoe, and the graceful canoe, could also originate a game so thoroughly suited to their requirements, as Lacrosse has proved itself, and we think that the traditional wisdom of the Indian sages was not a whit at fault, when they introduced a game that not only developed the muscular system of its votaries, but also so enthralled their minds, that in some cases it became the object of their lives.

The present game of Lacrosse differs very materially from the old game, as practised by the red man of the forest primeval.

Their game had no fixed or definite rules by which it was governed; each tribe laid down laws of its own, but in all cases it was mind which was made subservient to matter instead of *vice versa*.

The game was first introduced, or rather adopted, by the whites, by the organisation of a club in Montreal, some thirty years ago.

At that time it did not seem to flourish, and the game did not make any progress, until about thirteen years ago, when it began to attract considerable attention.

From the year 1860 may be dated the rise of the game.

Young men then began to see its beauties, and the result was that in Montreal, at least, it became at once the popular game.

In the year 1867 the Montreal club framed the first laws of lacrosse; and shortly afterwards, a convention of clubs was held in Montreal to organize an association for the government of clubs and guidance of the game.

The result of this convention was the formation of the "*National Lacrosse Association of Canada*," which has, through the persevering pluck and energy of its former Secretary Mr. Beers, so popularized the game that the clubs are now to be counted by hundreds.

To Mr. Beers also belongs the honor of first proposing the adoption of Lacrosse, as the Canadian National Game.

A short time before the consolidation of the Provinces Mr. Beers published an article in the *Montreal Daily News* entitled "*Lacrosse—our National Field Game*."

This was reprinted and distributed throughout the whole Dominion, and also copied into many local papers.

A circular, giving minute instructions regarding the game, was also distributed, and the result was the formation of over sixty clubs in various parts of Canada.

On the day when the provinces united to form one great Dominion, the patriotic youth of Canada adopted Lacrosse as the National Game of their native Country.

Since then its growth has been rapid and certain.

The fact that it was *Canadian* broke down many of the prejudices against it; and the effect has been that "it has originated a popular feeling in favor of physical exercise, and has perhaps done more than anything else, to invoke a sentiment of *patriotism* among the young men of Canada."