



THE tenth meeting of the Ontario Rugby Football Union took place on Saturday last, in Toronto, and, as was expected, it was the most largely attended gathering of football men in the history of the Canadian game.

Not a club in the Union but was represented, and the meeting was a most harmonious one. Two years ago a great many people would have laughed if they were told that in this year of grace there would have been an interest taken in Rugby second only to that taken in lacrosse, but the fact remains; and with a very little more of the intelligent and enthusiastic work done during the past season, there is no doubt of the game coming to stay. One question which was discussed was decreasing the number of players. The Ontario men seem, to a certain extent, to be becoming imbued with ideas that the American game, or portions of it, grafted on our game, would be an improvement. A great many people here think differently, and the adoption of some rules would have a tendency far from improving. As it is, those who watched closely Osgoode Hall and Montreal play will remember that half a dozen times the Toronto men introduced the interference tactics of the inter-collegiate game, and they certainly could in no way be considered an improvement. In the discussions which followed the proposal of several changes, there was a good deal of solid football sense, which eventually showed itself by making very few alterations in the rules that have worked so well in a first attempt. Of course, nobody claims that they are perfect, but they will well bear the test of another season.

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The first amendment proposed was to have three members, instead of five, constitute a quorum of the executive committee. This was agreed to. A motion to widen the field was next considered, and after a long discussion was withdrawn. With the present tendency to open play this would help to make the game even faster than last season's, and might have done no harm, but it is just as well to wait until there will be a joint conference with the Quebec Union, which will take place on Saturday. The proposal to reduce the number of players from fifteen to thirteen was lost by a large majority. Fifteen has worked well enough all along, and it should work well still, especially when the off-side rule is made more stringent. The wing men under the new dispensation will practically be confined to their proper places, as it has been decided to have both referee and umpire in all tie matches. What the exact duties of these officials will be has not yet been definitely settled, the matter being left in the hands of a special committee. One thing is certain, and that is that players with a tendency to off-side work will have to be a little careful, for after their side has lost ground on free kicks, their captains will probably have some pleasant things to say to them in the dressing room. The following additions to the off-side rule will show how much the hands of the referee and umpire will be strengthened. To the scrimmage rule has been added the words, "being out of the scrimmage, stands in front of the ball." That would have given plenty of free kicks in some matches I have seen this fall. The following clause was added to the off-side rule:—

"If a player being off-side, within the grounds, plays the ball, or comes within five yards of an opponent waiting to receive the ball, or obstructs or annoys an opponent before the ball has moved five yards, the opposite side shall have a free kick where the off-side play occurred; if within goal they shall have a free kick five yards in front of the goal line."

The report of the special committee appointed to consider the advisability of forming a Canadian Rugby Union, which recommended that three delegates from the Ontario Union should meet an equal number of the Quebec Union at Montreal on Saturday was adopted. There is hardly any doubt in the world that a Canadian Union will be formed, but it would facilitate matters if this conference were empowered to draw up some uniform system of rules that would govern the inter-provincial championships. There seems now to be so little difference between the Ontario and Quebec rules that there ought to be comparatively little difficulty in coming to a satisfactory arrangement, and with this object once attained what would prevent the Canadian Rugby Association's rules from governing all championship

matches. Such a scheme would save a lot of trouble both for players and officials, would facilitate the public's having a more perfect understanding of the game, and would tend consequently to its more general popularity. The proceedings of the representatives of the two unions will be watched with more than ordinary interest. An extract from the secretary's report may fittingly find place here:—

"Without wishing to disparage the work of our predecessors, we feel that we may say with a good deal of pride, with perhaps a good deal of truth also, that the past season has been the most successful in the annals of the union. This success was largely owing to the revision of the old rules; to the creditable showing of the clubs in the tie matches, and to the fortunate manner in which the ties were drawn." Speaking of the schedule the report said:—"Although no one disputes that, theoretically speaking, if it were possible, there should be home and home matches between each club, yet at the same time no one denies that such a thing is impossible—we would say rather not feasible—at this era. The great distances clubs would have to travel, the expense involved, the number of matches it would be necessary for each club to play in a season which is found all but too short for the present system, utterly precludes that idea. Your committee endeavored as far as possible to model its senior series schedule on the ideal one, and in the first round home and home matches were played between certain pairs. By this means the hopes of some clubs were not shattered at the outset, but at least enjoyed a two weeks' life. The games played this year have been much more open, and consequently faster. It is only necessary to point to the very large scores, in many instances in games between clubs that were closely matched, to show how open and consequently fast the game must have been; and the large crowds that witnessed the matches, the enthusiasm manifested on all sides and the eager appreciation of any good or brilliant play, leads to the conclusion that if it is not now, the day is not far distant when Rugby football will be our national game." The treasurer's report showed the receipts as \$278.83, including a balance of \$84.63 from last season. The expenditure was \$172.78, leaving a balance on hand of \$106.05. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, E. Bayly, Toronto; first vice-president, W. A. Logie, Hamilton; second vice-president, J. H. Senkler, Osgoode Hall; hon. secretary-treasurer, R. K. Barber, Toronto University; committee, W. A. H. Kerr, Osgoode Hall; W. L. McQuarrie, Toronto University; W. C. McCarthy, Ottawa College; H. R. Grant, Queen's University; H. H. Bedford-Jones, Trinity University; P. B. Taylor, Ottawa; G. W. Marsh, London.

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There has been remarkable interest taken recently in what are termed international tugs-of-war. San Francisco started the boom and made a big financial success. This was followed by a like scheme in Chicago, which was badly managed, but still a success from a money-making standpoint. Next New York follows suit, and where the mania is going to end goodness only knows. The press devotes long articles to them, and speaks of the different teams as really representative of the countries of their birth, which they in no sense are. Because a dozen Americans, or Italians, or Irishmen are picked up in San Francisco and are able to pull on a rope, it does not follow that they represent the athletic ability of their respective countries. But the fad will have its day like the long distance walking matches. It will be kept up just as long as there is any money in it for the promoters. Of a different species are the tug-of-war taken part in by the Toronto and Montreal police force, and such teams as the Montreal Garrison Artillery. They really represent something definite, although in no wise to be considered champions. The Garrison Artillery games have taken place, and the result of the tug between the police and the military was watched very closely. This attempt may possibly result in establishing the tug-of-war on an absolute athletic basis, without the aid of the hippodromes that masquerade under the name of international tugs.

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On Saturday last Tommy Conneff left New York for his native sod, with the avowed intention of becoming professional. Conneff was one of those crack importations who did credit to the colours of the big New York athletic clubs, whose colours they carried. His statement that he will immediately challenge Kibblethwaite, Parry and Morton, the English amateur cracks, to run him for money, seems hardly in good taste. It seems like trying to force good men out of the amateur ranks, by giving the impression through the press that the challenged parties are afraid. George Gray had a long experience of this at the hands of the professional McPherson, but the latter soon tired. Failing in this scheme, Conneff says he will arrange a series of matches with Harry Darrin, for \$1,000 to \$5,000 a side.

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After the celebrated Nelson-Alcryn trotting race, when fraud was proved on the part of both Noble and Nelson, both men were debarred from all tracks under the super-

vision of the National Trotting Association. Both men took the case to the courts to restrain the National Association from suspending them, and after two years the case came up before the Supreme Court at Buffalo, on Saturday last. Noble did not put in an appearance, and of course his case was dismissed, thus vindicating the association. The trial of Nelson's appeal will come up at the January term, and for the sake of honest sport it is to be hoped the result will be similar.

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The tug of war between the police team, which hitherto has been thought the strongest in Canada, and the Montreal Garrison Artillery, came off in the Drill Shed on Thursday night. It was the best tugging ever seen in Canada, and although the lighter team won, with a handicap of over fifty pounds, it should not be supposed that the police team were not in it, and it is quite likely that no team in Canada, with the exception of the Garrison, could beat them. The conditions of the tug were the best two out of three. As the first two pulls were draws, or rather ties, when the men settled down for the third time they were just where they had started from. The time for each pull was five minutes, into which as much as five hours strain of ordinary labour had to be put, and the centre pin had to be moved over half an inch when the lever closed down at the end of time to let either side score a point. The artillerists in the first pull had just got the half an inch, not a fraction more, so that when the lever came down the pin was snapped back into the slot, and the pull was declared a draw. In the second attempt, after considerable rest, the result was also a draw, this time the pin never varying a quarter of an inch during the whole five minutes. The first point was scored by the Garrison in the third pull; they just managed to gain five-eighths of an inch, that extra eighth giving them the point. The fourth attempt again resulted in a draw. When the lever came down the police had pulled just a quarter of an inch and the pin was in the slot. In the fifth pull the Garrison gained steadily from the pistol shot and won by two and a half inches. An analysis of the whole five tugs will show that the Garrison left the competitors far behind, as follows:—

	Inches Gained.	
	Police.	Garrison.
First pull.....	o	½
Second pull.....	o	o
Third pull.....	o	¾
Fourth pull.....	¼	o
Fifth pull.....	o	2½
	¼	3¾
		¼

Majority for Garrison..... 3¾

Appended is a comparison of the weights of both teams:

GARRISON.		Lbs.
M. Goodbody.....	174½	
C. Gardiner.....	183½	
W. Goodbody.....	182½	
J. Drysdale.....	170	
Total.....	710½	
POLICE.		
Constable St Louis.....	178	
" Larocque.....	178	
" Tremblay.....	201	
" Filiatreault.....	205	
Total.....	762	
	710½	
Weight in favour of police.....	51½	

## Stray Notes.

To avoid an over-inquisitive fellow-passenger, Artemus Ward feigned ignorance, denying that he even knew such celebrities as Gen. Grant, Sherman, Whittier or Dr. Holmes. His irate questioner, in despair, asked him if he ever heard of Adam. The great humourist innocently asked what was his first name.

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A Reverend gentleman on being asked when he expected to see Deacon Smith, sorrowfully replied, "Never; the deacon has gone to Heaven."