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SIXTY YEARS SPORT LIFE IN DOMINION

Climate Has Influence on Games in Different Parts of Country

LACROSSE ORGANIZED

Football Introduced by British Soldiers Following Conquest of Quebec

It may be regarded as somewhat in the nature of a coincidence that lacrosse, once Canada's undisputed national game, was placed on an organized footing in Confederation year, when a gathering of expert players and lovers of the game met at Kingston to frame rules and legislate for the future conduct of the sport. For forty years after that period lacrosse grew and flourished, but some fifteen years ago the game showed symptoms of losing its popularity. The newer generation did not take to lacrosse as did their fathers and today the game can scarcely justify its once proud title of Canada's national pastime.

In winter sports, however, another form of athletic endeavor was born in the middle of the 80's and has now largely assumed the place once held in the affections of the public by lacrosse. This is hockey, which today is played by countless organizations from coast to coast. Another development by no means confined to Canada has been the rise of golf. Thousands of clubs have sprung up. There is scarcely a town of any size in the country, and certainly none with any pretensions to fashionable sport that has not its golf links and club house.

FOOTBALL

Football, introduced into Canada by British soldiers after the conquest of Quebec, did not make any particular headway until adopted by the colleges and universities about 1880. The game is still largely a college sport and has a strong hold on the student body and graduates.

Still another form of outdoor sport that has grown immensely in popular favor of softball. This is a modification of baseball and is greatly favored by school pupils of both sexes because of the elimination of the dangerous hard ball of the present game.

Basketball is a game that has won a very high place in the regard of educational and other institutions which possess facilities for gymnasium exercise in Canada run into the thousands. Large industrial and other corporations have taken up the matter of providing playing floors for their employees and many of these organizations have formed leagues for the clubs in their own line of activity.

Skiing, which made its appearance in Canada about twenty-five years ago, has completely usurped the place once held by the native winter outcrop of snowshoeing. The latter has almost disappeared, although at one time it was Canada's predominant winter pastime. Skiing has caught the fancy of many thousands and bids fair to hold its astonishing popularity.

PUBLIC INTERESTED

It may safely be said that the period since Confederation has witnessed a complete reversal of the general attitude towards outdoor exercise in every form. In the days of the union of the provinces and for many years thereafter the practice of athletics was confined to those who made it more or less of a business or profession and to a very small percentage of the general public. The great mass of the people were content to look on. But nowadays the urge is for active participation in the game itself and as a result men and women in all walks of life and almost of all ages have taken up some form of athletic exercise. The great variety of games provides an opportunity for all to take part in some suitable sport. Where sixty years ago there were but one or two forms of recognized outdoor pastimes, there are now easily a score, lawn bowling, tennis, golf, and other games have replaced the dignified croquet of our grandparents. Freedom from the conventional forms of dress has also done much to popularize modern sport with the feminine portion of the community. The common sense costumes which characterize golf, sailing, swim-

ming and allied pastimes have won countless devotees to these forms of athletic exercise. The evolution of sport clothes would, if studied be found to have exercised a rather interesting influence on the spread of outdoor games.

AFFECTED BY SEASONS

Canada's climate is likewise a factor in the spread of athletics. The four seasons are so sharply defined that each has its own particular sports, suited to the climatic conditions, and nearly every game in the calendar of athletics finds here its best environment. In this respect the Dominion has a considerable advantage over many other countries, and while it has taken our people some time to appreciate this fact, it is evident that henceforth Canadian sports will be enjoyed to the full, not only by our own citizens but by vast numbers of visitors to the Dominion.

BAGPIPE MUSIC WON CONTEST

T. Ross Mackay Tells How Canadians in Early Days Got Away With Chicago

DEADLOCK IS BROKEN

Scots Music so Cheered Tug-of-War Team That They Carried off Honors

All have heard how the bagpipe music cheered the Canadian soldiers on to victory during the war but not many have heard the story of how the pipes won a tug of war contest between a small Canadian village and Chicago away back in the early days, not very long after the Dominion was formed through the confederation of the provinces. T. Ross Mackay, who watched the performance, tells the story somewhat on this wise:

Only recently the member for this district, Hon. T. P. Pattullo told of a victory of the Canadians of his native city of Woodstock over the Chicago tug-of-war team many years ago. But here is an earlier story than that. It happened at Embro, a little town of seven hundred people only about five miles from Woodstock. It was the centre of West Zorro, a township that had a tug-of-war team and a good one that was ready to try conclusions with anybody.

FINANCED BY MILLIONAIRE

Now there was in Chicago a former resident of West Zorro named Wood who had become a millionaire and who offered to finance the Chicago team if they would come over to Canada and pull with the West Zorroites. They came for a holiday and took the little village team as a joke. But it was no joke when they lost out to the yokels. They went home thinking seriously.

The West Zorro team was invited to Chicago for a return match and this time they pulled with cleats and the anchor man wore "harness." They were not used to this and although they put up a valiant struggle they lost.

Nothing daunted the villagers again challenged the Chicago team to cross the border and pull them once more on their own ground. They came. The contest took place at Embro and more than one man now resident of Prince Rupert will remember the occasion.

Among those watching the match were Hon. James Sutherland, afterwards dominion minister of public works, who lost \$500 on the team at Chicago but had twice that amount placed on this contest; Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, prime minister of Ontario; Sir George E. Ross, afterwards prime minister of Ontario; Sir Richard Cartwright; Andy Pattullo, M.L.A., uncle of the present member for this district; and Mr. Mackay himself.

The team lined up and slowly the men on each side, big men and muscular, leaned in and put their weight on the rope. At first Chicago got a little the best of it but back the line veered to the starting place and there it stuck. Five and ten minutes passed and the line moved but slightly either way. Fifteen and twenty minutes and the muscles of the brawny giants stood out as if ready to burst. Twenty-five and thirty minutes and still each side held its own and it seemed as if the result would be a deadlock. Three minutes more and there was no change. Then a bright thought struck Eben Sutherland, the captain of the home line. In Gaelic he spoke to the leader of the pipe band and suggested a tune to cheer the boys.

The pipers inflated their instruments and at the first note the rope began to quiver. Soon it was seen that a new power had entered into the arms of those brawny Ontario giants. Their sinews tightened, their breath came evenly, and slowly but surely the rope veered in their direction and soon the contest was won. To that music they could have pulled anything on earth. Victory was theirs and it was won by the music of the bagpipes, the music they loved.

Mr. Mackay explains that the training of these men commenced before the days of confederation when it was the common thing to shoulder a sack of wheat containing 120 pounds and carry it anything from eight to fourteen miles to the grist mill and return home with the flour, bran and shorts on his back after toll in kind had been taken for the grinding. It was also developed in log rolling, bees and barn raisings. These were the days when men were men and when the Dominion began to be formed on sure foundations.

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SWIMMING IS SUMMER SPORT

Swimming is one of the summer sports of the people of Prince Rupert. Just across the harbor from the city there is a very fine salt lake, partly landlocked, where the water is quite warm during the summer months and where hundreds of the people of the city, especially the children enjoy most luxurious bathing.

The park in which the lake is situated is the property of the Provincial Government but is controlled by local parks board. The right of control is handed on to the swimming club that keeps the floats in good shape and provides dressing rooms and other facilities.

There is a ferry steamer operated across the harbor regularly and private launches also frequent the spot in large numbers.

Many of the young people enjoy sea bathing at the numerous bays and inlets but the water is usually rather cold at these places.

TRAPPING IMPORTANT INDUSTRY FOR DISTRICT

Much Money Brought to City by Natives and Others who Dispose of Pelts Here

Many of the residents of the Prince Rupert district spend at least part of each winter trapping. Almost everywhere are found mink, marten and otter and in many sections there are beaver. Fur seal also are taken by the Indians when the herd is passing north and these are mostly marketed at Prince Rupert.

The value of the fur trade is variously estimated at from \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually and as the money is earned at a time of year when there is a close season for fishing and when there is very little other employment it is particularly valuable as an asset to the community.

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