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REPORT  
OF THE  
FIRST CANADIAN  
OLYMPIC  
ATHLETIC TEAM  
1908

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Mr. J. H. Crocker of Toronto, who was manager of the Canadian Olympic field and track team in England, has sent in report to the Canadian Central Olympic Committee, Sir. John Hanbury Williams, Mr. P. D. Ross and Dr. Bruce Macdonald. The report is appended herewith: It will be seen that the Canadians even when not winning, did some splendid performances.

The Canadian field and track entries numbered 25. There were also 5 cyclists, 2 gymnasts, one wrestler, one fencer and one swimmer, who, with Mr. Crocker the manager and Mr. Sherring, coach, made a total of thirty-seven Canadian representatives at the Stadium.

In addition, Canada has had sent over by the Canadian Olympic Committee in England, a gun team of seven, a rowing delegation of sixteen including the manager and trainer, two tennis players and one golfer.

There still remains a lacrosse team of 14 or 15 to go, with possibly some skaters.

The gun team won first and several places in the individual trap-shooting contest, and second place as a team, shooting under very adverse conditions.

One of the tennis men got into the semi-finals.

Mr. Crocker's report on the athletic events is as follows:

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST CANADIAN OLYMPIC ATHLETIC TEAM 1908.

To the Canadian Central Olympic Committee:—

The International Olympic Committee, with Monsieur Le Baron Pierre de Courbetin, as President, have revived the ancient Olympic Contests, not for the purpose of making great records either in speed, weights, or jumps, nor to give opportunity for men to come to a great Athletic Meet to win world's championships, but to bring the young manhood of the nations together that bonds of national friendship may be developed; that through the sporting instinct, the games of skill, and the games of strength, men may understand each other and out from these meetings may grow a bond of brotherhood that will make the who'e world kin.

The Canadian Team, from the first day, took a prominent part and the Maple Leaf was ever before the people helping to carry out those ideals hoped for by the International Committee.

On the opening day the team of thirty-five, dressed in neat cream white uniforms, under the direction of Mr. Long, of the Montreal Athletic Association, marched before the King in a manner well pleasing to all. The bearing of the team in public is well expressed by the London Times as follows:—

"The Canadian Olympic Athletes furnish a good example of the combination of physical excellence with other qualifications which make athletics a higher thing than they may sometimes appear to be on the surface. The bearers of the red maple leaf have shown throughout these games a dogged pluck and a cheerfulness in the face of disappointment, which the representatives of none of the other nations have surpassed."

Everywhere English people gave the men a good cheer. The Canadians in London rallied around us most loyally and gave valuable assistance.

When Mr. James G. Sullivan, representing the Amateur Athletic Union, made a formal protest to the British Olympic Committee, and it was feared that a committee would be needed to deal with the matter, you were asked to appoint an honorary committee of three and Messrs. Leslie H. Boyd of Montreal, Wm. H. Stark of Toronto, and the manager of the team were suggested.

Mr. E. Tasse of Ottawa, had not yet returned to London but when he did later his services were of great value and he was always willing to assist in the welfare of the team.

Your honorary committee represented Canada on the opening day, appearing before the King with the committees of other nations. They also were present at the different functions where official representation was required.

Through the influence of Mr. Tasse of Ottawa, official representative of the Canadian Olympic Committee, a meeting was secured and Lord Desborough, Mr. Fisher of the Amateur Athletic Association, and other members of the Athletic Committee gave assurance that the United States protest against Longboat would not hinder our entry from competing.

On July, 21st, it was with considerable consternation I was informed by the secretary of the British Olympic Committee, that one of the members of the Canadian Honorary Committee was making a formal protest against Longboat. As soon as possible I saw Mr. Boyd and tried to dissuade him from following such a course. He maintained that the agreement asked for by the Canadian Olympic Committee between the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union and the Athletic Federation was at an end as soon as the trials were over and the team selected. Unable to influence Mr. Boyd, I was forced to admit this to the British Olympic Committee, who insisted that the protest must be made public, which was accordingly published that evening.

The team have worked loyally and faithfully, and in the face of great odds put up a good fight in every event entered.

Great difficulty was experienced in securing quarters, but this

was finally overcome and good accommodation close to the Stadium provided, so that the track men could train each day in the Stadium, and the Marathon men on the course.

Mr. Sherring, as trainer, was in every respect a very worthy member of the staff and a great strength to the team. Often running with the men, living in training quarters, and looking after all the details, he proved himself to be a great help to the management.

Of the Marathon race much has been said and you are already well informed in the details and our failure to secure the coveted first place.

I consider it my duty to state that my experience in racing leads me to believe that Longboat should have won his race. His sudden collapse and the symptoms shown seem to me to indicate that some form of stimulant was used contrary to the rules of the games. I think that any medical man knowing the facts of the case will assure you that the presence of a drug in an overdose was the cause of the runner's failure.

Lord Stratheona, as Canadian High Commissioner, and his entire staff, especially Mr. Griffith, Lord Stratheona's Secretary, were of great assistance to the Canadian team in all their arrangements in England, and untiring in their efforts to assist us in every way.

I cannot close my report without drawing attention to the finish of the Marathon race and the lesson we should learn from it. The Canadians were the only men able to finish without a collapse at the tape. From the first appearance of Dorando in the Stadium until the last man in, one could hear nothing but condemnation of Marathon racing.

An examination of the men after the race clearly showed the price they had paid in their effort to win the great event. No true sportsman would ever again desire to witness such a sight as the finish of the Marathon of 1908 revealed. The effect of this grind on men in such perfect form must necessarily be destructive and permanent.

In selecting a team to represent our country in any future Olympic Contest there are two matters we must keep in mind,—

First. No man should be permitted to go who does not make good in the trials, and be sent officially by the Canadian Olympic Committee.

Second.—Only such competitors should be permitted to go who will in trial, reach somewhere near the world's standard.

I append a summary of the places taken by our entries and remarks about same of the contests.—

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. CROCKER,

Toronto, Aug., 20 1908.

### THE MARATHON RACE.

Never has so large and so well trained a body of men toed the scratch for the great Marathon as lined up in the King's Park at Windsor Castle. Never has a race been run over a more ideal course. For a week previous to the 24th, of July the weather was very cool, down to 60, and even below. On the 23rd, the mercury rose a little but on Friday, the 24th, it jumped to 84. Accompanying this rise of temperature was a humidity, very depressing even to the native born. The English experts had placed seven English runners at the top of the list to win, and not one of these men finished the race. Appleby, the last one to drop, went out at the 22nd mile. Eight out of twelve Canadians finished, running in good form, but had spent all their force in the run. Although Canada had not the honor to have one of her runners placed among the winners she had the distinction of having 12 men enter and 12 men come to the scratch, and was represented by more runners among those that finished than any other nation. The English Marathon men boasted that they would run the first 15 miles so as to lose all other competitors. This spirit in the race brought J. Price, who was forced to stop at the 15th mile, and F. Lord at the 16th mile, to the 10 mile post in 56 minutes and 53 seconds. All the English runners that forced the pace, the seven best men in the United Kingdom team whom all sporting authorities had placed at the head of the list, were compelled to quit one after another. They had ruined one of the best races, which would surely have made a great record, not alone for themselves, but every runner in the race was affected by the killing speed in the early part of the race. The Canadians from the first, kept plodding along steadily and their pluck and perseverance was a credit to Mr. Sherring, who had given them the benefit of his experience both in running and training. The Canadian team en route were accompanied each by two attendants and had every possible care and attention. In spite of the thorough training and the careful attention en route, the eight men that finished as they rested in the dressing room of the Stadium, showed a fatigue and exhaustion that would have made any man say that a 26 mile race in a July sun is impossible for a human being, and this kind of racing which demands such a toll of vitality will in time bring discredit on all long distance running of its kind.

### SUMMARY OF CANADIAN WINNERS.

R. KERR.—Gold medal for first place in 200 metre race. Bronze medal for third place in 100 metres.

DR. J. G. MACDONALD.—Silver medal for second place in running hop-step and jump.

DR. C. BRICKER.—Bronze medal for third place in running long jump.

E. B. ARCHIBALD.—Bronze medal for third place in pole vault.

A. COTE.—Bronze medal for third place in bantam-weight wrestling.

CON. WALSH.—Bronze medal for third place in hammer throwing.

W. ANDREWS, W. ANDERSON, and W. MORTON, of the cycling team, bronze medals for third place in the bicycle team race.

F. MEADOWS.—Certificate for fourth place in final of five mile run.

GEORGE GOULDING.—Certificate for fourth place in final of 3,500 metre walk.

J. L. Tait.—Certificate for fourth place in 1,500 metre race.

W. B. GALBRAITH.—Certificate for fourth place in 3,200 metre steeplechase.

#### DETAILS OF CONTEST.

Five miles flat race—J. T. Fitzgerald, W. B. Galbraith and F. Meadows finished second in their respective heats, and so qualified to run in the finals. Meadows was 4th and Fitzgerald 5th in the finals.

3,200 metres steeplechase—W. B. Galbraith won his heat in 11 min. 12½ sec., but in the final was not placed.

100 Metre race—R. Kerr won both his preliminary heats in 11 secs. and qualified for finals. F. L. Lukeman and L. Sebert were each second in their heats. In the finals R. Kerr was second easily to Walker beating Rector the U. S., runner by 6 inches but the judges gave Kerr third place.

1,500 metres—J. L. Tait won his heat, time 4.12 and was a good 4th in the finals. Tait was seriously interfered with in the finals, he was jockeyed and punched by Sheppard of the U. S. Am., team. These same tactics of U. S., Amateur Athletic Union men were used against D. S. Buddo in the 800 metres and Sebert in the 400 and both men undoubtedly lost their places for this reason.

Walking—George Goulding was fourth in the 3,500 metre walk, in the 10 mile walk he qualified for the final. In this final his legs cramped at the 4th mile and he had to stop.

400 metre run—L. Sebert won his heat easily in 50 1-5 sec. D. S. Buddo ran second to Malfant of France. In the semi-finals Sebert lost to Robbins (U. S. A.) in 49 secs.

200 metre run—R. Kerr won this event beating a field of 76 competitors. His opponents were first heat W. W. May time 22 1-5; semi-finals W. F. Hamilton; time 22 2-5. Finals he won from Hawkins (U. K.) Cartwell and Cloughen (U. S. A.) time 22 2-5.

L. Sebert was beaten in his trial heat by W. F. Hamilton (U. S. A.)

110 Hurdles—E. Savage was second in his trial heat, time 15 2-5. Rand (U. S. A.) winner.

Marathon race—Twelve Canadians started. Eight finished placed as follows:—(5th) W. Woods, (6th) F. Simpson, (7) H. Lawson, (11th) J. Caffrey, (16th) W. B. Goldsboro, (22nd) G. Goulding, (24th) A. Burn, (27th) Geo. Lister.

Running High Jump—Dr. J. G. Macdonald went out at 5ft. Sin and Geo. H. Baker at 5 feet 10 in.

Long Jump—Geo. H. Barker jumped 21 feet  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. F. L. Luke-man made 21 feet  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. Dr. C. Bricker cleared 23 feet 3 in. and qualified for the finals but was defeated in the afternoon by F. C. Irons, (U. S. A.) 24ft  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. and D.J. Kelly, (U. S. A.) 23 ft 3-4 in.

Hop step and jump—Dr. J. G. Macdonald covered 48 feet  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. getting second place to J. E. O'Hearne (U. K.) 48 feet  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Pole Jump—E. B. Archibald cleared 11 feet 9 inches and took third place.

Hammer throw—Con. Walsh won third in this event to J. Flanagan and McGrath. Walsh's distance was 159 feet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

#### THE CYCLISTS.

In the bicycle races there were five Canadian entries, Anderson, McCarthy, Morton, Andrews and Young. None was placed in the finals of the shorter races, but the first four got into the semi-finals of the team contest, where they were defeated by the English team, which also won the final. In the 62 mile race both W. Andrews and H. L. Young qualified for the finals but unfortunately a "blow out" in tires and a "spill" kept both men out of the money.

The Canadian entry competing for the first time on a concrete track banked 10 feet from the ends, found that a different position on the wheel was necessary, also different weight of wheel and size of gear. When these changes had been made all the men showed marked improvement. The cyclist of Europe is a specialist, riding only in the races of his own distance and has developed a 300 yard sprint at the finish of his race such as could not be acquired by our men in so short a time. To qualify in several heats and win a third in the team race was all that our men could reach. Young and Andrews in the 62 mile race won a name for pluck and good sportmanship.

#### WRESTLING.

Catch-as-Catch-Can, Bantam Weight. 119 lb., or 54 kilos. "Canada," London, says:—A Cote, the wiry little French-Canadian, has carried off a bronze medal for wrestling, a victory the Canadians did not expect. He received a bye in the first round, and beat F. Davis of Great Britain in the second round on points. In the semi-finals he was beaten by Manhart, the U. S., compe-

titor, who eventually won. For the bronze medal for third place. Cote beat Tomkins, of Great Britain, by two falls to none in 3 min. 25 sec. and 8 min. 50 sec.

Cote was handicapped by not knowing the exact interpretation of wrestling rules by the English officials. In Canada a man must secure a "pin fall" or momentarily hold his man on the mat with both shoulders touching simultaneously. The two judges and the referee in England did not expect so much as this and when Cote's shoulders barely touched the mat the decision was given against him. Had Cote been aware of this his action might have been far different, as he was not at any time over-powered by his opponent. The English system of using two judges and a referee with a wrestling time limit of 15 minutes, seemed to give satisfaction, and wrestling experts would do well to consider these details especially if we are ever to be represented in England or at any future Olympiad.

#### SWIMMING.

The Canadian entry, Zimmerman made a good showing. His work was a credit to him but candidates from Sweden, Germany and Finland completely outclassed all other competitors. In the semi-finals, six Swedes, one Finlander, one U. S. A., one German, one Great Britain man were left in. In the finals we find that four Swedes (and Gardsik of U. S. A. who had been disqualified but was allowed to compete in the finals because of the strenuous kick made) alone remained. These men were par excellence the best and were easily in a class by themselves.

#### GYMNASTIC MEN.

With the short preparation and the lack of information about competition, nomenclature, rules governing, and the men being compelled to use apparatus in almost every particular different from that accustomed to in Canada, it was quite evident that our representatives would be seriously handicapped. As Messrs. Allan Keith and Orville Elliott were both by far the best men in Canada on gymnastic apparatus, it was a good thing for them to be measured against the 136 entries of the Olympic, which included men from the ancient schools of Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Bohemia, France, Italy, Finland, England, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Hungary and Norway. The standard of work was good and many of the competitors had the advantage of having competed in many international contests before and knew just what was expected by the judges. I fear that many of the competitors, like those of the diving contest, had the advantage of not being, in the strict sense of the term, amateur, and have had the opportunity of competing

in games with open professionals. Some had the advantage of having taught in schools and assisted in gymnastic work and showed themselves veterans in all the skill of competition. The Canadian entry only took 59th and 80th respectively, but during the four weeks practice in England and in the competition they received a valuable training that should be used by the clubs of this country to demonstrate the standard of work aimed at in the ancient schools of Europe. The mass team work of Sweden, Germany and France especially, showed that not only could individual men reach this stage of advanced work but that whole classes could perform in the same high standard of gymnastics. France gave an exhibition of high bar work in which every man seemed fully equal to any of her individual competitors. We have always looked upon the English gymnast as good, and the rank taken by the United Kingdom entry only goes to show the high grade of competition at the fourth Olympiad, Sweden winning first place in the team competition and England only getting 8th., Italy winning first place in the individual competition, and England second.

#### FENCING.

In the fencing display and the Epee competition Canada had a worthy representative in the person of Professor Percy E. Nobbs. He was unfortunate enough to draw in a pool with the champion of Italy, Sweden, England and France.

The Epee competition was keen and of the finest type. Professor Nobbs showed a form worthy of any nation and the Canadians who had the pleasure of seeing Pool No. 5 on Thursday morning had a rare treat.

Much is to be learned from the Olympic competition, but the special thing that stood out above all else was the infinite care that the competitors took in guarding themselves as the loss of one point was the end of the struggle with that competitor. Through all the contest one seldom saw a "Corps-a-Corps" but carefully planned attacks were always being worked out. In more than one case the time limit of 15 minutes was reached without a single point being scored.

In the fencing display, Professor Nobbs was placed against the representative of South Africa, and was easily the best from every point of view.

#### ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Prior to the Olympic games, several of our men competed in the annual English Championship games.

R. Kerr, won the 100 and 220 championships and was given Baron Von Hasson's gold cup for the best performance of the year.

This was the first time in the history of English Athletics that one man won both events in one day.

Mr. Kerr in the preliminary, semi-final and final heats ran in 10 flat in the hundred yards.

E. B. Archibald won the Pole Vault beating the English and Swedish Champions and establishing a new English record of 12 feet.

Through the kindness of the Canadian High Commissioner's office and Lord Alverstone, President of the A. A. A., Mr. Kerr was able to bring the three cups with him which represent the English championship for the year in the 100 and 220 yards and for first performance of both. Never had three championships been taken out of England by one country before.

J. H. CROCKER,

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### LONGBOAT IN THE MARATHON.

The Canadian Olympic Committee noting Mr. Crocker's statement that he believed Longboat had taken or been given some stimulating drug during the race, wrote to Mr. Crocker saying that this might be construed as a reflection on Longboat's Manager, Mr. Flanagan, and asking for a fuller expression of opinion. Mr. Crocker replied as follows:—

"All say that Longboat was running well at the 20th mile in second place. He collapsed without any warning and complained of a severe pain in the head.

"This with the facts of his condition on arrival at the Stadium 40 minutes afterwards, leave me but little doubt that the Indian received an overdose of some stimulant.

"As soon as he was brought in I went over and examined him carefully. A doctor was there and said, "He is better now and will be all right but he has had a close call."

"I found a weak pulse—the respiration very slow—a 'pin point' pupil of the eye and an unconscious condition which was not sleep.

"To all appearance some one had got anxious and thinking to help the Indian by giving a stimulant, had given an overdose.

"I feel sure he had a narrow escape from death. Rule 4 of the Marathon says; 'No competitor either at the start or during the progress of the race may take or receive any drug. The breach of this rule will operate in the absolute disqualification of the competitor.'

"A great deal of stimulant of one sort or another was being used at the Stadium and Mr. Sherring warned our men to keep clear of all 'dope.'

"I do not believe personally that Mr. Flannagan knew anything about this matter. I kept my own counsel regarding this and my chief reason for reporting to you is that the Indian is credited with selling the race by some parties, and by others of being 'yellow' and quitting. .

"This does a good runner like Longboat uneducated as he may be a great injustice.

"The report that the Indian was drinking the night before is entirely without foundation. We went to Windsor to make the final arrangements and saw him in his room at 10.45 in perfect condition and Mr. Flanagan was doing everything possible to make him run a successful race."

J. H. CROCKER,

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