



## CAMBRIDGE IS FAVERED CREW

LIGHT BLUE APPEARS TO BE MORE EVENLY BALANCED THAN OXFORD FOR FAMOUS ANNUAL BOAT RACE ON THE THAMES

LONDON, March 24.—(Canadian Press Despatch)—The great annual boat race between Oxford and Cambridge, to be rowed over the time-honored stretch of the Thames from Putney to Mortlake, on Saturday afternoon, April 2, will dramatically climax the 10 weeks of humdrum but severe training undergone by both crews.

"Rowed" gives a poor indication of the thrilling nature of the race, which is a grueling struggle exerting towards

the close of the 4½ mile course every ounce of stamina the crews possess. Impartial critics believe Cambridge's crew this year a shade better than Oxford's, although conceding that the Oxford crew's training form may be improved by the day of the race. Cambridge has won the last three races in succession, and in fact every one since the war except one, in 1923. On the whole series, however, Oxford has a majority over the Light Blues, having won 46 to Cambridge's 37. The other race bringing the total to 78 was a tie, in 1877. The first contest was in 1829, but the race did not become an annual event until some years later.

### CONTESTANTS

The Light Blue crew is exceptional this year for its "length," or reach. R. J. Elles, stroke, is a stylist with excellent rhythm. About a month before the race he was kept from training by indisposition, but it was believed that he would be fit for the actual race, and would return to training before the day approached. The crew as a whole is rhythmical, with an impression of real "stride" and their rowing is easy. J. A. Brown, the Old Blue who is again coxswain, has steered Cambridge to a win in each of the last three years.

The Oxford crew is not so even as the Light Blue. Their defeat last year was very unfortunate, caused as it was by the collapse of H. R. A. Edwards, old Westminster boy, who was a passenger for the last half of the race. One of the Dark Blue's main hopes this year is E. T. C. Edwards, Christ Church, who at Number seven has been, in training at least, a little below the high standard expected of him. Kingsbury and Rathbone, six and five respectively, are as good as the six and five of Cambridge, and with the aid of Edwards, if the latter regains his form, will turn the crew into a really fast eight, according to the experts.

Hundreds of thousands of people will watch the race, from all conceivable points of vantage along the whole course, and the celebration in London's East End, particularly if Oxford wins, will be a Boat Race Night to be remembered for a long time.

### THE BOATS

The Oxford boat is practically the same as that used by Oxford in last year's race, and is an abandonment of the extreme stream-line type of boat of earlier post-war days. It has been designed for a crew averaging 174 pounds. The Cambridge boat is on the orthodox lines of recent years and is of such dimensions that there is no fear of the Cambridge crew being underboated. It has been designed for a crew averaging 177 pounds.

The race this year will be umpired this year by Col. G. D. Burnell, old Oxford oarsman, who succeeds F. I. Pittman, famous Cambridge oar of days gone by, who umpired the race for the last quarter of the century. Col. Burnell, like his predecessor, has been connected with the Henley Regatta for many years. He rowed for Oxford from 1895 to 1898 and was in the Magdalen College crew in 1895. He also rowed in the historic race between Leander and Cornell, when Leander was left at the post.

The crews, in order and weights, are as follows:

### OXFORD

N. E. Whiting (Worcester) bow, 160 lbs.

P. Johnston (Magdalene) 162 lbs.

### CAMBRIDGE

Hon. J. S. Macaulay (First Trinity) bow, 152 lbs.

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