

News of Sport.

LOCAL HOCKEY MEN ARE NOW WARMING UP FOR THE SEASON.

First Practice Last Night Brought Out Some Old Faces and Many New Ones---Intermediate League Schedule---Words of Wisdom From The Gleaner.

HOCKEY

First Practice Last Night.

The hockey teams had their first practice last night in the Queen's rink. The Mohawks, Neptunes, Ramblers and Y. M. C. A. had an hour each, and every minute of the time allotted was taken up by hard practice. There were a few of the older players on the ice, but the majority are new. In the Mohawks, F. Tufts, K. Inches, W. Murray and W. Rising, were the only old players on hand, though it is understood that Ed. Mooney will probably be in the team, and possibly Ralph Clarke and K. Townsend. Among the new material was Robertson, Sippell, O'Neill, (who played on last year's Neptunes), and others.

The Neptunes showed up in good form and will probably have a strong team on the ice. The line-up of the various teams has not yet been decided on, but will probably be known in a few days.

If the Ramblers are as good at playing hockey as they are at selling tickets, they should be the winners in the intermediate league.

Mr. Spencer said last night that members of the Ramblers club had sold fifty-one season tickets for the rink, (double their nearest competitor), and were entitled to first choice of practice hours.

Intermediate League.

The schedule of games in the intermediate league is as follows:—
 Jan. 6—Ramblers vs. Y. M. C. A.
 " 13—Neptunes vs. Y. M. C. A.
 " 18—Ramblers vs. St. James.
 " 18—St. James vs. Neptunes.
 " 25—Ramblers vs. Neptunes.
 " 27—Y. M. C. A. vs. St. James.
 Feb. 1—Ramblers vs. Y. M. C. A.
 " 3—Neptunes vs. St. James.
 " 10—Ramblers vs. Neptunes.
 " 10—St. James vs. Y. M. C. A.
 " 15—Neptunes vs. Y. M. C. A.
 " 24—Ramblers vs. St. James.

The Gleaner Explains.

The Fredericton Gleaner makes the following statement in reference to its attitude in regard to the trouble between Sussex and the N. B. H. W.:—
 Regarding the articles published in the Gleaner in reference to the throwing down of Sussex it can only be

"Another thing they do is to prevent a player who is offside from looting. If an official is not strict and a player who is in poor training allows the puck to get away from him and is carried back up the rink he is liable to lie down and rest until his men get it back, even with him and put him on side. The officials do not permit this at all, and after warning a man once they put him off the ice for three or four minutes.

"It is a player's business to get on side as fast as he can skate. Otherwise a player offside could wait until a goal man has merely touched it, and then shoot it through. They have to do this to keep the game fast. The thirty-minute halves are actually playing time. Time is taken out for a broken skate, but not for a broken stick.

"Up our way the lifting game is put way to the background, and is considered old-fashioned. The present game is far in advance of that. It would be foolish for a point or cover point to lift it if it was the field, and keep his men chasing up and back in a hurry to keep on side, as the rules and officials demand. Either the point or the cover point skates it up the ice until he can get rid of it to one of his men."

SKATING.

First Races at Victoria.

In the Victoria rink, on Monday night next, the first race of the season will be skated. Entries are coming in fast and it is expected there will be at least twenty-five starters. The fastest skaters in the city as well as several outsiders will compete. The usual number of hands will be given. The race will be at 9 p. m.

For Amherst.

It is stated that a number of St. John speed skaters will go to Amherst and take part in the ice sport to be held there January 17th.

THE RING.

Littlejohn---Jordan Bout.

The Littlejohn-Jordan fight to take place next Monday afternoon is attracting a good deal of attention. The men will meet at catch weights in a ten-round go. There will be two preliminaries—Jack Warner vs. Jack Francis and Ramsay vs. Rogers. The programme will be opened about 2.30 o'clock.

Lynch vs. McGovern.

An effort is being made in Montreal to bring Alf Lynch, the Quebec boxer who is now living in Montreal, and Hughey McGovern, Terry's brother, together.

It's Up to Britt.

Monday night Lewis and his manager called at The Herald office to challenge Britt. After the great showing of Lewis in his fight with Canole, his manager says it is now up to the native son, and he is the man they are after. It is pointed out that Lewis's record makes him the really logical candidate for a match with

Britt. Canole has rightly been regarded heretofore as the best man of his class in the East, and he fought 25 rounds with Britt last year in San Francisco, the longest fight Britt ever had, and he also fought 19 rounds with Nelson.

All of Lewis's victories have been decisive. Out of 18 fights in Philadelphia during the past year, Lewis won nine by clean knockouts. He won from Bob Russell, the English lightweight, in six rounds, the going only saving Russell from a knockout. His easy victory over Canole proves his right to a match with Britt, and his manager is now determined to secure it.

Classification of Champions.

The New York World, in a review of ring records for the year 1904, says: Any criticism which may follow the classification of ring champions as they now appear (Dec. 20, 1904) is more likely to come from those claiming such, yet generally fighting at weights far above the recognized scale, than from the leading authorities who make a study of ring affairs. The dissatisfied may locate the cause among the fighters themselves and the management of clubs who permit "championship" contests at such false weights. If there ever was a time in the history of pugilism when the great weight question should be settled those who contemplate the chaotic condition of affairs as they exist at the close of 1904 will say that such time has certainly arrived.

Of the important glove contests of 1904, the number decided at the weight limit was too small to give more than a bare line on the pugilistic form of the contestants. Jeffries, of them all, stands alone in his class and will probably retire as an undefeated champion. Fitzsimmons and Corbett may be placed in the archives of Fisticiana to be regarded with Sullivan, Dempsey, McAuliffe, Dixon and Barry as the real champions of a past generation.

Ryan and O'Brien will probably never settle their disputed claim for the middleweight title. Walcott and Gans may well tremble for the safety of their championship honors after their draw of 20 rounds at the welterweight limit, followed so closely by the clever way in which Britt was disposing of Gans when an unfortunate foul ended that contest. Battling Nelson, whose whirlwind finish of "Young Corbett" gave him great and well merited prominence toward the close of 1904, has no great trouble in making the weight (133 pounds), and he may be expected with ordinary good ring fortune to take premier rank in that class.

"Terry McGovern, while claiming featherweight honors, will probably never fight at 122 pounds again, at which weight he won that championship. Frankie Neil appears to be the legitimate and up-to-date claimant for the title, which ring patrons will accord him. Neil lost his bantamweight championship to Bowker in England, where weight rules are more closely followed than in America."

CARDS.

A Hand at Whist.

A wonderful hand at whist was

played at St. Paul's institute, Grimsby, recently.

The cards were shuffled and dealt in the usual way, but when the players looked at their hands they found that one of them (the dealer's) had twelve spades, another eleven hearts the third man twelve diamonds, and the fourth eleven clubs.

Spades were trumps, and the lucky dealer simply threw in his hand and claimed the twelve tricks.—London Daily Mail.

BASEBALL.

Shamrock Lottery.

The noted trotter Phoebe W. has been bought by Manager Haney of the Shamrock grounds. The horse will be disposed of by lottery. The lucky winner will get a good one.

THE TURF.

High Price Stallion.

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—The pacing stallion Nervalo (2:04 1-4) has been sold by Scott Hudson to W. B. Lockwood of Sharon Mass. The price paid is said to have been \$16,000.

BOTH SIDES MET LAST EVENING.

Government Meeting in Carleton---Opposition in Tabernacle Hall.

A meeting was held in Oddfellows' Hall, Carleton, last evening, in the interests of A. O. Skinner, the government candidate. W. E. Scully occupied the chair, and speeches were made by George Robertson, M. P. P.; the candidate, and Hon. F. J. Sweeney, the new solicitor-general in the provincial government. Mr. Robertson said that the present election was brought on during Christmas week in deference to the demands of the county electorate, as many voters would be leaving after New Year's day for the lumber woods. He claimed that the present government had done much for the laboring man, and instanced the woodman's lien act, the mechanics' lien act, the protection of wage earners, and the workman's compensation act as showing the government's policy in this connection, and referred to the proposed factory act as likely to become law next session.

Mr. Skinner said there was every reason why that section of the city should support the government. The 'dry dock was shortly to become an accomplished fact, and the local government had shown their interest in the scheme by guaranteeing \$5,000 a year for forty years. Not only would it mean development of the winter port, but a largely increased demand for labor. He said the present liquor law was fair and equitable, and prohibition for the whole province was an impossible thing to carry out. He was in favor of high license and a strict observance of the law as it stood.

Hon. F. J. Sweeney devoted himself to a defence of the government. He denied that the government was extravagant and corrupt and defend-

ed its lumber policy. Mr. Sweeney then dwelt in detail on the public accounts the bonuses given agriculture; the fresher account; the accusation that Hon. Wm. Pugsley had been overpaid for his services, which the speaker stigmatized as ridiculous; the industries encouraged by the government such as the coal fields in Kent and Queens counties; the advantages that would be derived from opening up the Restigouche & Western Railway, and to the reduced interest now payable on the public debt.

The Conservative Meeting.

The conservative meeting at Tabernacle hall last night was fairly well attended. Addresses were delivered by Ald. Maxwell, the conservative candidate, J. Douglas Hazen, M. P. P. and J. B. M. Baxter. Mr. Baxter referred to Mr. Maxwell as being capable, zealous and sincere, and an opponent of the government. The speaker claimed that every measure from this city, before the government, was carefully searched to ascertain just how it would affect the fortunes of the government. The attorney-general had criticized Ald. Maxwell's connection with the library, but it would perhaps be a good thing for the attorney-general to ask who smuggled through the house a bill exempting from taxation the St. John street railway.

Franchises had been granted by the government to large corporations, while the people received no benefits. It was obvious that the rights of the city were lessened, and those of corporations increased. Mr. Baxter described Ald. Maxwell as a man who could go into committee at Fredericton with exact knowledge relating to the affairs of St. John. Ald. Maxwell spoke of the attacks made on him by Mr. McKeown, and challenged comparison with him. He spoke to some length on the bills relating to workingmen and mechanics. He charged extravagance to the present provincial administration, and made reference to Dr. Pugsley's remarks concerning his connection with the New Brunswick Telephone Co. In conclusion Mr. Maxwell said that the city was not receiving sufficient revenue. Too much of its revenue is taken by the government; and a change would reduce civic taxation.

Mr. Hazen made a comparison of the candidates and discussed the action of those who professed to be shocked at Ald. Maxwell. Senator Ellis, he said, procured for his paper much government printing. Then there is Mr. Pugsley, with his charge of \$1,600 during the bridge inquiries and Mr. Robertson, who as chairman of the reception committee during the visit of the Duke of York, presented a bill for \$1,500.

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